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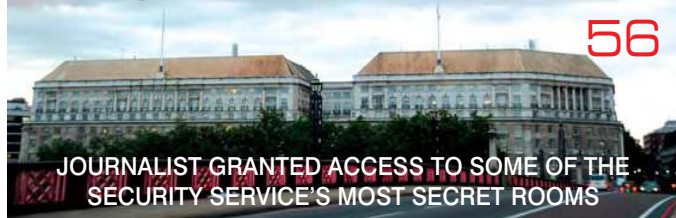
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IRANIAN DISINFORMATION
US INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS DISMISS
REPORTS OF DEMISE OF CIA'S 'DARK PRINCE'



INSIDEVIEW MI5
JOURNALIST GRANTED ACCESS TO SOME OF THE
SECURITY SERVICE'S MOST SECRET ROOMS



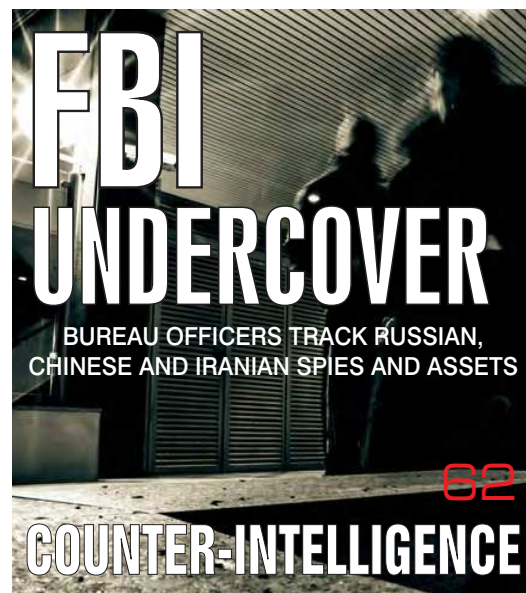
RUBICON
THE CIA-CRYPTO AFFAIR
The Intelligence Coup of the Century



New Russian space concerns as US Space Force, CIA and NRO probe 'twin' spy satellites



THE SOFIA SANCTION
SALISBURY
THREADS TO
RUSSIA'S GRU
AND SECRET UNIT
29155



BUREAU OFFICERS TRACK RUSSIAN,
CHINESE AND IRANIAN SPIES AND ASSETS

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

EYE SPY 127



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"Your generation is key. We are in a time of dynamic change and the relationship, particularly with technology, is going to be the thing that gives us our edge in the future."

MI6 Chief Sir Alex Younger speaking to students at Vauxhall Cross



THE BIGGEST INTELLIGENCE COUP OF THE CENTURY



In what's been described as the "biggest intelligence coup of the century," details of a joint CIA-BND endeavour using a front company to sell supposedly secure communications machinery, has emerged. The firm at the centre of Operation Rubicon was Crypto AG, based in Switzerland: here salespersons would travel the world selling encryption devices to unknowing customers that were accessible to Langley and the NSA. The intelligence gleaned was also shared with members of the Five Eyes Alliance.

The story and background to this remarkable decades-long operation is told in this edition of Eye Spy. And whilst commentators and many politicians have vented their anger at the CIA, the intelligence world's use of front companies and cover organisations is fairly common; when exposed, naturally there is concern and wider interest. No doubt Hollywood scriptwriters are already busy preparing Rubicon copy for a future silver screen production.

And in relation to front organisations, Eye Spy recently learned that MI6 man Sir William Stephenson, who led Britain's biggest overseas cover organisation, the British Security Coordination (BSC), is to be honoured in Canada, with the creation of an imposing statue. The BSC, based in the Rockefeller Center, New York, was created solely to engage with the US media, public and political arena alike, to help secure America's entry into WWII. And the covert action worked.

Stephenson, one of the greatest spymasters of all time, also helped establish the secret agent training base at Camp X, in Whitby, Ontario, and the proposed sculpture by acclaimed artist Ruth Abernethy, reflects this. Camp X was eventually used by America's Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the forerunner to the CIA.

MARK BIRDSALL, MANAGING EDITOR



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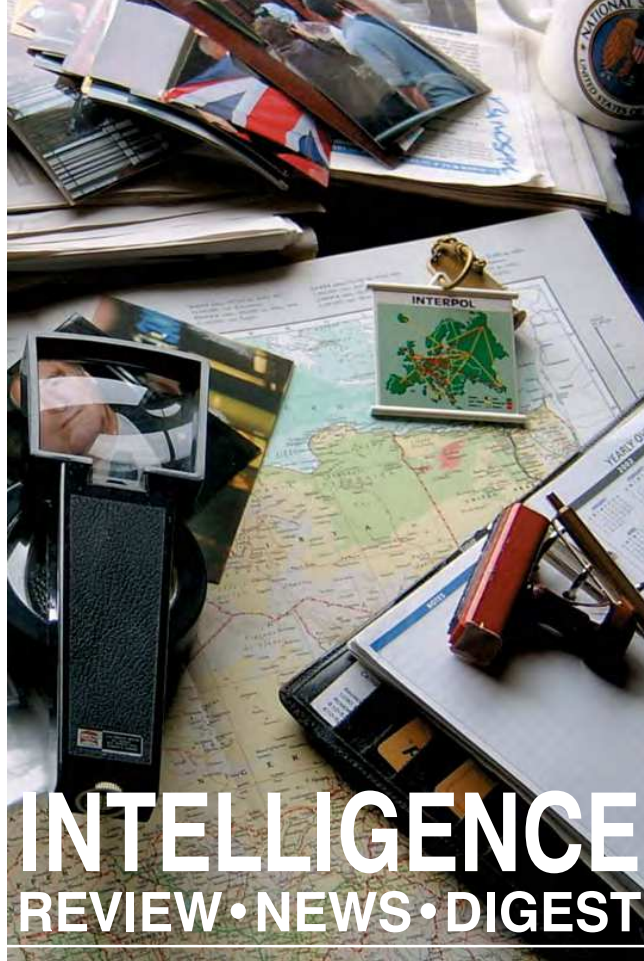
INTELLIGENCE CHOICE

THE CRYPTO AFFAIR

Numerous intelligence probes have been quietly authorised by several countries to try and assess the secrets lost to the CIA, after it was learned that machines purchased from Swiss-based Crypto AG, were far from secure.

Similarly, intelligence historians and researchers are now sifting through many incidents whereby the CIA had a hidden, but unreported advantage. The Iranian hostage crisis which lasted 444 days between 1979 and 1981 is one case in mind. Here dozens of US Embassy staffers and intel people were detained. Now it seems plausible the CIA had insight into the mindset of the Iranian Government and military who were using Langley-supplied Crypto machines. This undoubtedly helped during negotiations to free the hostages.

•40 RUBICON



INTELLIGENCE REVIEW • NEWS • DIGEST

HOSNI MUBARAK PASSES

Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the man once said to have more intelligence links than any other world leader, died in Cairo on 25 February 2020, aged 91.

He ruled Egypt for 30-years, before he was forced to step down in 2011 - the result of the Arab Spring Revolution. He was then arrested and charged with corruption, but later released from prison.

Mubarak commanded the Egyptian Air Force between 1972 and 1975, before he assumed the presidency, this after the assassination of then President Anwar al-Sadat.

Hailed a hero by most of his fellow countrymen, he recently said he "fired the first shots against an Israeli communications base" - the beginning of the 1973 Six Day War with Israel.

Due to his evolving and good relations with the United States, and



his opposition of extremist groups in the Middle East, he was the target of several assassination attempts.

In 2011, due to mounting pressure to appease growing protests against his rule, he appointed former Chief of Intelligence Omar Suleiman as Vice President. He was reportedly one of the CIA's greatest assets in the country - dubbed 'Our Man in Cairo'. But it was to no avail, and just weeks later it was Suleiman himself who announced Mubarak's departure from government.

In October 2019, he released a video called the *Mubarak Archives*, which discussed the war with Israel.

MI5 COUNTER-MEASURES THE ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL BOMB PLOT

A UK female supporter of terror group ISIS, has pleaded guilty to plotting to bomb St Paul's Cathedral and a hotel in London. Safiyya Amira Shaikh, 36, from Hayes, Middlesex, admitted preparation of terrorist acts and dissemination of terrorist publications at a hearing at the Old Bailey Court.



Safiyya Amira Shaikh

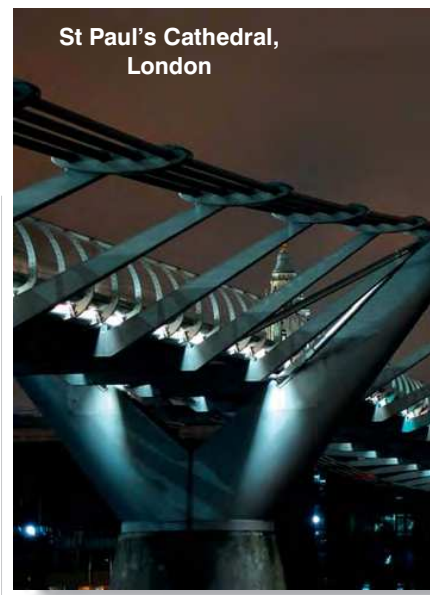
Born Michelle Ramsden to a non-Muslim family, she converted to Islam in 2007. The prosecution alleged she began to follow extremists on-line and by 2015 had become radicalised.

The court heard Shaikh contacted "someone" who could prepare explosives and went on a reconnaissance trip to view the historic building and a hotel as locations to plant explosives. During her visits she took video footage of the sites. At her home, she prepared the words of a pledge of allegiance to ISIS, between August 2019 and October 2019.

TELEGRAM MESSAGING APP

The prosecution also provided evidence Shaikh shared terrorist documents via groups using the Telegram messaging app over the same period. Her communications were monitored by GCHQ, thus alerting the Security Service MI5.

Shaikh only confided her plan to two people who posed as "fellow extremists" - an on-line explosives expert and his wife, oblivious both were part of an undercover intelligence unit monitoring her activities. "I want to kill a lot," she told the couple, and sent them a photograph of St Paul's. "I would like to do this place for sure," was their response. At a subsequent meeting, Shaikh handed her fellow 'conspirators' two bags - intended to be customised to contain the bombs.



St Paul's Cathedral, London



The Telegram messaging app is favoured by ISIS terrorists

MI6 INTELLIGENCE EVENT

YOUNGER GENERATION IS KEY

Britain's foreign intelligence service, MI6, has cut the minimum employment age from 21 to 18, this as it seeks to attract younger persons from across the UK and straight from school. Much focus is on students who have lived with technology since they were children. Intelligence watchers note the move is part of the Service's programme to extend its reach beyond middle class 'Oxbridge' university graduates.

And in an unprecedented move linked to down-grading pre-conceptions that entry into MI6 is only open to "an elite few," Chief Sir Alex Younger invited a group of 14-to-19-year-olds to the Service's Vauxhall headquarters. During a Q & A session, Sir Alex said: "Your generation is key. We



MI6 Chief Sir Alex Younger speaks to two students

are in a time of dynamic change and the relationship, particularly with technology, is going to be the thing that gives us our edge in the future." In respect of national security and adversaries, he said: "The way we are going to succeed is by being cleverer... by out-thinking them and being more creative. We need people to think out of the box."

At the event, other misconceptions were also dispelled, such as '007's 'licence to kill', though he added: "We will work hard to stop bad stuff happening and we will be tough." He also acknowledged that there are times when MI6 officers put themselves at

"physical risk," though "strenuous efforts" are taken to minimise the risk.

According to Sir Alex, who is reportedly stepping down this year, the Service is trying to engage more with the private sector to help create the "next generation of spy tools." And in language probably understood better by tech-savvy youngsters, said: "That is where we are going to get a lot of our innovation and cool kit in the future!"

The *London Evening Standard*, the first newspaper to report on the event, organised with youth charity the BIGKID Foundation,



said many of the youngsters were oblivious they were going to MI6 HQ. Only when their bus stopped at the gates of Vauxhall, did they realise the significance of what they were about to experience. And in a move, probably intended to help conceal the students' identity, all wore sunglasses.

Individuals who want to apply must be a born or naturalised British citizen and have lived in the UK for eight out of the past 10-years. They are required to have at least five GCSEs from grade A to E, with language grades to A to C and maths and English.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Eye Spy would like to thank the *London Evening Standard* for their assistance in the preparation of this report.

LINKS:

www.sis.gov.uk/explore-careers



Some information was not opened in court, but according to a prosecution case summary, Shaikh had stated her main aim was to "kill as many people as possible in a suicide attack on St Paul's."

In court, Shaikh entered her guilty pleas. The judge, Justice Sweeney ordered that she be remanded in custody until sentencing on 12 May.



At the event, MI6 Chief Sir Alex Younger announced the Service is lowering its entry age from 21 to 18

US SECURITY QUESTIONS

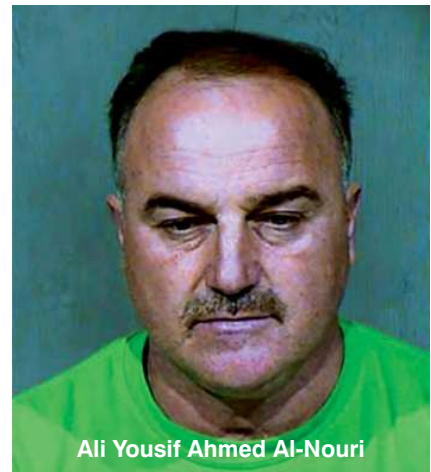
IRAQ REQUESTS EXTRADITION OF ALLEGED AL-QAIDA LEADER

An arrest warrant and extradition order has been made by an Iraqi judge against a man living in Phoenix, Arizona, for the alleged shooting dead of two police officers in the Iraq city of Fallujah, in 2006.

Ali Yousif Ahmed Al-Nouri, 42, was supposedly the commander of an early, but powerful al-Qaida franchise in Iraq, which targeted police and security officers. Described as the 'head of an assassination squad', the papers provided to the US Justice Department by Iraq

weapons challenged Ahmed Hussein, a first lieutenant in the police force. A gun was aimed at the officer but jammed. Eye witnesses said another man (identified as Al-Nouri), who was not masked was at the scene, he reportedly told his associates, "he is a policeman, leave him." Al-Nouri was told not to interfere and the officer was shot dead in his vehicle.

Another incident in October that year, also involving al-Qaida operatives and allegedly Al-Nouri, led to the shooting dead of police officer - Khalid Ibrahim Mohammed. Iraq



Ali Yousif Ahmed Al-Nouri

United States. They have written to Pompeo requesting details on the security and vetting process, as Al-Nouri was reportedly allowed into the country as a refugee in 2008.



2004. Iraqi Special Forces assigned to a US Marine regiment patrol a street in Fallujah

claimed Al-Nouri is wanted for 'the premeditated murder of police'.

US authorities confirmed the request but noted the complaint amounted to allegations that had yet to be proven in court. Al-Nouri has been living in the United States for around a decade and recently married. He was arrested by US police in late January 2020.

The Iraq papers claim on 1 June 2006, six masked men carrying an assortment of

Police officials and prosecutors claim other terrorists arrested for the killings have confirmed Al-Nouri headed the group.

The potential surrendering of the suspect is bound by US law but would need to be certified in court. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo would then make the final decision on whether to agree to the request.

US Senators Chuck Grassley and Johi Ernst want to know how the suspect arrived in the



Senator Chuck Grassley

Associates state Al-Nouri was a friendly member of the city's Iraq community and ran a driving school. A colleague said he had been "shot

twenty times in Iraq" by al-Qaida terrorists. Iraq police dispute this and claim his injuries came about as the result of "one of his assassination attempts."

During his early years in the United States Al-Nouri worked as a military contractor teaching US personnel about Iraqi culture before they were deployed to the Middle East.

IRAN URANIUM ENRICHMENT

IAEA ADMITS TEHRAN HAS ENRICHED SUFFICIENT URANIUM TO BUILD A NUCLEAR BOMB

In a confidential report circulated to member nations of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), officials have confirmed that Iran has now enriched sufficient Uranium to manufacture a nuclear bomb.

Last June Iran warned that it would increase Uranium stockpiles in breach of the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was signed by the United States, Britain, Germany, France, China and Russia. The US pulled out

last year. Under the original plan, Iran was allowed to keep 202.8 kilograms of Uranium and limit other aspects of its nuclear programme. Now the IAEA reports it has stockpiled sufficient quantities to produce a bomb should it so wish.

Intelligence sources believe that enrichment has been conducted underground at three sites including Natanz and Fordow near Qom. All are said to be heavily fortified. Interestingly, after several years of rejecting intelligence assessments



2015. Switzerland. Ministers from the JCPOA negotiating countries announce the agreement, which is effectively dead

that Tehran has undertaken secret nuclear research, and hoarded undeclared Uranium, some IAEA members are now changing their opinion. The organisation has also admitted access to some plants has

been denied, and IAEA Director General Rafaela Grossi said, "Iran must cooperate in a clearer manner, I am increasingly concerned."

See also Page 47 - 'Nuclear Spies'

Japan Launches New Spy Satellite to Surveil North Korea

SPACE INTELLIGENCE

In 1998, after North Korea launched its Taepodong-1 missile over Japanese airspace, Japan started an Information-Gathering Satellite (IGS) programme to monitor Pyongyang. On 9 February, it launched a new spy satellite into orbit, called IGS Optical 7, that is expected to help its Cabinet Satellite Intelligence Centre capture images of North Korean missile sites and research and development sites.

IGS Optical 7, was sent into orbit from Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima Prefecture on a Mitsubishi Heavy Industries H-IIA rocket. The satellite, which cost nearly £240 million to develop, is equipped with an advanced telephoto digital camera.



North Korea leader Kim Jong-un

Intelligence sources said Japan operates two types of reconnaissance satellites - optical devices that take



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with US President Donald Trump

photos with a device similar to digital cameras, and radar satellites that can capture images in all weather conditions. Japan currently has five radar and two optical satellites in operation and plans to raise the total to 10 by 2023.

"We will maximise the use of the satellite and do our best to ensure the security and crisis management of our country," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said in a statement.

Late last year Abe condemned North Korea after two new ballistic missile launches. Pyongyang KCNA state media responded by describing Abe as an "imbecile and political dwarf," and warned that Japan had "mis-



An H-IIA rocket carries the new Japanese spy satellite into space

labelled the test." Officials also warned that in future days, Japan "may see what a real ballistic missile looks like."

US analysts have repeatedly warned that Kim Jong-un's regime is developing a long-range ballistic missile.

COMPUTER TREACHERY A MOST SECRET ARTEFACT



The CIA has released a photograph of the actual computer used by one of its most notorious officers and KGB agents - Aldrich Ames.



Ames had access to many CIA activities pertaining to the Soviet Union. In 1985 he walked into the Soviet Embassy in Washington DC and began secretly working for the USSR for the next nine years.

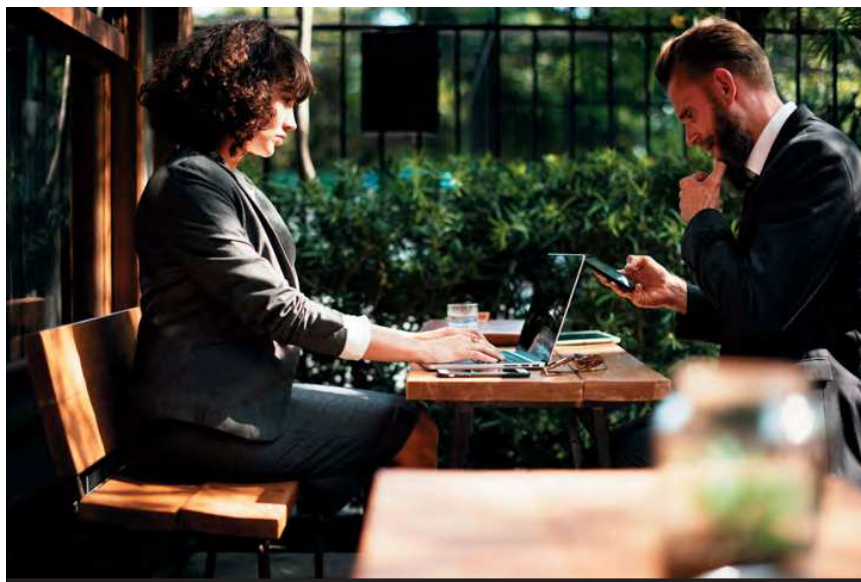
He provided information that critically hampered CIA operations and resulted in the deaths of a number of CIA assets and agents in Russia and its satellites.

Ames fell under suspicion because of his extravagant lifestyle, and an ensuing counter-espionage investigation led to his arrest in 1994. He pled guilty and was sentenced to life in prison.



IGS Optical 7 was launched from the Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima Prefecture

PERSONA NON GRATA



RUSSIANS EXPELLED IN NEW ESPIONAGE CASE

Following an investigation by Bulgarian counter-intelligence officers, almost certainly assisted by the CIA and MI6, officials in Sofia announced two Russian 'diplomatic' personnel have been ejected from the country, whilst an incoming defence attache has been refused a visa. All of the incidents are connected to on-going espionage investigations.

Bulgaria's Foreign Minister Ekaterina Zaharieva told journalists papers had been served to

Russia Ambassador Anatoly Makarov, which contained some, but not all of the reasons the two Russians were being asked to leave. "We will undertake the action that we are obliged to undertake," said Zaharieva.

It is believed one of the individuals, a First Secretary at the Consular Section, had been under surveillance since 2017. He was reportedly involved with securing sensitive information about Bulgaria's electoral process and political system. The second person



Russia Ambassador Anatoly Makarov

served with Russia's Commercial Representation Office, and had been engaged in a covert effort to acquire state secrets pertaining to Bulgaria's energy industry and security infrastructure. Russia, is Bulgaria's biggest energy supplier.

Bulgaria has long been recognised as having a good relationship with Moscow, and the incident was met with dismay by the Kremlin. Ambassador Makarov posted a reply on the embassy's website: *'The decision of the Bulgarian authorities to disseminate this information publicly prior to notifying the Embassy does not correspond to the traditionally constructive spirit of relations between our states'.*

A Kremlin official said Russia views the move as "openly unfriendly and provocative," and reserves the right to respond with "reciprocal measures."

In October 2019, Bulgaria expelled another Russian Embassy First Secretary on espionage charges. The operative collected

SOVIET SPY RADIO UNEARTHED

RELIC OF COLD WAR UNCOVERED BY ARCHEOLOGISTS

Archaeologist Erich Classen of the Rhineland Regional Association (LVR) and his colleagues were engaged in a research project trying to find a

Roman villa in western Germany in August 2019. During their research they unearthed a sealed metal box. The exact location was a path through what was the ancient Hambach Forest in North

Rhine-Westphalia, near Cologne, Germany, close to the Norvenich military air base and Jülich Nuclear Research Centre.

Once the box was opened, they discovered an intact Soviet radio still covered in factory wrapping and bearing notes on dial positions in Russian script. Manufactured in 1987, the shortwave radio, a model R-394KKM, was capable of transmitting and receiving messages over a distance of some 750 miles. It was codenamed Strizh, meaning 'Swift'. Classen told journalists, "we think the radio will work if a new battery is available."



Hambach Forest near Cologne

The Soviet radio secreted in Hambach Forest



COURTESY: JÜRGEN VOGEL, LVR-LANDESMUSEUM BONN

The radio itself is labelled in English with the Roman alphabet, and probably intended for use by German or English speaking



Bulgaria Foreign Minister Ekaterina Zaharieva with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

intelligence on various government and NATO projects. Moscow responded by removing a Bulgarian staffer at the country's embassy, and is expected to do so again in relation to the recent expulsions.

The spy allegations follow further accusations that a GRU team was despatched by Moscow to kill a

Bulgarian arms trader. (See Page 52)

For the record and a reflection of previous liaisons with Russia, Bulgaria, unlike its NATO and European allies, declined to expel any Russians following the 2018 Novichok poison attack on MI6 agent Sergei Skripal in Salisbury, England.



The Julich Nuclear Research Centre is one of the biggest in Europe

operatives. With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Classen and his associates speculate that this is the reason the radio was never used. Another theory is the machine was buried as a back-up device for an operational KGB or SVR agent.

Classen also theorised that agents of the East German State Security Service (Stasi) secreted the device in the forest for future use against the West.

The spy radio itself is on show at the LVR LandesMuseum in Bonn.

HUAWEI 5G

MORE INTEL-SHARING WARNINGS

Robert Strayer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Cyber, International Communications and Information Policy at the US State Department, has been touring Europe warning his counterparts that allowing Huawei access to 5G networks would threaten intelligence sharing between the US and those allies. "If countries adopt untrustworthy vendors in 5G technology, it will jeopardise our ability to share information at the highest levels," he said.



Robert Strayer

Speaking from Madrid, Strayer acknowledged he had told European politicians that allowing in a high-risk firm like Huawei could let China "undermine the critical infrastructure riding on 5G networks as well as exfiltrate sensitive data."

Strayer also tweeted: *'The Chinese Communist Party is the ultimate decider about the backdoors that #Huawei will insert into #5G software'*.

Former UK Minister of State for Europe, Davis Davis, said: "The

only way to protect our safety is to ban it," [Huawei technology]. "We are handing the keys to large parts of the country over to China." Many senior UK intelligence figures have issued similar warnings, including former MI6 Chief Sir Richard Dearlove. He said the move "could give the Chinese Government a potentially advantageous exploitative position."

On 20 February, White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney attended a meeting in Downing Street, which included Dominic Cummings, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Chief Advisor. He hoped to increase pressure on the UK Government to reverse its decision allowing Huawei to build hardware components of Britain's 5G network. Ironically, on the same day at the nearby Dorchester Hotel, Huawei was holding a lavish event where it trumpeted its success in winning 47 European 5G contracts.



Davis Davis



White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney

The Room Where It Happened

Inside Intelligence: Revealing White House Secrets



Happier days - John Bolton and President Trump

Former US National Security Advisor John Bolton, has reportedly been instructed to remove certain information from his forthcoming book - *The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir*, due to concerns it contains a significant amount of secret and classified information. Intelligence sources believe that some of the material is actually Top Secret. Officials said the advice was not a threat.

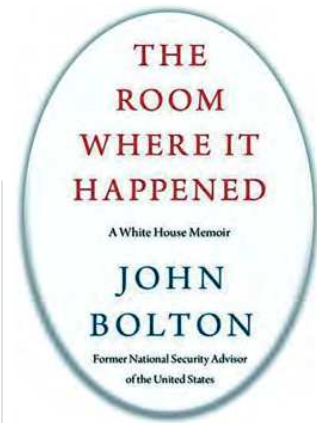
US Government solicitors have written to Bolton's legal advisors stating that in its current adaptation, it cannot be published. Part of the guidance letter sent by Ellen

Knight of the National Security Council (NSC), to Bolton's solicitor reads: *'Under federal law and the non-disclosure agreements your client signed as a condition for gaining access to classified information, the manuscript may not be published or otherwise disclosed without the deletion of this classified information'*.

Bolton, who reportedly received \$2 million from publisher Simon & Schuster, appears to have angered White House advisors about information concerning military aid to Ukraine and the recent impeachment affair. More specifically, sources believe the

copy shows a link between threats to suspend support of Ukraine, a country still fearful of militarily conflict with Russia, if it did not investigate Trump's political opponents. The context of all of this is still unknown. Bolton said in January if he was subpoenaed to testify in the Senate trial about the affair, he would attend.

Bolton's relationship with President Trump slowly disintegrated and he departed last Autumn. Thereafter a war of words and mistrust ensued. In late January 2020, Trump said Bolton had "begged him" for the National Security Advisor role, and now he



has written a "nasty and untrue book revealing classified national security." He also tweeted that if Bolton had remained, the United States *'would be in World War Six by now'*.

The book was due for release in March 2020.



2018. John Bolton with Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko

EXIT DOOR?

NSA CONTRACTOR SEEKS CLEMENCY

Former NSA contractor and USAF linguist Reality Winner, 29, convicted of leaking confidential information to the media, has written to President Donald Trump in an effort to cut short her sentence. The move was reflected in court documents provided by her solicitor Alison Grinter.

In a petition for the commutation of her client's sentence, Grinter wrote: *'Her continued incarceration is costly, unnecessary to protect the public, burdensome to her health and well-being, and not commensurate with the severity of her offense'*. Along with the request for a pardon, she included 4,500

letters of support for the whistleblower from members of the public. There was also a reminder to the president that following her sentencing, Trump tweeted: *'Small potatoes compared to what Hilary Clinton did'*.

Winner was sentenced to prison for more than five years in August 2018, for violating parts of the Espionage Act. Her low sentence followed a deal in which she pleaded guilty to leaking a Top Secret classified NSA document providing details of a 2016 Russian cyber attack on a supplier of US voting software.

At a press conference Grinter said: "Our country was attacked by a hostile foreign power. Our national healing process cannot begin until we forgive the truth tellers." Winner is serving the longest sentence ever given to a journalistic source by a federal court, according to the Department of Justice.



Reality Winner

Some of Winner's former colleagues have described her as one of the NSA's "most talented analysts." She is due for release on 30 December 2021.

DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY

US National Wanted for Questioning in Connection with UK Incident has Secret CIA Intelligence Past

Anne Sacoolas, 42, who fled the UK after the death last August of 19-year-old motorcyclist Harry Dunn, has a secret history, according to intelligence sources. Sacoolas claimed diplomatic immunity because her husband, CIA officer Jonathan Sacoolas, worked in a US diplomatic post. Now several UK media houses, referencing "multiple intelligence sources," claim she too once worked for Langley, and was "more senior than her husband." Although at the time of the accident, it was her husband who was listed as a diplomat conferring immunity on him and his family.

Britain's *Sunday Express* went further, claiming she now heads a 100-strong CIA overseas section.

Sacoolas and her husband were both living at RAF Croughton, which supports a major and sensitive US listening post, when the accident occurred. The Foreign Office said that as a spouse of a CIA officer at the base, she too had immunity. A family spokesman said the revelation that she had also been a CIA officer, albeit not serving, helps explain the US



Anne Sacoolas

Government's refusal to grant the UK Government request for her to be extradited to stand trial.

The Foreign Office has not commented on the CIA thread and is unlikely to do so, given the

circumstances of the case. The outing of working or retired intelligence officers is governed by protocol, even between allies. An FO spokesman said that Sacoolas, "was notified to us as a spouse with no official role."



Harry Dunn

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab with President Trump at the 2019 NATO Summit



The US State Department too declined to comment on the CIA claims, however, a spokesperson said: "The driver was the spouse of an accredited diplomat to the United Kingdom."

Sacoolas had been in the UK just three weeks when the accident



US Embassy, London

occurred. Following the incident, and after a full investigation of the circumstances, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) authorised police to charge her with causing death by dangerous driving.

In respect of RAF Croughton, the base was listed as an 'annex' of the US Embassy in 1964, thus providing diplomatic immunity to US personnel. Interestingly, a number of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests - terms related to the 1964 agreement - have been rejected by the Foreign Office, citing concerns they were "not in the national interest."

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, said: "I hope Anna Sacoolas will realise the right thing for her to do is to come back to the UK and cooperate with the criminal justice process." Harry Dunn's legal team criticised Raab for not disclosing Sacoolas worked for the CIA.

Intelligence sources told Eye Spy that following the alleged CIA link, it is now unlikely she will return to the UK.

The US facility at RAF Croughton is an annex of the US Embassy



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LONDON CALLING

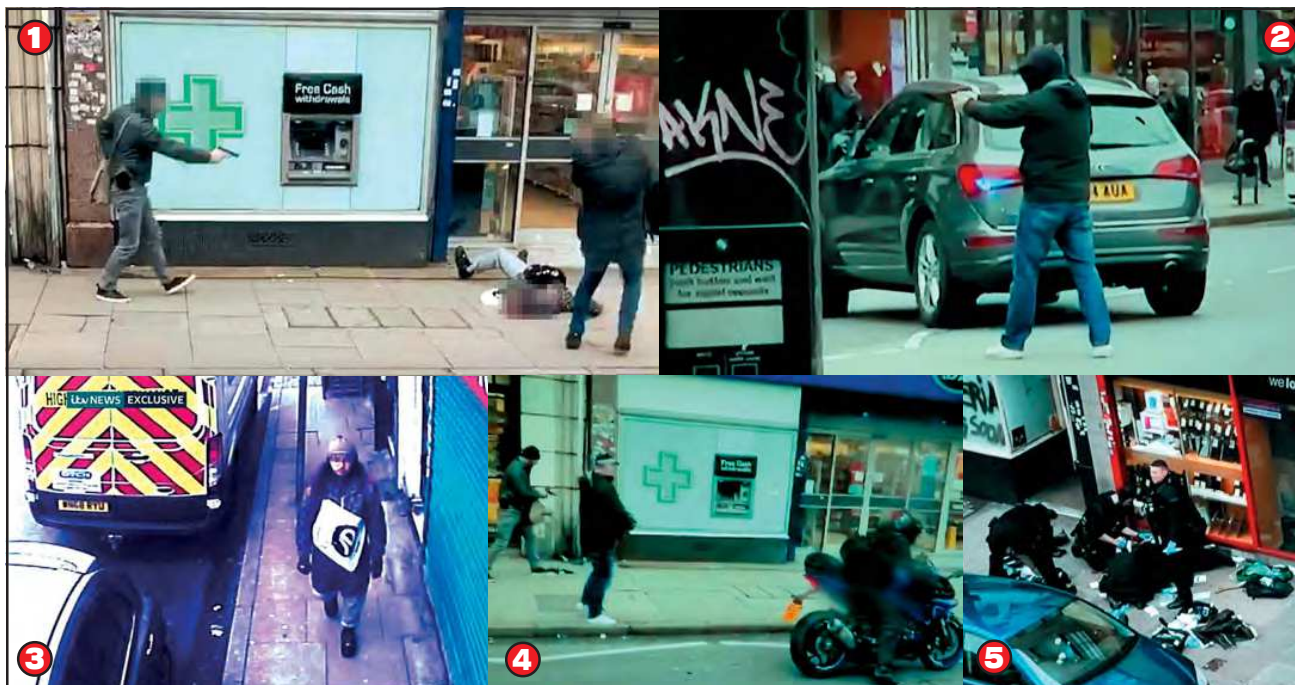
LONE WOLF STRIKES IN CAPITAL

Third Terrorist Attack in City in as Many Months

British officials are set to introduce a swathe of tough new regulations relating to the controversial early release programme of convicted terrorists, this following another ISIS-inspired attack in London on 2 February 2020

Sudesh Mamoor Faraz Amman, 20, was shot dead by armed surveillance officers attached to New Scotland Yard's Counter Terrorism Command (CTC), after he stabbed three civilians on Streatham High Road in the capital. Amman was wearing a fake suicide bomb vest similar to that worn by Usman Khan - the 2019 London Bridge attacker and carrying at least one knife. And just like Khan, he had been convicted for terrorist offences and released half-way through his prison term.

Following his release from Belmarsh Prison, London, just seven days earlier, Amman had been under active surveillance by a joint team of around 20 MI5 and CTC surveillance officers. Witnesses said he entered a shop at around 2.00pm and grabbed a knife from a shelf. He then started to attack people stabbing one victim, Monika Luftner, 51, outside the premises. Another victim was treated for stab wounds outside The White Lion public house. Police in this case using their own clothing and a blanket provided by a member of the public to stem



1. and **2.** CTC officers shoot dead Amman. **3.** Amman caught on CCTV moments before his attack. **4.** A surveillance officer riding a motorbike joins colleagues. Sources believe he is an MI5 A4 Watcher. **5.** Police treat a victim stabbed in the attack

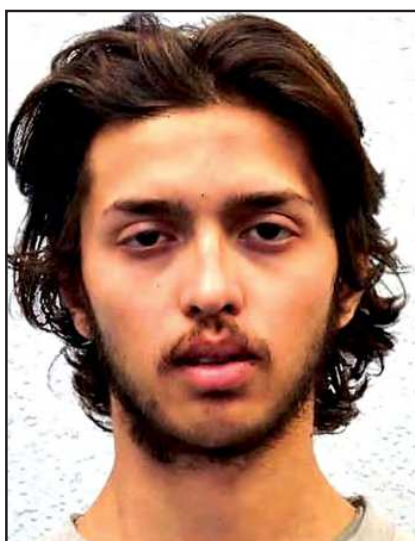
the blood loss from a stomach wound. Throughout his rampage, witnesses said Amman was shouting "Allahu akbar."

Following the stabbings, the surveillance team immediately reacted and began chasing him down the high street. A car and motorbike driven by plain-clothed armed officers arrived at the scene. After being challenged, the officers noticed his 'bomb vest' consisting of a number of silver-like plastic cannisters and that he was still carrying the knife. With the public in attendance and unsure if the device was viable, the police opted to take no chance and duly shot the attacker.

Video footage taken by onlookers showed the officers firing at least four rounds. Amman died some three or four minutes later from his wounds.

PRO-ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE

Considered a "viable threat" by MI5 analysts, Amman was under 24-hour surveillance.



Sudesh Mamoor Faraz Amman

Intelligence sources believe he was intent on building a bomb, hence why CTC was asked to join the Watchers. This also explains how armed officers were able to respond quickly to



Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D'Orsi

his attack on members of the public. Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D'Orsi released a statement: "Armed officers who were part of a pro-active counter-terrorism surveillance operation and were following the suspect on foot, were in immediate attendance and shot a male suspect dead at the scene."

Former head of CTC Alexis Boon, said at the time of his first conviction (possession and distribution of extremist material), Amman



Forensic specialists gather evidence at the scene of Amman's shooting





had a "knife obsession and a fierce interest in violence." Boon added he had a fascination in dying in the name of terrorism and was determined to die a martyr. He had also reportedly encouraged his girlfriend to behead her parents and sent her the following message: *'If you can't make a bomb because family, friends or spies are watching or suspecting you, take a knife, molotov, sound bombs or a car at night and attack the tourists [crusaders], police and soldiers... at Western embassies in every country you are in'.*

During subsequent searches at his apartment, sources state CTC recovered an ISIS flag and an al-Qaida bomb-making manual, along with weapons and an air pistol.

In 2018, Amman, was jailed for thirty-six months, but served just half his sentence. Hours before his arrest, he told family members that "ISIS is here to stay."

RADICALISATION

Following his death, his mother, Haleema Faraz Khan said she had visited her son a day

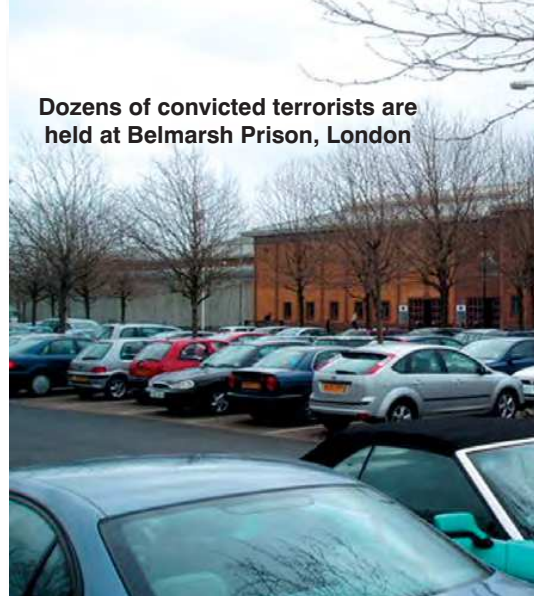
before the incident and he "seemed normal." She believes he was radicalised by on-line material, and further brainwashed during his time served in Belmarsh Prison.

Several addresses in London were duly searched by MI5 and New Scotland Yard, including a hostel in Streatham where Amman was living.

Officials, who have criticised the early release and rehabilitation programme, said there had been great concerns about Amman, but there were few powers available to the security services to keep him in jail. Following his release, Amman's movements were restricted. For example, he was forbidden to enter airports or ports, and he was under a curfew. He also had to surrender his passport and wear a GPS tag. His access to the Internet and ownership of certain electronic devices was also limited. Sceptics note none of these measures would have prevented his actions.

Downing Street has now ordered a full and speedy review of the release regulations which were already being examined following the

Dozens of convicted terrorists are held at Belmarsh Prison, London



terrorist incident at Fishmonger's Hall in December (See Eye Spy 126). Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "Fundamental changes to the system for dealing with those convicted of terrorism offences will be announced." He also paid tribute to the security and surveillance detail which acted so swiftly and almost certainly prevented other attacks. Mr Johnson said that the instances of success (rehabilitation) are "really very few... we have to be honest about that."

Sources believe one new rule could be a minimum [actual] sentence of 14-years for serious offenders. Sceptics note this would not have applied to Amman because he was not linked to an actual plot or a known action involving violence or murder. However, the automatic release of prisoners who have served half their sentence will be stopped.

Former military intelligence officer Philip Ingram supported the government review, and doubted that some people could ever be rehabilitated.

MORE POWERS

Jonathan Hall QC, independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, suggested the UK may "revive post 9/11 civil powers" to detain persons considered a threat to national security. This essentially would allow the security services to detain and hold persons

who have not yet committed an offence, but are deemed a security risk. Justice Secretary Robert Buckland also indicated those jailed for life will serve a whole



Jonathan Hall QC





Amman lies dead on the pavement. His bogus suicide vest is circled



Police search the crime scene for spent bullet cartridges



Before his first arrest, Amman posted a photograph of a ball bearing gun painted black to resemble a real firearm (above). A statement accompanying the image read 'armed and ready'. The gun and a combat knife (below) were recovered by CTC, along with terrorist literature and an ISIS flag



sentence, while others will not be released before a full risk assessment is made.

MI5 have approximately 3,000 'Subjects of Interest' (SOI) under surveillance, all of whom are considered viable threats. An unspecified number designated elevated SOIs under the Security Service's 'Tier System' are under 24-hour surveillance. However, in total, 24,000 people still remain on watch lists, an indication of the dilemma facing the security services. Data from the government reveal 225 people are currently serving jail terms for terrorist-related offences in the UK. Slightly above three quarters of those are designated Islamic extremists, the remainder Far Right extremists.

New Scotland Yard Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu also acknowledged the enormity of the surveillance dilemma, adding it is "not

possible to watch every extremist." He called on the public for assistance and asked they remain vigilant, noting the terrorist threat to the UK has not diminished. MI5 analysts also advise the problem of countering such actions is compounded because terrorists like Amman chose not to associate with small cells and acted as lone wolves.

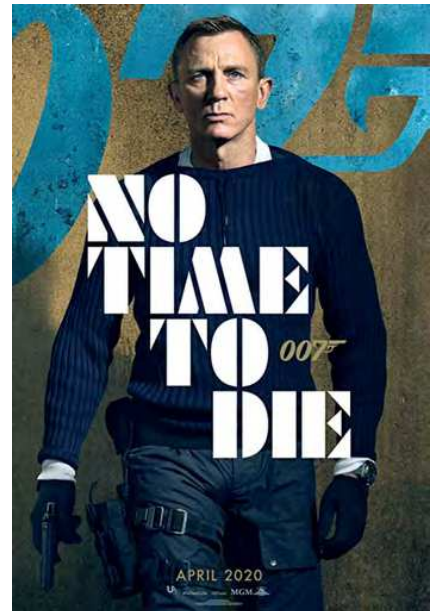
The terrorist attack is the third in London since the UK lowered its national threat level from Severe to Substantial in November 2019.

Commander Richard Smith, head of CTC, said he was "confident this was an isolated incident" and that Amman acted alone.

Following widespread media coverage of the incident, ISIS predictably said Amman was one of its "fighters."



CTC Commander Richard Smith

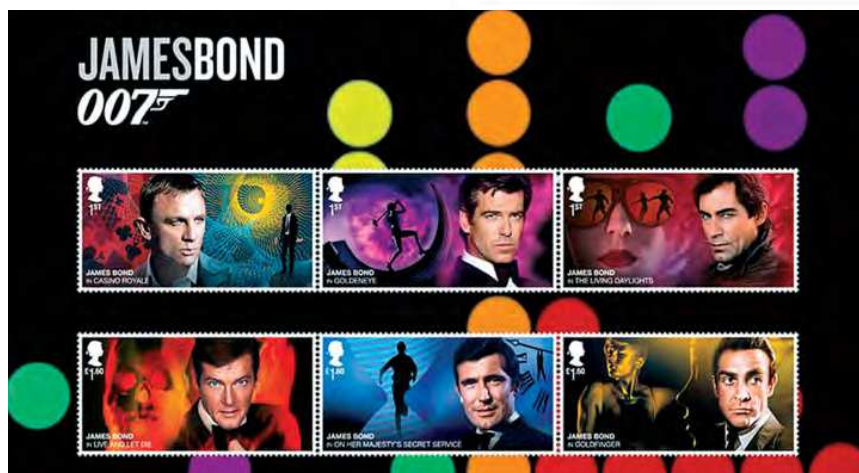


NEW 007 STAMPS

ROYAL MAIL CELEBRATES THE RELEASE OF THE 25TH BOND FILM, *NO TIME TO DIE*

Britain's Royal Mail postal service has created a new set of James Bond-themed stamps and souvenirs. The ten stamps feature the six actors who have played the fictitious MI6 officer as well as a host of Q branch's best gadgets and vehicles. Royal Mail spokesman Philip Parker said: "James Bond is a British icon, recognised throughout the world for decades. It's fitting our new stamps celebrate the six Bonds with stylish and evocative designs."

Also available are special limited-edition handstamps for pre-order, first-day covers and stamp souvenirs, with one image featuring the renowned movie quote: "We've been expecting you..."

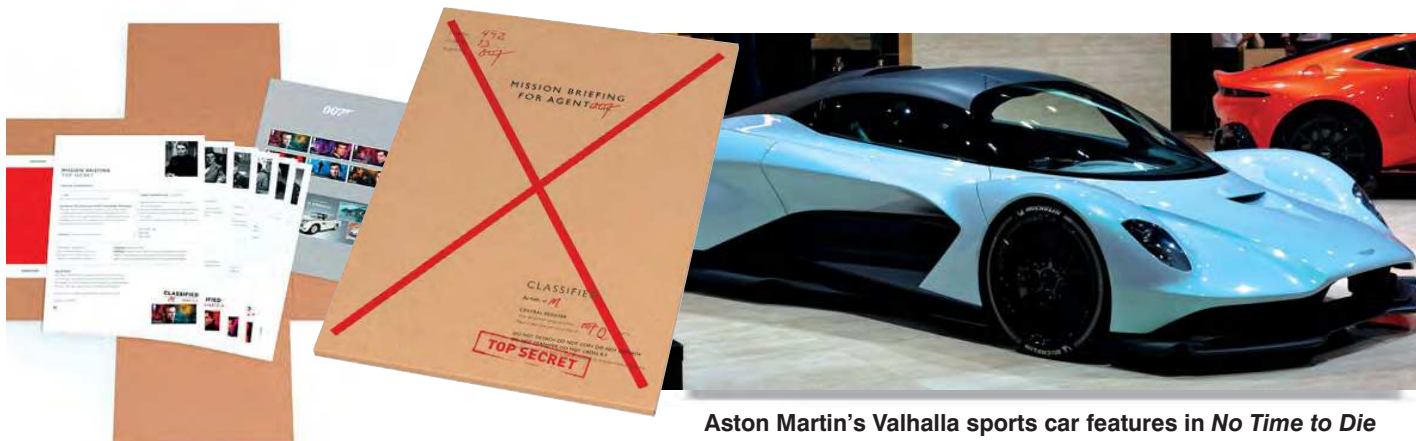


JAMES BOND STAMP SET

The new collection is presented in a special carrier featuring the title sequence from *Dr No* Bond's first big screen mission.



Little Nellie autogyro from *You Only Live Twice*



Aston Martin's Valhalla sports car features in *No Time to Die*

COURTESY: ROYAL MAIL



1964. *Goldfinger*: Sean Connery's third mission marks the introduction of the iconic Aston Martin DB5.

1969. *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*: George Lazenby's only outing as 007.

1995. *GoldenEye*: Pierce Brosnan's Bond takes on a Secret Service agent turned villain.

1973. *Live and Let Die*: Roger Moore makes his debut as 007 in this Caribbean adventure.



Q is again played by Ben Whishaw, pictured here with Judy Dench who starred as 'M' (Chief of MI6) in *Skyfall*



Interviewed by former MI5 Director-General Eliza Manningham Buller for the BBC, Dench admitted she was once late for a lunch date with former MI6 Chief Sir David Speding

1987. *The Living Daylights*: Timothy Dalton's debut as 007.

2006. *Casino Royale*: Trading places. Daniel Craig brings a harder edge to the role on his first mission as 007.

Q BRANCH SET

'Q' is the codename given to the head designer of the Service's many ingenious gadgets and inventions. Four stamps include special 007 perforation and hidden features that can be revealed under UV light.* The collection is presented in a special carrier featuring the title sequence from *Dr No* - Bond's first big screen mission.

Bell-Textron Jet Pack. *Thunderball*.
Aston Martin DB5. *Skyfall*.
Lotus Esprit Submarine. *The Spy Who Loved Me*.
Little Nellie. *You Only Live Twice*.



No Time to Die Director Joji Fukunago

The latest movie from the long-running franchise is reportedly Daniel Craig's last outing as James Bond. The picture premiered at the Royal Albert Hall, London on 31 March 2020. General release has been delayed until November.

*To reveal the hidden features, use a UV light of 365NM UV wavelength

To order the new collections, and view other 007-themed stamps:

LINKS: <https://bit.ly/2P4aZsC>

SMILEY OVER BOND

Ralph Fiennes again stars as 'M' - the Chief of MI6, in *No Time to Die*. In August 2019, the real Chief or 'C' of the Service, Sir Alex Younger, visited the set of the new picture and met with his silver screen counterpart and other actors.

Sir Alex admitted that James Bond was unlikely to find employment with MI6. He said the Service would probably hire John le Carre's legendary spy character George Smiley over 007, but recognised that the movie franchise is nevertheless, "a recruitment draw."



Ralph Fiennes

ZERO DARK THIRTY

IRANIAN DISINFORMATION

US SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT CRASH IN AFGHANISTAN SPARKS CONSPIRACY STORIES

US INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS AND MILITARY COMMANDERS DISMISS REPORTS OF DEMISE OF CIA'S 'DARK PRINCE'

Just weeks following the CIA elimination of Iran's Quds Force commander, Lt. General Qasem Soleimani, Iranian intelligence officials claimed a US surveillance and communications' aircraft which crashed in Afghanistan, was carrying the senior officer responsible for the Baghdad operation - Michael D'Andrea - head of the CIA's Iran Desk. D'Andrea, known in Langley as the 'Dark Prince' also coordinated the planning to detain or kill al-Qaida leader Osama bin-Laden.

The vastly experienced officer, who has served the Agency for four-decades, was the inspiration for the character 'Wolf' - one of the officers featured in the motion picture 'Zero Dark Thirty' - which is based on the 2011 Afghanistan operation.

Iranian state television news reports used screen shots of the film as a backdrop to the



A still from Iranian state television news showed actor Frederic Lehne. The commentator said it was Michael D'Andrea

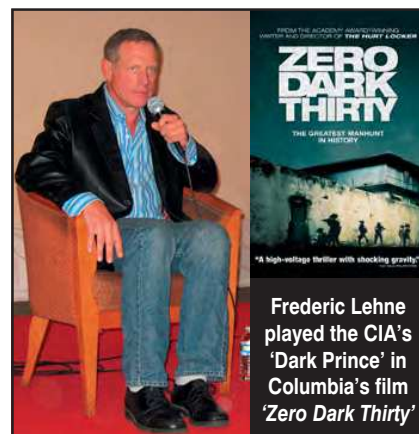
Afghanistan crash. Other imagery included a photograph of actor Frederic Lehne who portrayed D'Andrea, as an officer described as, "a pivotal figure responsible for many acts of terror." A number of Moscow news channels also reported the "death of D'Andrea."

ORIGINS OF A FAKE STORY

News of the aviation incident, which occurred on 27 January, surfaced after Taliban officials announced a US surveillance aircraft carrying several US personnel had crashed in Ghanzi Province, central Afghanistan, some 80-miles southwest of Kabul. The group suggested its forces were responsible and images of smoke and wreckage of the aircraft started to appear on social media. An email was then circulated from Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, claiming that 'many senior officers were



Zabihullah Mujahid



Frederic Lehne played the CIA's 'Dark Prince' in Columbia's film 'Zero Dark Thirty'

killed'. He told journalists in Ghanzi, which is a Taliban stronghold: "The plane was on an intelligence mission and carrying senior US officials." Intelligence analysts believe this line sparked the Iran story on D'Andrea.

Just two or three hours after Mujahid's claim, USFOR-A (US Forces Operation Freedom Sentinel - Afghanistan) spokesman Colonel Sonny Leggett, confirmed an aircraft had crashed. However, he denied Taliban suggestions it had been shot down. "US forces recovered the remains of two personnel from a site where a US Bombardier E-11A aircraft crashed in Ghanzi Province," he said. "The force also recovered what it assessed to be the aircraft flight deck recorder. The cause of

2019. Kandahar International Airport, Afghanistan. USAF Bombardier E-11A



Wreckage showing the USAF surveillance and communications aircraft which crashed during adverse weather conditions



Captain Ryan Phaneuf and Lt. Colonel Paul Voss

the crash remains under investigation." The aircraft carried the Battlefield Airborne Communications Node (BACN) allowing operators to transmit real-time information in difficult conditions, including beyond line-of-sight.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Iran said the delay in US reporting of the incident "confirmed its story," but intelligence sources said that at the time of the incident,

weather conditions were poor, and the crash site was a mountain covered in snow. There were also reports that US troops clashed with Taliban fighters when they tried to reach the area. This led to delays in the recovery operation and notification to relatives of the deceased. Commander of US Central Command, General Frank McKenzie, also dismissed suggestions the aircraft was shot down. "I'm pretty confident there was no enemy action involved... aircraft mishaps happen."

Shortly before the crash, the pilots declared an "in-flight emergency," according to Pentagon officials, suggesting a mechanical or technical problem.



General Frank McKenzie

CASUALTIES

Early reports suggested the aircraft was carrying no more than five personnel - two were USAF officers, according to the Pentagon. They were named as Lt. Colonel Paul Voss, 46, and Captain Ryan Phaneuf, 30. The role and identities of other supposed casualties were not mentioned. The incident was

US troops sent to the mountainside crash site soon clashed with Taliban forces



Colonel Sonny Leggett





Some commentators believed the incident could have impacted on the peace talks between US officials and the Taliban hierarchy

adversaries. The DOD is constantly working to counter it."

FAKE NEWS?

The CIA declined to respond to the Iranian news reports, which were probably output by MOIS, Iran's intelligence service. An Eye Spy intelligence source described the coverage as "propaganda intended as 'good news' for a still angry Iranian public," following Soleimani's death.

It is likely the story of D'Andrea's demise will be bracketed in the ever growing 'false news'

further compounded when Ghanzi Provincial Police Head Khalid Wardak said, "four people were onboard, two are dead and two were alive... but are now missing." Another US Defense official speaking on condition of anonymity, told newswires that the two USAF pilots were the only people onboard the aircraft.

Former US Ambassador to Afghanistan James Cunningham said: "If false reports are not authoritatively or convincingly disproven, they can take a life of their own. Once that happens it is very hard to undo." Another senior US



Former US Ambassador to Afghanistan James Cunningham (left), pictured in Kabul with former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Marine Corps General Joseph Dunford



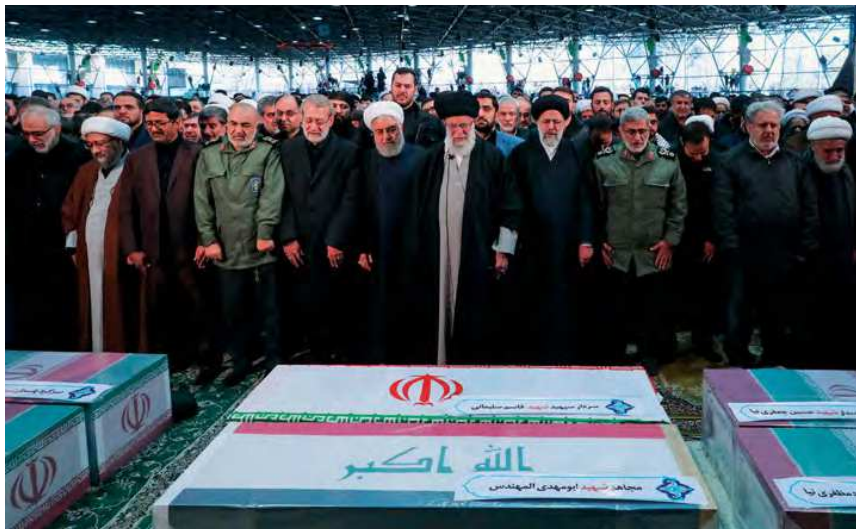
Lt. General Qasem Soleimani

official backed Cunningham's overview. US Department of Defense Press Secretary Alyssa Farah said: "We live in a time of widespread misinformation from the US's

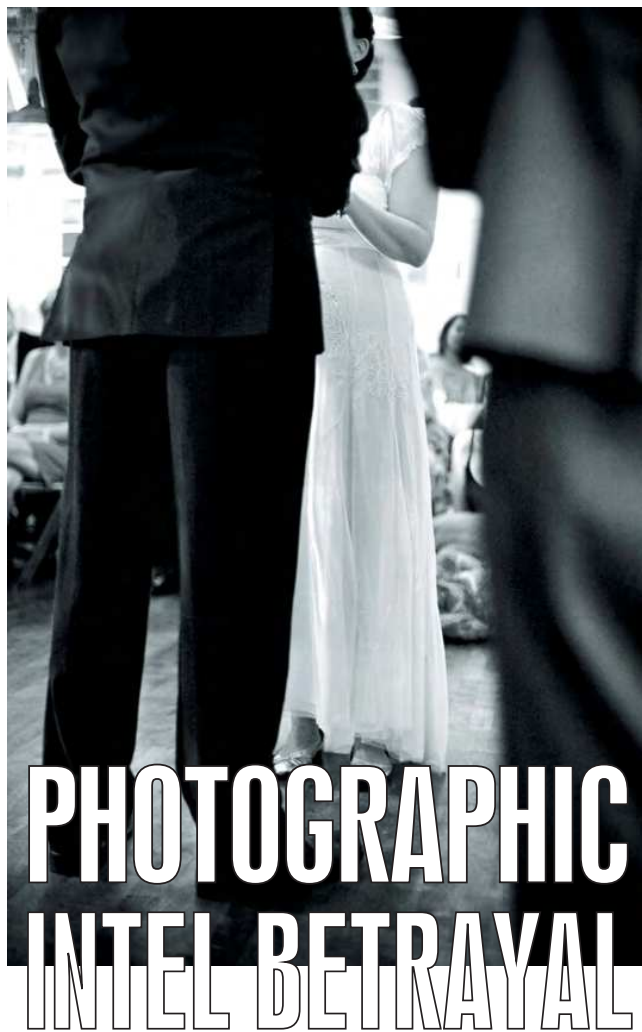
category. Amongst a series of announcements made in Iran - one broadcaster IRINN TV - said at least 100 bodies were found at the crash site, referencing an Associated Press report. The AP dismissed the report and said it did not exist. The gaffe was too much even for MOIS, who told the station to remove the claim.

Intelligence sources also note that an officer as senior as D'Andrea would be buried with full military honours, almost certainly at Arlington Cemetery. "It would be a story too big to conceal, even for the CIA."

The loss of the aircraft, assigned to the 430th Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron based at Khandahar Airfield, is known in intelligence circles as 'Wifi in the Sky', due to its advanced surveillance and communications capacity. Its loss did not impact on the peace talks between US officials, including CIA personnel, and Taliban hierarchy. The deal was brokered in Qatar in the hope it will end eighteen years of conflict in Afghanistan. [See Page 78]



Tehran. Senior Iranians mourn Lt. General Qasem Soleimani and those killed in a CIA-sponsored operation in Baghdad on 2 January 2020



PHOTOGRAPHIC INTEL BETRAYAL

Spies Beware: Two Wedding Events Reflect the Danger of Exposure on Social Media

A married Russian couple have been charged with treason for publishing photographs on-line taken at their wedding five years ago. Russian prosecutors state the imagery reveals the identity of a senior FSB counter-intelligence officer. Konstantin Antonets and Antonina Zimina were detained in July 2018 in the Baltic Sea exclave of Kaliningrad, but details of the case have just emerged.

The FSB officer was amongst guests who attended the couple's wedding in April 2015. He was a friend and former university class-mate of Zimina. Strangely, guests claim the officer spoke openly about



Antonina Zimina



Konstantin Antonets and Antonina Zimina

his employer at the wedding, and handed out business cards. He was relaxed and posed freely with guests as photographs were taken.

Zimina's father, Konstantin, told journalists it was common knowledge where the FSB officer, whom he named as Maksim, worked, and that he made no effort to hide it. Other guests in attendance were relatives of Zimina's from Lithuania, which probably caused further FSB concern. Both countries have recently clashed over espionage incidents. And Moscow anger increased when videos and photographs from the wedding were later published on social media, and reportedly included in an unspecified Baltic television programme. When this was aired the FSB opened a criminal investigation. The uploaded imagery has since been removed.

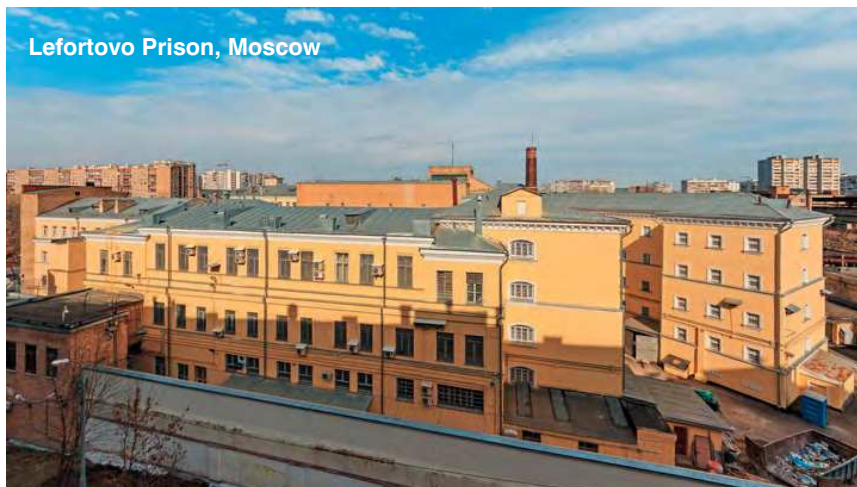


FSB Director Alexander Bortnikov

Despite the Lithuanian threat, intelligence commentators suggest her arrest may have more to do with the fact that Zimina served as director of a non-governmental organisation (NGO), the Baltic Centre for the Dialogue of Cultures, and Antonets had been employed as a government solicitor in Kaliningrad, and then later in a private firm in Moscow. ➤



FSB headquarters, Moscow



Lefortovo Prison, Moscow

Zimina was also affiliated with an organisation that advocates for public diplomacy, and her professional interests were identified as “the policy of the Baltic countries towards Russia,” and “the identity of the political elite of Latvia.”

Zimina has been held in the secure Lefortovo Prison and detention centre in Moscow since her arrest. The facility is run by a special department overseen by the FSB and houses high-profile inmates, including many directly linked to the intelligence and security world. Her husband’s whereabouts are not known.

In respect of the NGOs referenced in this report, at least one has connections to the Gorchakov Fund. The Russian think tank and

policy centre was founded by former Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, who stepped down in January 2020. Officials at MI6 and the CIA believe it is probably overseen by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Lithuania’s intelligence service, VSD (State Security Department), has been a little more outspoken in its criticism of the Gorchakov Fund. “It has the sole purpose of spreading Russian propaganda,” a spokesman said. Some Russian media houses report Zimina was the target of VSD recruitment in 2017, this as she attempted to visit the country. The allegation is unproven.

SKRIPAL POISONING - INTEL SIGNATURES



Prime Minister Medvedev and President Putin

Wedding photos taken on 29 July 2017, helped identify Anatoliy Chepiga, one of the main Russian GRU suspects in the 2018 Salisbury Sergei Skripal poisoning case, and a prominent Russian Major General - Andrei Averyanov, at his daughter’s wedding.

Videos shared on Instagram and wedding websites by guests provided fleeting glimpses of Chepiga at the event, including one in which Chepiga’s blurred face can be seen among the guests as Averyanov walks his daughter to the



altar. Chepiga can also be seen briefly in another video posted to YouTube, by an account whose user name matches that of Averyanov’s son-in-law.

Less than a year after the wedding, Chepiga was identified by MI5 as one of two Russian military intelligence officers operating under the cover name of Ruslan Boshirov. The operatives allegedly coated the door handle of Skripal’s house with the toxin Novichok.

The presence of Chepiga at the wedding added to the substantial body of evidence linking him to the GRU. It also further undermined his widely mocked claim that he was simply a nutritional-supplements’ salesman named Ruslan Boshirov who travelled to Salisbury to “admire its architecture.” He claimed to be an innocent tourist who wanted to visit the city’s famous cathedral and its 123-metre spire and clock.



Anatoliy Chepiga at the wedding



Major General Andrei Vladimirovich Averyanov



Aleksandr Petrov A.k.a. Alexander Mishkin and Anatoliy Chepiga A.k.a. Ruslan Boshirov

Intelligence employees (of all ranks and status) are warned of the dangers of social media exposure

UNIT 29155

Major General Andrei Vladimirovich Averyanov, is described as a "secretive commander of a Russian military unit" that British intelligence officials believe is linked to various intelligence events in Europe.

Intelligence sources told Eye Spy Averyanov headed Unit 29155, the outfit involved in a series of high-profile incidents across the continent, including the Skripal poisoning, the attempted poisoning of a Bulgarian arms

dealer in 2015, and a failed coup attempt in Montenegro in 2016. (See page 52).

And Chepiga and his family were no ordinary guests. He was assigned to the same table as the father of the bride, Averyanov. The seating arrangement for the wedding also included the name Aleksandr Petrov - he used the pseudonym Alexander Mishkin when he accompanied Chepiga to Salisbury.

Russian military and intelligence agencies have grown increasingly concerned about

social media and how content posted online by soldiers, officers and security personnel to platforms such as Facebook or VK can be used to identify people, their affiliations, or even military movements.

In 2017, the Russian Defense Ministry called for legislation to ban contracted soldiers serving in the Russian military from posting content to social media sites. The Kremlin has also banned soldiers from using smart phones - measures that echo similar restrictions already in place in many Western countries.

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Inspector General Glenn Fine

Hashimi al-Qurashi and Hajji Abdallah, a religious scholar known as 'The Professor', "has done enough to keep IS from splintering." Some intelligence officials believe Salbi exited Syria to Turkey in order to rebuild the group, others believe he is in the northern Iraq city of Mosul. The CIA now has a dedicated desk on Salbi and has launched a major operation to discover his exact location.

SOCIAL MEDIA

An unnamed US counter-terrorism official in Washington, speaking on the condition of anonymity, warned: "ISIS supporters worldwide have rallied around the new caliph," noting how the group has cleverly used social media to secure on-going support from its followers. A statement issued by ISIS's 'media arm' warned that it was now expanding and references 'Europe and Africa as gateways to America'.

The US State Department believes ISIS still commands at least 14,000 fighters across Iraq and Syria, and officials say the number could be closer to 18,000. This is a significant rise from an estimated 10,000 since the group was defeated militarily. Within Syria and Iraq, CIA analysts reference a "significant increase"

ISIS RESURGENCE

NEW DIA REPORT WARNS TERROR GROUP REBUILDING AND STILL A THREAT

US Defense and Intelligence officials have warned that the October 2019 Special Forces operation removing ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, has done little to destabilise or diminish the terror group's menace. The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) has issued a new report warning the group's 'command and control structure, as well as many of its clandestine networks remain intact'. Analysts also note the recent turmoil in the north of Syria has played to its advantage. In February, the United Nations said 900,000 people have been affected, the majority women and children. An official said, "a deadly vortex of proxy wars could lead to the biggest humanitarian horror story of the 21st century."

In the DIA report, Glenn Fine, Inspector General of the Department of Defense

Department notes: '*ISIS exploited the Turkish incursion and subsequent drawdown of US troops to reconstitute capabilities and resources within Syria and strengthen its ability to plan attacks abroad*'. And following clashes between the US and Iran, compounded by Iraqi protests and turmoil in Syria, if the US military is forced to leave Iraq, '*ISIS would likely resurge*'.



Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

CIA TARGET

CIA and other US analysts believe Baghdadi's replacement, Amir al-Salbi, A.k.a. Abu Ibrahim al-



ISIS leader Amir al-Salbi



Director DIA, Lt. General Robert Ashley Jr.

in the number of attacks launched by ISIS since the elimination of Iran's Quds Force leader General Qassem Soleimani on 3 January 2020.

Washington is equally concerned that its overseas supporters will launch operations outside the Middle East theatre.

Masrour Barzini, Prime Minister of Iraqi Kurdistan, supports much of the DIA analysis, but believes ISIS strength is greater than that suggested by the US analysts. The Kurdish leader warned, "yes they have lost many



Woman and children flee the fighting in northern Syria

capable men, but they have also gained more experience and are recruiting more men."

In respect of finance, intelligence officials believe the group has around \$100 million in various secret accounts which Salbi has access to through secret coordinators and supporters of the group.

US AND UK TROOP DEATHS

Pentagon officials said two Marines from an elite Raiders unit were killed on 9 March, while engaged in an operation to clear ISIS terrorists from a stronghold in the Qara Chockh Mountains, in north central Iraq. Intelligence led the Marines, who were "accompanying and advising an Iraq Army detail," to a cave

complex which ISIS operatives regularly used as a safehouse and to store weapons.

Two more US troops and British Army medic Lance Corporal Brodie Gillon, 25, (above) were killed in a missile strike on Camp Taji, north of Baghdad on 11 March. At time of publication, the names of the US troops who died in the attacks have not been released.



Left: Prime Minister of Iraqi Kurdistan Masrour Barzini with US Army General Stephen Townsend

FRANCE TERROR PLOT FOILED

SEVEN ARRESTED IN COUNTER-TERRORISM OPERATION

French counter-terrorism officials have arrested seven men suspected of planning a "violent" attack on French soil and preparing to flee to conflict zones in Iraq and Syria.

The suspected terrorists were detained following an anti-terrorism operation carried out by France's DGSi domestic intelligence agency in the western coastal city of Brest and the

surrounding region. Some of the men were on the government's 'Fiche S' list of potential security risks because of their links to extremist networks, including ISIS.

Official statistics reveal that the number of people killed in terrorist attacks in France since 2015 is 250; a further 1,000 suffered various injuries.

French counter-terrorism operations increased dramatically

following the 2015 ISIS attacks at a football stadium and bars in Paris. In late 2019, prosecutors requested that 20 suspects linked to the attack, which resulted in 130 deaths, stand trial. Fourteen persons are currently in jail or under judicial supervision. Arrest warrants are in place for six others. The attack was coordinated by ISIS planners from within Syria.

Around France, 10,000 troops are deployed nationwide to assist the on-going counter-terrorism effort, which includes surveillance of some individuals who officials believe still pose a threat.

France had the largest contingent of militants who journeyed to ISIS-controlled territories at the height of the conflict. And like many other countries, including the UK, has been reluctant to repatriate them for fear they could still pose a security threat.



- In February, British national Shamima Begum, who left with three friends to join the terror group in Syria, and who later married a Dutch ISIS operative, lost her legal fight to reclaim her British citizenship after it was stripped by the Home Office.



Shamima Begum

ENTRAPMENT

RUSSIAN SPIES TARGET TOURISTS

Lithuania Intelligence has published its yearly National Threat Assessment Report, and Russia was again referenced as the primary concern by officials. Besides a detailed overview of Russia's military capacity, several items associated with intelligence collection and espionage were contained.

The overview, prepared by the State Security Department (VSD) and the Second Investigation Department under the Ministry of National Defence (AOTD), reported that Russia's free online visas for travellers from Lithuania and 52 other countries to visit Kaliningrad and St Petersburg, allows easier travel for Lithuanians, but also presents a national security risk. The report states: *'Visa facilitation and the consequent increase of foreigners travelling to Russia are particularly favourable to Russian intelligence services. They systematically search for foreigners [who] are able to provide intelligence on foreign countries or perform other tasks'.*

According to the report's authors, most of the recent exposed espionage cases in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, concerned Baltic residents who were recruited in Russia. It also said Russian intelligence agencies screen visa applications and 'flag' individuals who might have valuable information; those at risk

include former and current politicians, business people, law enforcement officials, people from the military, and journalists.

Lithuanian tourists too are now being cautioned. Visitors to Russia are advised to travel in groups, avoid excessive drinking, violating public orders, have valid documents and be truthful in their visa application. In addition, it advised travelling with a cell phone or computer could be risky and urged caution if approached by unknown persons.

CHINA'S MSS SPIES REFERENCED

Repeating fears of US and British intelligence services, the report also warned that China's MSS intelligence arm was using LinkedIn, the social network used by professionals and employers to build professional networks, and



Russia-Lithuania border checkpoint

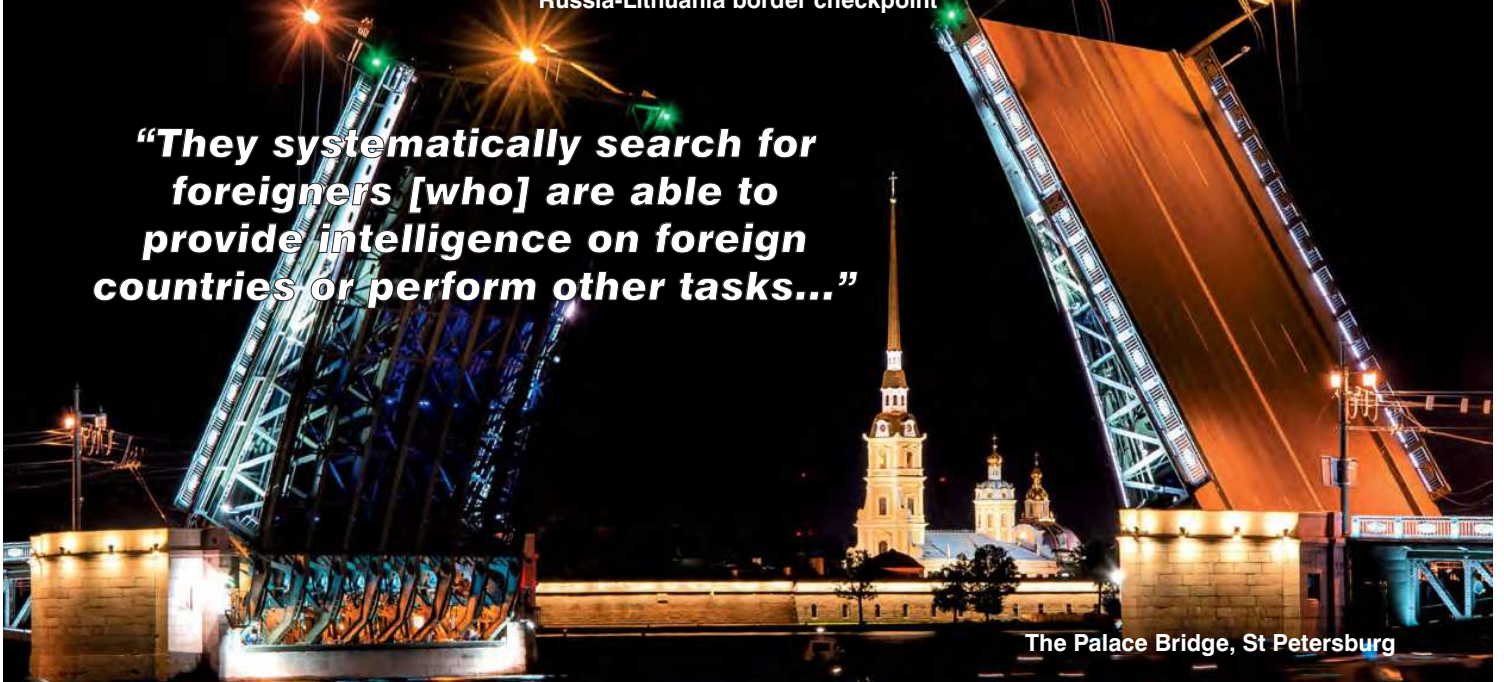


recruit spies. *'Chinese Intelligence uses LinkedIn to establish contacts with selected targets abroad in the early stages of recruitment operations'* the report states. In this case the MSS is said to favour civil servants, IT specialists, defence sector employees and scientists.



VSD 2020 National Threat Assessment Report

"They systematically search for foreigners [who] are able to provide intelligence on foreign countries or perform other tasks..."



The Palace Bridge, St Petersburg



November 2019. A VSD photograph of the Russia-Lithuania spy exchange at a border checkpoint in Nida



VSD Director
Darius Jauniskis



Shield of the VSD

operations are extremely cheap and pose no risk to Chinese intelligence officers'.

Also within its pages, the writers describe the November 2019 spy exchange between Lithuania and Russia that involved two Russians, two Lithuanian nationals and a Norwegian imprisoned for espionage in

Again noting FBI concerns, Chinese intelligence officers are identified as bogus representatives of fictitious companies and offer their services as consultants or employees. The report notes: 'Such opera-

Moscow. 'This exchange became possible when Lithuania and Russia reached a mutually acceptable agreement'. No context or details regarding the activities of the alleged spies were disclosed.

INTEL INSIDE

In 2019, the FBI launched a major, but covert counter-intelligence offensive against Chinese tourists who were given instructions by the MSS, to secure various technology during their visit. In one case, the Bureau arrested a man who confessed that he had been given a list of items to purchase, including communication devices used by the US military.

STAYING IN RUSSIA

Edward Snowden US Return On-Hold

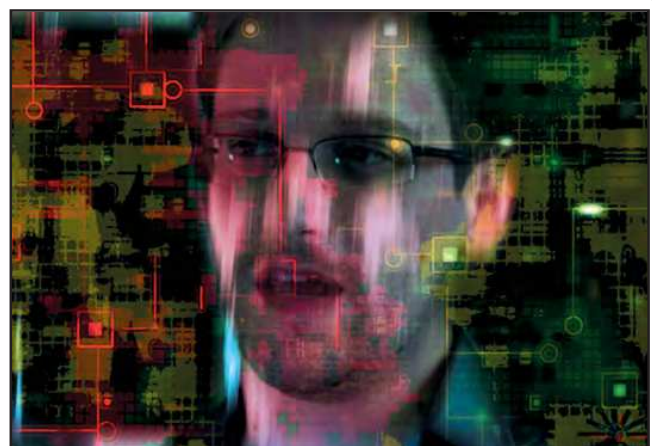
Edward Snowden, the former NSA and CIA contractor who leaked over one million US intelligence files to a select number of media houses, has applied to the Russian Government for an extension to his residence permit.

Snowden, who has lived in Moscow since 2013, was due to find alternative accommodation when his permit runs out in April 2020. His solicitor, Anatoly Kucherena, confirmed: "At Edward's request I am drawing up documents for the Russian Interior Ministry to extend his stay."

Last September he tried unsuccessfully to secure asylum in France, after a personal appeal to President Emmanuel Macron was ignored. "I would love to speak with Macron," said Snowden. A spokesperson at France's Foreign Ministry responded: "Now is not the time."

In 2013, the traitor admitted France was his country of choice.

For the past two years, back-channel communications between Snowden and US officials have taken place, with the objective being Snowden's return to face trial. However, he is concerned the



authorities will use him as a scapegoat to warn off others who may chose similar paths and leak materials. The whistleblower said he is "willing to return to the United States if guaranteed a fair trial." Snowden faces 30-years in prison if convicted.

As for life in Russia, Kucherena said, "Edward is working, his wife is with him and he is fine."

Intelligence sources believe if the new permit is granted, Snowden may well seek Russian citizenship.

New Laws
to Counter
Espionage as
ASIO Uncovers
Spy Ring

AGENTS OF INFLUENCE

Espionage Threat to Australia

Delivering his first ASIO Annual Threat Assessment, Mike Burgess, who took over as Director of the Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation last year, warned: "There are more foreign intelligence officers and their proxies operating in Australia now than at the height of the Cold War and many of them have the requisite level of capability, the intent and the persistence, to cause significant harm to our national security."

"Espionage and foreign interference are affecting parts of the community that they did not touch during the Cold War. And the intent is to engineer fundamental shifts in Australia's position in the world, not just to collect intelligence or use us as a potential 'back-door' into our allies and partners," he said.

Mr Burgess also revealed ASIO had uncovered a sleeper agent running a major spy ring: "The agent started feeding his spymasters



ASIO Director-General Mike Burgess

information about Australia-based expatriate dissidents, which directly led to harassment of the dissidents in Australia and their relatives overseas. In exchange for significant cash payments, the agent also provided on-the-ground logistical support for spies who travelled to Australia to conduct intelligence activities."

He did not name the country operating the spy ring, though intelligence sources are confident it is China. In recent weeks it has emerged the MSS attempted to install an agent within the country's Federal Parliament by political means.



Indonesia. Peter Dutton at the 2018 Sub-Regional Meeting on Counter Terrorism



Ben Chifley Building - ASIO Central Office - Canberra

Mr Burgess also referenced spies travelling to Australia to establish hacking infrastructures, and clandestine activity from visiting scientists and students. "Most disturbingly, hostile intelligence services have directly threatened and intimidated Australians in this country. In one particular case, the agents threatened the physical safety of an Australia-based individual as part of a foreign interference plot," he said. The rise of Right Wing extremism was also discussed, and the real possibility of a terrorist attack.

He concluded: "As Director-General of Security, I intend to step up our actions to counter espionage and foreign interference. We will actively support the prosecution of espionage and foreign interference before the courts. My message here is simple. If you intend to conduct espionage or foreign interference against Australia, ASIO and our partners will be hunting you."

Days later, Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton said the country would introduce new counter-espionage laws, allowing ASIO officers to question suspected spies for up to 24-hours. At present, the laws really only apply to those suspected of terrorism. An overhaul of the Foreign Influence Register, established in 2018 to detect foreign agents attempting to interfere in the political and defence sectors, is also expected.



Prime Minister Scott Morrison has backed new proposals to widen ASIO's powers against foreign spies

SPACE SURVEILLANCE



**New Russian
space concerns as US
Space Force, CIA and
NRO probe 'twin' spy
satellites**

WATCHING THE WATCHERS

Intelligence sources in the United States believe one of the first tasks assigned to the new US Space Force (USSF), involves determining the exact role of Russian satellite Kosmos 2542. Recently launched from Plesetsk Cosmodrome, the satellite reportedly carried equipment and technology designed to monitor, inspect, and interact with other Russian satellites. However, US officials have become increasingly concerned about its lengthy presence near the top secret NRO (National Reconnaissance Office) USA 245 - a KH11 (KeyHole) satellite. There were even greater concerns when the Russian satellite seemingly split in two on 6 December 2019, creating Kosmos 2543; both objects then began edging ever closer to the \$4 billion US satellite.

USA 245 was the last of its type to be launched in 2013 from Vandenberg Air Force Base, and is attached to a series of secret optical reconnaissance satellites which began operations in the late 1950s. This was first known as the Corona programme operated primarily by the CIA.

OBJECTIVE OF SATELLITES ANALYSED

Civilian space watchers were first to comment on the initial space interaction between the US and Russian satellites.

Michael Thompson, a specialist in satellites and astrodynamics at Purdue University, said Kosmos 2542 appears to have "synchronised its orbit with USA 245." Another US specialist, Ian Thornton-Trump from Cyjax, a digital security and intelligence company, joined the debate: "Espionage, signals intelligence and understanding an adversary's capability are all part of nation states' plans for space dominance. Knowing what your opposing power can do is really important, and space is now a legitimate battleground." ➤



**18 November 2019.
Kosmos 2542/43 is
readied for launch on a
Soyuz 2 IV rocket from
Plesetsk Cosmodrome**





20 December 2019. General John Raymond, Commander US Space Force (left) watches President Trump sign the 2020 National Defense Authorisation Act at Andrews AFB, which included the decree launching US Space Force



The Soyuz rocket carrying Kosmos 2542/43 is launched at Plesetsk Cosmodrome

Thornton-Trump was concerned about just how close Russia had “parked its satellite” next to the NRO device and linked the manoeuvre to the opening of US Space Force. “The Russians are sending a message to Space Force - ‘we can do this too and are not intimidated’. It may be tit-for-tat geopolitical, passive-aggressive behaviour.” By late January the US and Russian satellites were just 180 miles apart and still on the same trajectory.

After the separation of the Kosmos satellite, further interaction was noted by intelligence officials. General John Raymond, commander of US Space Force said: “We view this behaviour as unusual and disturbing. It has the potential to create a dangerous situation in space.” Raymond likened the ‘split’ to Russian nesting dolls, in this case “one satellite came out of another.”

Representations to Russia have been made, and though the United States has thus to

react, some intelligence officials have raised questions in respect of the Russian satellite’s true objective. A spokesperson from Russia’s Defence Ministry said: “The purpose of the experiment is to continue work on assessing the technical condition of domestic satellites.” Raymond, seemed to rebuff the explanation: “An inspection is virtually indistinguishable from staging an attack to damage, disrupt or

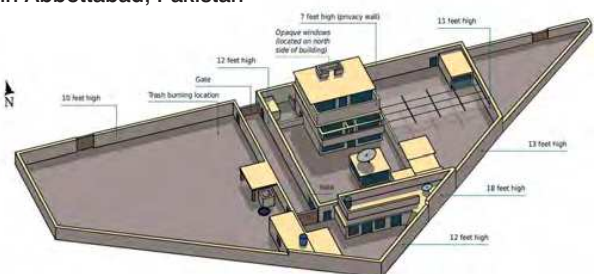
destroy it. It is clear that Russia is developing on-orbit capabilities that seek to exploit our reliance on space-based systems.”

One theory proposed by specialists is that the new satellites probably have technology to examine the lenses and cameras of spy satellites to determine just what their focus of intention is. Other organisations such as



Director NRO Christopher Scolese

Detailed satellite surveillance imagery enabled the CIA and US Special Forces to create a crucial model of the compound used by al-Qaida leader Osama bin-Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan





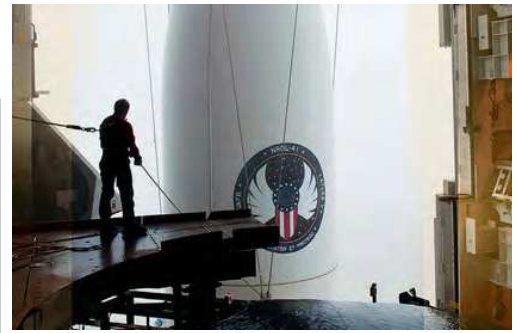
August 2019. Top. US 224 surveillance photograph of Iran's damaged Imam Khomeini Space Center. President Trump was criticised by some intelligence officials for tweeting the image which could have betrayed the position of the satellite and its photographic capabilities

Israel's Mossad is allegedly already using such instrumentation on its satellites. And few doubt that the NRO's USA 245 is a surveillance satellite - mapping sensitive sites around the world. The prowess of which was evident in August 2019, when detailed imagery was taken by US 224 of Iran's Imam Khomeini

Space Center after it suffered damage following a failed rocket launch.

BATTLEGROUND SPACE

Analysts note space has been an integral component of defence and communication



relay for the best part of 60-years. And more recently, it has become a 'battleground' for securing intelligence, especially intercepted communications.

The NRO and other US intelligence organisations have become increasingly suspicious of China's space intentions, this after it reportedly tested technology linked to weaponry: lasers and self-destruct mechanisms intended to be used once a target is near enough. The term "killer satellite" has been used to describe these devices. Like the Kremlin, China responded by stating its recent launches are nothing more than "inspection satellites."

Iran too has stepped-up its space ambitions. Work on surveillance satellites under the Zafar programme started in 2017 and has been enhanced, despite launch failures. In 2019, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned Tehran about three planned satellite launches. The CIA note that the rocket technology used in Iranian space launches is virtually identical to that in its intercontinental ballistic missiles programme.

Intelligence officials are fearful that any indiscretion or error - the shooting down of a satellite or damage caused by a collision - could lead to a major, but covert space war. The interruption of communications and all manner of cyber problems would undoubtedly ensue.



GLOBAL LIGHTNING 20 SECURING SPACE COOPERATION

4 FEBRUARY 2020. Col. Scott D. Brodeur, Director, Combined Space Operations Center, and Commander, 614th Air Operations Center, with executives from commercial companies during a Commercial Integration Cell executive session at the Combined Space Operations Center at Vandenberg AFB. The CIC is a collaborative US Government and industry effort to integrate commercial satellite owners and operators into the CSpOC to pursue greater cooperation and synergy in the space environment. US officials said it was the largest and most successful commercial partnership participation exercise ever held. Some 2,200 operational satellites are in orbit around Earth.

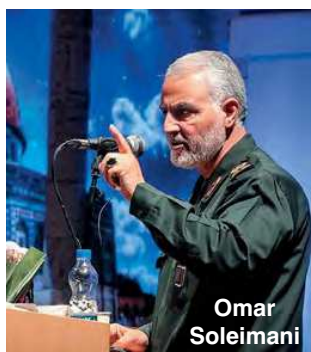
The Linguist

INSIDER INTELLIGENCE

FBI Arrests Contractor for Providing Iran Proxy with Intelligence on Covert Assets and Defence Computer Systems

US Army contract linguist, Mariam Taha Thompson, 61, has been charged with transmitting highly sensitive classified national defence information to a Lebanese operative who had alleged connections to Hezbollah. Thompson held Top Secret Security Clearance (TS/SC).

Court papers state Thompson gathered the names of US intelligence sources and the information they provided, and passed it to the unidentified man. Her covert activities increased following US retaliatory air strikes after Iranian-backed demonstrators attacked the US Embassy compound in Baghdad in late December, and the elimination of



Iran's Quds Force leader Omar Soleimani on 3 January 2020. Following Soleimani's death, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah announced his group would target US forces in the region. "It is the American military who killed... and they will pay the price," he said, threatening troops, bases and warships.

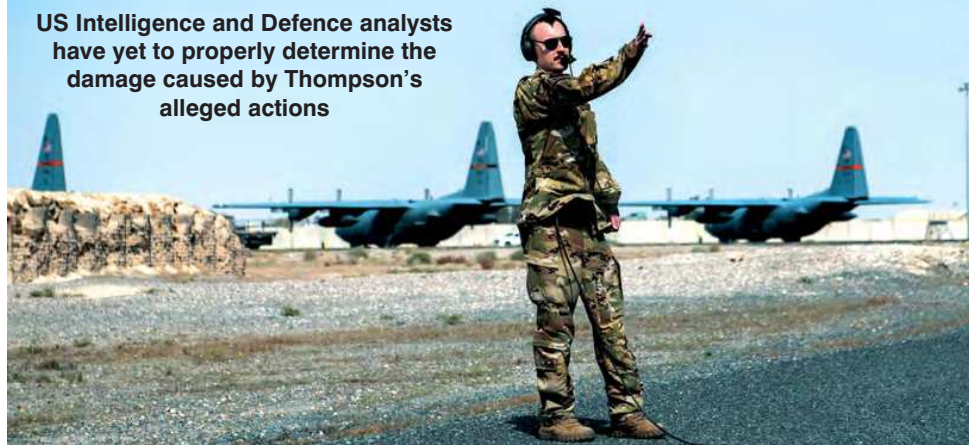
IRANIAN INTEL BOUNTY

Audit logs showed a notable shift in Thompson's network activity on classified systems, including repeated access to classified information she had no need to view. During a six-week period

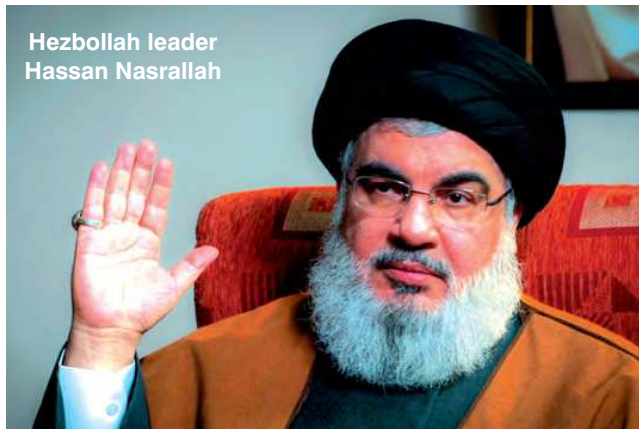
After an eight week investigation, Thompson was arrested by FBI counter-intelligence officers on 27 February 2020, at the US military facility in Erbil, Iraq. One note found under her mattress and written in Arabic, was the identity of a US Intelligence target. Other materials included details of Department of Defense computer systems.

"While in a war zone, the defendant allegedly gave sensitive national defense information, including the names of individuals helping the United States, to a Lebanese national located overseas," said Assistant Attorney General for National Security John C. Demers. "If true, this conduct is a disgrace, especially for someone serving as a contractor

US Intelligence and Defence analysts have yet to properly determine the damage caused by Thompson's alleged actions



Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah



with the United States military. The conduct alleged in this complaint is a grave threat to national security, placed lives at risk, and represents a betrayal of our armed forces."



Hezbollah is a prescribed terrorist organisation and the CIA consider the group a proxy for Iran's Islamic Republican Guard Corps (IRGC).

If convicted, Thompson faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

COLD WAR II PREPAREDNESS



RUSSIA AND NATO OPERATIONS

Intelligence analysts in the West have reported Russian submarines are deploying farther afield and in greater numbers than at any time since the end of the Cold War. NATO has responded by increasing the number of maritime patrol aircraft to track, locate and even practice sinking the Russian boats.

And there is more evidence Russian warplane manoeuvres are increasing as aircraft venture over longer distances, especially over the Atlantic Ocean, North America and northern regions of Europe. In late February and early March, British and Norwegian Typhoon and F-16 fighter jets were scrambled on two occasions to intercept pairs of Tu-142 reconnaissance maritime and anti-submarine aircraft belonging to Russia's Northern Fleet. The action was authorised after the aircraft flew farther south than normal and approached Norwegian air space.

"These Russian aircraft operate relatively routinely over the seas north of Norway," Major Brynjar Stordal, a spokesperson for the Norwegian armed forces, said. "It is not common that they fly as far south as they did this time."

The Tu-142 flights coincided with the beginning of Operation Cold Response, a major NATO exercise in Norway involving 15,000 alliance troops from nine countries.

"We have experienced in the past that allied exercise activities has led to some increased activity from Russian surveillance capacities like this," Stordal said.

RAF INTERCEPTS

On 26 February, a Royal Air Force Typhoon fighter was scrambled from RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland after a Russian aircraft was



Main photo. Exercise DEFENDER-Europe 20. US Army M88 Recovery Vehicle disembarks from a carrier vessel at the port of Bremerhaven, Germany



RAF images of the Tu-142 intercept



sighted to the west of Norway heading towards Scotland. The RAF were joined in the counter-measure by Norway and Holland who scrambled jets from Bodo, Norway.

On 7 March, six RAF Typhoons were deployed from RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland and RAF Coningsby to intercept Russian bombers heading towards the north-west coast of Scotland. Flying in formation, two pairs approached the aircraft before withdrawing, while the third pair forced the Russian aircraft to change course.

DEFENDER 20

Russian submarines also have extended their patrols across the Atlantic on the eastern seaboard of the United States. In response, in March 2020, the US Navy engaged in the biggest cross-Atlantic convoy operation since the end of the Cold War, using a carrier strike group to bring ground equipment and 20,000 troops for the 16-nation NATO operation DEFENDER-Europe 20.

Analysts believe the recent operations by NATO and Russia, is evidence that both sides are readying forces for possible undersea warfare.



7 March. An RAF Quick Reaction Alert Typhoon intercepts a Russian Tu-142 BEAR

THE GREATEST THREAT?



INTEL EYES ON CHINA'S SPIES

US INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS REVEAL EXTENT OF CHINA'S ESPIONAGE PROWESS

China has again been the focus of intelligence chiefs in recent weeks, with much attention focusing on its relentless efforts to steal sensitive technology and classified information from a spate of government organisations, private security companies and places of learning. So great is the threat, FBI Director Christopher Wray, speaking at a US Justice Department conference on the 'China Initiative',* said the "whole of society needs to come together" to counter Beijing's spy agencies.

Accusing the MSS (Ministry of State Security), of using a multitude of tactics and covert operations, Wray said: "They have pioneered



**Assistant Director
CID John Brown**

an expansive approach to stealing innovation through a wide range of actors." He accused China's leaders of "stealing their way up the economic ladder," and said that at this moment in time, the FBI's Counter-Intelligence Division (CID) is involved in around 1,000 investigations of alleged espionage activity. His commentary was supported by the



**US Defense Secretary Mark Esper at
the 2020 Munich Security Conference**

Assistant Director of the CID, John Brown: "We've been deceived for too long."

Wray first revealed the extent of the spy activity in July, adding "there is no country that poses a more severe counter-intelligence threat to this country right now than China... and I don't say that lightly."

Wray's insight was followed by further espionage warnings issued by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Speaking to delegates



**Left: FBI Director Christopher Wray
speaks at the 'China Initiative'
conference, hosted by the Center for
Strategic and International Studies
(CSIS) in Washington DC**



2020 Munich Security Conference. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned his European colleagues about the increase in Chinese espionage cases and the threat of allowing Huawei access to 5G networks

at the 2020 Munich Security Conference in mid February, the former CIA Director said Europe should “wake up to the threat,” citing more concerns about China’s technology giant Huawei. He again referenced “back doors” and “trojan horses” allowing China’s Ministry of State Security access to global communications networks. Pompeo also highlighted security, military and maritime concerns between China and all its neighbours. He was soon followed by US Defense Secretary Mark Esper who said China, the world’s second biggest arms producing nation, was now adopting a more “aggressive military posture.” Esper also told the audience, Europe’s cooperative stance on Huawei, allowing Beijing access to its 5G networks, risks intelligence and security sharing and cooperation. “Reliance on Chinese 5G vendors, for

example, could render our partners’ critical systems vulnerable to disruption, manipulation and espionage,” he warned.

Such criticism was down-played by China’s Foreign Minister and State Councillor Wang Yi. He had previously referenced the United States as the “world’s biggest destabilising factor.” He told conference delegates: “The West needs to eschew the subconscious belief in the superiority of its civilisation and abandon its prejudices and anxieties regarding China.”

CAMPUS AND CONTRACTS

In respect of the FBI’s 1,000 Chinese counter-intelligence operations, officials were hesitant to provide detail or context to the probes, but several on-going investigations suggest many



China State Councillor Wang Yi

are connected to academia, universities, science laboratories and high-end technology



Security both inside and outside the Hotel Bayerischer Hof in Munich, which hosted the 56th conference, was impressive. World leaders, military commanders, and numerous intelligence officials attended the event



companies. Indeed, Wray warned that US universities and firms contracted to such institutes must be more vigilant. Other investigations are perhaps a little more sensitive. Intelligence sources believe some of the MSS operatives were engaged in long-term endeavours to place agents inside the CIA, DIA and US State Department.

University of Texas professor Bo Mao is one person charged with spying - this to the benefit of a well known company which is rarely out of the news - Huawei. Prosecutors say he took "proprietary technology" from a company start-up in Silicon Valley and passed it to a subsidiary firm of Huawei. FBI counter-espionage officers revealed he used his status as a researcher to secure a special circuit board for "testing." Mao has pleaded not guilty and his case is ongoing.

TALENT SPOTTING

On 28 January 2020, another incident related to espionage and the academic world surfaced. The FBI arrested Dr Charles Lieber, 60, head of Harvard University's Department of Chemistry and a specialist in nanoscience. His department has received more than \$15 million in grants from the US Department of



Dr Charles Lieber

Defense and National Institutes of Health.

Lieber was allegedly paid \$50,000 a month by China's Wuhan University of Technol-

ogy (WUT), something he failed to tell the FBI or the university. Other allegations include he liaised with WUT about a "lucrative talent recruitment programme," and that he been awarded \$1.5 million to establish a research laboratory in China. Intelligence watchers note, WUT has long been linked to the MSS.

At the same time of his arrest, another FBI operation took place at Boston University. Here a 'student', Yanqing Ye, studying at the university's Department of Physics and Biomedical Engineering department, was accused of visa fraud and acting as an agent for a foreign government, after it emerged she had failed to disclose her position as a lieutenant in the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Ye had studied at China's National University of Defence Technology (NUDT), one of the country's leading military academies.

FBI analysts secured evidence that during her time in Boston, she was given various

assignments by her MSS controllers, including accessing US military websites and forwarding "documents and information" to China. She also compiled information on two scientists involved with robotics and computer science.



Yanqing Ye

According to DOJ figures, 19 people have already been arrested in 2020 in connection with ongoing espionage and related offences. Most, if not all, involve Chinese nationals.

China's MSS cyber specialists were also identified as the world's greatest seekers of technology and secrets, and many hacks currently under investigation involve systems used by universities and places of learning.

National University of Defence Technology (NUDT)



Harvard University



10 February 2020. FBI Deputy Director David Bowdich and senior Bureau officials discuss the Equifax breach which occurred in 2017. In the background a DOJ wanted poster of the four primary suspects



CAUTION

On January 28, 2020, a Grand Jury in the Northern District of Georgia returned an indictment charging Wang Qian, Xu Ke, Liu Lei, and Wu Zhiyong, with Computer Fraud, Economic Espionage, Wire Fraud, Conspiracy to Commit Computer Fraud, Conspiracy to Commit Economic Espionage, Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, the offenses were members of the 54th Research Institute, which was a component of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), the armed forces of the People's Republic of China.

As alleged in the indictment, beginning at least by or around May 13, 2017, and continuing through or on or about July 30, 2017, members of the 54th Research Institute conspired with each other to hack into the protected computers of Equifax, to maintain unauthorized access to those computers, and to steal sensitive personally identifiable information, proprietary database schemas, and data compilations. The PLA hackers obtained names, birth dates, and social security numbers for approximately 145 million American citizens, in addition to driver's license numbers for at least 15 million Americans stored in Equifax's databases. The hackers also collected credit card numbers and other personally identifiable information belonging to approximately 200,000 American consumers. In a single breach, the PLA obtained sensitive identifying information for nearly half of all American citizens and personally identifiable information belonging to nearly a million citizens of the United Kingdom and Canada.

If you have any information concerning these individuals, please contact your local FBI office or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.

example of exploitation, in any form, Deputy Director David Bowdich said: "This does not mean it will or will not happen in the future."

Bill Evanina, Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC), part

DATA AND INFORMATION LOSS

Another alleged espionage case involving China concerns four members of the Chinese People's Liberation Army's 54th Research Institute. They were named in February 2020 as Wu Zhiyong, Wang Qian, Xu Ke, and Liu Lei, and all have been charged with breaking into the computer networks of the US credit reporting firm Equifax Inc. Justice Department officials claim the unit stole personal information of around 145 million Americans in 2017, calling the cyber operation "one of the largest hacks in history related to consumer data."

Speaking of the indictment, Attorney General William Barr said: "The scale of the theft was staggering. This theft not only caused significant financial damage to Equifax, but invaded the privacy of many millions of Americans, and imposed substantial costs and burdens on them as they have had to take measures to protect against identity theft."

FBI officials said the breach meant China could target US Government officials and



Wang Qian, Xu Ke and Wu Zhiyong

ordinary citizens, including many who worked for America's spy agencies. The objective being to find weaknesses and vulnerabilities that could be exploited and lead to cases of blackmail and eventual cooperation or even recruitment. Whilst the FBI has yet to find an

of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), said the breach should be recognised as a "counter-intelligence issue, not a cyber issue."

The four cyber hackers are suspected members of a PLA unit which also targeted American corporations in 2014.

In respect of Equifax, the suspects exploited a software vulnerability to gain access to computers, securing login credentials, which were used to enter and navigate and review vast databases. Many trade secrets were lost. In a move to conceal their activities, NSA analysts discovered they "wiped their activities daily" and "routed communications and secured data through dozens of servers in some 20 countries."

CHINA RESPONDS

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang rejected the US claims: "The Chinese government, military, and relevant personnel never engage in cyber theft of trade secrets. We firmly oppose and combat cyber attacks



Bill Evanina, Director NCSC



COUNTER HUAWEI MOVE REJECTED



US Attorney General
William Barr

In February various US media houses suggested the United States could take controlling stakes in Nokia and Ericsson to make them more competitive against China's Huawei, this after Attorney General William Barr floated the idea at the CSIS conference. In a quick rebuttal of the idea, US Vice President Mike Pence dismissed the suggestion that the White House will seek to take control of the two European firms.

When asked about Barr's plan, Pence told reporters that the White House believes Ajit Pai's plan is the way forward. Under the plan, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will free up more 5G spectrum to increase the amount of 5G which would allow firms to use other hardware such as Nokia's and Ericsson's. He went on to say that the US can expand 5G to rural communities "by using the power of the free market and American companies."

Huawei soft and hardware, has been banned by the US Government - fearful China's MSS has access to the technology and would use it to perform espionage.



involvement in a recruitment operation for the MSS's foreign intelligence service. In June, a scholar at the University of California in Los Angeles was convicted of sending information to Beijing on all manner of sensitive missile technology. The word "sensitive" was also used in the indictment of another Chinese scholar who performed research at the University of Kansas, and that he concealed his ties to a Chinese university. In December, a Harvard-affiliated cancer researcher was arrested in possession of 20 vials of cells allegedly stolen from a Boston hospital.

SEEKING SECRETS



China Foreign Ministry
spokesman Geng Shuang

of any kind. China is a staunch defender of cyber security."

Geng also accused American spy agencies of targeting China and other nations. "It has long been an open secret that relevant departments [agencies] in the United States are in violation of international law and basic norms governing international relations. They have been engaging in large-scale, organised, and indiscriminate cyber stealing, spying, and surveillance activities on foreign governments, enterprises, and individuals." He also referenced WikiLeaks and Edward Snowden as examples of American "hypocrisy and double standards" on cyber security.

None of the four Chinese operatives charged are in US custody and it's likely they will not be arrested in the foreseeable future. US officials said the charges serve to shame those responsible publicly and would allow the United States to arrest them if they travel.

2019 CASE FILES

Other recent case files currently under investigation and also involving Chinese nationals, have also been revealed.

The CIA arrested a student at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago for

Noting the recent surge in Chinese activities at universities, NCSC Director Evanina said: "A lot of our ideas, technology, research and innovation is incubated on those university campuses. That is where the science and technology originates and that's why it is the most prime place to steal." Evanina warned that Chinese spies using educational programmes and under the guise of students, have been able to embed themselves with US corporate and government contract companies, including those involved with security.

Intelligence sources told Eye Spy that the FBI is engaged in an endeavour advising universi-

S.R. Crown Hall on the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago





Securing advanced space and military technology continues to be the primary objective for China's MSS spies



340,000 Chinese students study at US universities

ties across the United States to be wary of the threat of economic espionage. Britain's MI5 and GCHQ issued similar warnings to universities in 2019, this after it was revealed some 500 Chinese nationals attached to various branches of Beijing's military, have worked on sensitive projects. These included advanced aviation and missile technology, supercomputers and even materials to cloak weaponry. The UK currently hosts 100,000 Chinese students.

Some academic scholars have criticised the Bureau in its focus on Chinese students. However, Evanina rejected such commentary. "We respond to the threat," said Evanina, "we don't racially profile anybody, but the numbers don't lie." He added that the China espionage threat is "under-appreciated." However, the thought of monitoring a staggering 340,000 Chinese students currently placed at US universities has not been welcomed universally. For example, Columbia University President Lee Bollinger said: "No, I won't start spying on my foreign-born students."



Lee Bollinger

Of related interest, the FBI is currently investigating a number of cases where leading universities (individuals) have been paid significant amounts to help secure positions for some Chinese students. Also probed - covert and non-declared payments to senior scholars and educators.

THE COST OF CHINA'S ESPIONAGE

Under Chinese law, its companies and nationals, regardless of where they live, work or operate, are obliged to assist and cooperate with the MSS, and this includes engaging with its National Intelligence Agency.

US analysts believe that the loss of trade secrets and intellectual property amounts to around \$4 thousand per US family after taxes. The figure is based on comments made by US Attorney General William Barr, who said the activities of China's spies costs America \$600 billion a year.

*The China Initiative was started by the US Justice Department in 2018. It is primarily a programme to counter Chinese national security threats, including espionage and to America's critical infrastructure. Various other elements exist including preventing 'agents' seeking to influence the public and US policymakers. The programme is assisted by various US intelligence organisations.

CRACKS IN FIVE EYES ALLIANCE?

AUSTRALIAN MPS CANCEL UK TRIP IN DISPUTE OVER HUAWEI

A planned trip to the United Kingdom by Australian MPs has been cancelled following the UK's decision to allow Huawei to be part of the country's 5G network. They are now planning a visit to the United States, instead. The decision follows a reported complaint from the UK over leaked details of a high-level meeting where Huawei was discussed.

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab visited Australia, where he met members of the Parliamen-

tary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS), including his counterpart Marise Payne. Details of the meeting were later leaked to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, which said an MP had rebuked Mr Raab in the meeting over Britain's Huawei decision, saying Australia was "very disappointed."

"How would you feel if the Russians laid down infrastructure in your own networks? That's how we feel about Huawei," Anthony Byrne, Deputy Chair of the PJCIS, was quoted telling Raab.



Foreign Secretaries Dominic Raab and Marise Payne

The cancellation means rifts have opened up with two of the UK's partners in the Five Eyes intelligence alliance. Intelligence sources also report that secret

meetings between US and UK officials have taken place, as Washington continues to press Prime Minister Boris Johnson to change his position.

RUBICON

ACCESS ALL AREAS

THE CRYPTO AFFAIR

The Intelligence Coup of the Century

**Intelligence files reveal one of the CIA's greatest...
and now most politically controversial operations**

The Swiss Government has launched an investigation into a decades-old spying affair involving Swiss company Crypto AG, following new media reports that the Zug-based communications encryption firm, was secretly used as a front company by the CIA and West German Intelligence agency BND. The link between Crypto the CIA, NSA and British Intelligence, was first mentioned by the BBC in 2015. It also followed stories of "mass NSA surveillance" in Germany - generated by the Edward Snowden leaks. This led to all manner of demonstrations in Germany with accusations that the BND and

NSA had monitored numerous offices and the communications. However, the Crypto story is unique.

For decades, government offices around the world believed the Crypto's machines would keep communications safe, including those sent or received from intelligence, military and diplomatic posts. Unfortunately, classified documents related to the affair suggest they were all most vulnerable. A line from a CIA note reveals the significance of the operation: *'It was the intelligence coup of the century'*.

OPERATION THESAURUS

In 2014, the NSA released thousands of pages on the career and work of William F. Friedman, the Agency's most revered cryptologist when it was established in 1952 to take over from Armed Forces Security Agency (AFSA). In that year also, Crypto AG was established by Swedish inventor Boris Hagelin. More than 400 of the



M-209 cipher machine

released Friedman documents contain material about Hagelin and Crypto AG.

Hagelin and Friedman were good friends. Both were born in the same part of the Soviet Union and were recognised for their expertise in cryptography. When the Bolsheviks took control, Hagelin fled to Sweden. He journeyed again in 1940, fleeing to the United States when Germany occupied nearby Norway in WWII.

Throughout the war, the men remained in touch and Hagelin sold his patent rights to the





German Chancellor Angela Merkel faces more questions about intelligence liaisons with the CIA. In 2015, the country's foreign intelligence service BND, was accused of colluding with the NSA to monitor communications, this after the Edward Snowden leaks



M-209 used by the Office of Strategic Services



Smith Corona typewriter factory, Syracuse, New York

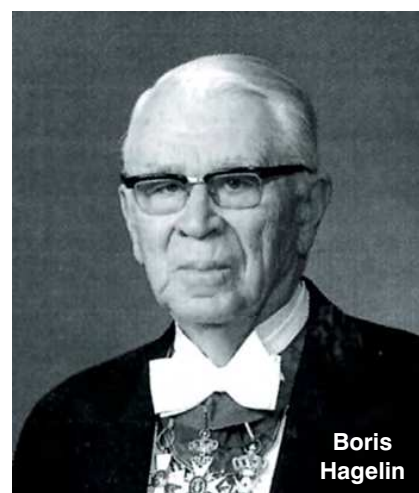
Americans. This resulted in the creation of the M-209 cipher machine.

Some 140,000 M-209's were built at the Smith Corona typewriter factory in Syracuse, New York, a US Army contract worth \$8.6 million to Crypto. When the war ended, Hagelin, now a wealthy man, returned to Sweden and reopened his factory. He also

retained a "lifelong sense of loyalty to the United States," according to historians.

THE COSMOS CLUB HANDSHAKE

During dinner at the Cosmos Club in Washington, 1951, Hagelin and NSA man Friedman, agreed to work together again. The move was initiated by US Intelligence and recognised as



Boris Hagelin

secret. The deal meant Hagelin, who had by now relocated his company to Switzerland, would restrict sales of his most sophisticated models to countries only approved by the United States. Crypto reportedly had two types of encryption machines: one fully secure, and the other unsecured. The latter was reportedly modified allowing the CIA and Germany's BND intelligence service to break coded communications. The files reveal Hagelin received compensation for potential lost sales - around \$700,000.



The Cosmos Club, Washington DC

In 1960, the CIA and Hagelin then entered into a licensing agreement that paid him \$855,000 to renew his commitment to the Cosmos Club 'handshake deal'. In 1967, Crypto built a new electronic model, the H-460, the inner workings of which were completely designed by the NSA.

EYES ON THE FUTURE

By the end of the 1960s, with Hagelin nearly 80-years-old, he was determined to secure future work for his near 200 employees. There were also growing concerns in Langley: CIA officials discussed what would happen if



William F. Friedman

Hagelin suddenly died or decided to sell his company to a foreign concern.

Intelligence sources state US officials had for years discussed the idea of buying Crypto outright, but a 'conflict of ideas' between the CIA and NSA kept derailing the move. All that changed when secured intelligence suggested foreign spy agencies in Europe had probably learned of the CIA-Crypto arrangement, or suspected it existed.

At a meeting in early 1969 at the West German Embassy in Washington DC, Germany's most senior cipher specialist, Wilhelm Goeing, asked if the Americans "were interested in becoming partners," in Crypto.

Months passed, while CIA officials pondered a joint venture with the BND. Director CIA Richard Helms then approved the idea of buying Crypto and despatched officials to Bonn, West Germany, to "negotiate terms."

Following discussions, both intelligence organisations agreed on a series of codenames for the programme and its various elements. Crypto was codenamed Minerva, while the communications liaison and operation was initially codenamed Thesaurus, later renamed Rubicon in the 1980s.

And as sometimes happens in complex high-technology ventures, both the BND and CIA, mindful of the complexities of the programme, decided to engage with private companies. Germany enlisted Siemens, to advise Crypto on business and technical issues, this in exchange for 5% of the company's machine sales. The United States too sought assistance - Motorola helped repair certain parts. In this case, the manufacturer's Chief Executive Officer was told the work was being conducted on behalf of US Intelligence, thus confidentiality was crucial.



Director CIA Richard Helms

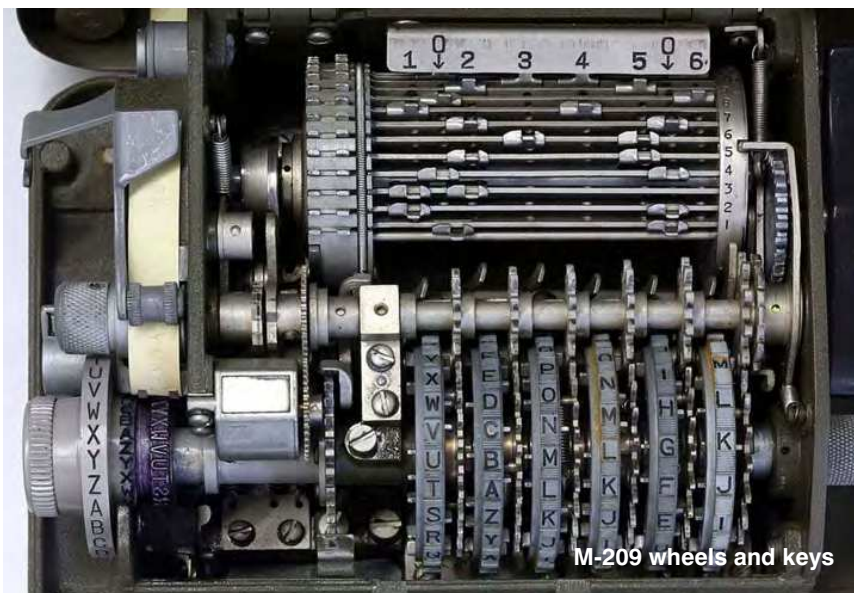
The BND's new headquarters in Berlin



'The Minerva purchase had yielded a bonanza', CIA files from this period state. And for the next two decades Crypto machines gave the CIA and BND 'unprecedented access to foreign governments' communications'.

CIA documents indicate that more than 120 countries used Crypto AG encryption equipment from the 1950s well into the 2000s. Over the decades, the intelligence services listened-in and read hundreds of thousands of messages between governments, embassies and military commands worldwide. Just as interesting, the files reveal four countries - Great Britain, Israel, Sweden and Switzerland were almost certainly recipients of the collective intelligence, or probably aware of the operation's existence. Another line from a document notes: *'Foreign governments were paying good money to the US and West Germany for the privilege of having their most secret communications read by at least two, and possibly five or six foreign countries'.* Eye Spy believes the reference to 'five and six' refers to the Five Eyes alliance.

Though numerous countries used the Crypto machines, allowing the CIA to secure intelligence from around the world, unfortunately its main adversaries - the Soviet Union



M-209 wheels and keys





CIA and NSA man Bobby Inman played a supervisory role in the Crypto affair

and China - did not. This suggests both Moscow and Beijing were suspicious. However, this did not stop CIA analysts from securing a wealth of information from Crypto customers inter-acting with Russia and China.

GCHQ and other members of the Five Eyes alliance were aware of the operation and almost certainly shared the intelligence bounty



Hans Buehler

BND BOWS OUT - THE BUEHLER AFFAIR

Hans Buehler, then 51, was considered Crypto's most experienced salesman. Iran was a prolific user of the company's machines, and Buehler visited the country on several occasions. Files show the CIA intercepted 19,000 Iranian communications sent by Crypto machines in Iran. However, all changed in 1992, when he flew to Tehran but did not return - he had been arrested.

Buehler was finally released nine months later after Crypto agreed to pay the Iranians \$1 million, monies secretly provided by the BND, according to the documents. Strangely, the CIA distanced itself from the affair and refused to share the ransom fee, citing US policy against succumbing to ransom demands for hostages.

Buehler was seemingly oblivious about the spy agencies relationship with Crypto or the



Questions are again being asked in Berlin about the BND's links with the CIA



bespoke vulnerabilities in its machines. However, he became increasingly perplexed and suspicious, believing Iran knew more about Crypto than himself. Buehler then related his views to media houses in Switzerland. It was the first real 'crack' in security. ➔





President Reagan revealed intercepted cables from Libya proved Gaddafi had ordered the bombing of a Berlin nightclub (below) in which two US soldiers were killed. This served only to heighten suspicion about the Crypto company



William Friedman

In 1995, the *Baltimore Sun* ran a series of investigative stories about the NSA, including one titled 'Rigging the Game' that provided clues to the CIA's links with Crypto. No-one from Crypto officially complained about the story, but soon rumours started to circulate and several countries cancelled or suspended their Crypto contracts.

A year later, suspicions were again raised about Crypto. Germany's *Der Spiegel* sourced commentary from US President Ronald Reagan who discussed diplomatic cables encrypted using a Crypto C-52 machine. This was connected to the 1986 bombing of La Belle nightclub in Berlin by Libyan agents. Two US personnel were killed. The president spoke on national television and said he had "irrefutable evidence" Muammar Gaddafi authorised the attack. The links to Crypto were clouded because other media houses suggested the intelligence had been provided by Israel's Mossad. Nevertheless, the rumours about Crypto persisted.



Crypto C-52 cipher machine

COLD WAR ENDS

Following the end of the Cold War, the toppling of the Berlin Wall and a unified Germany, officials in Berlin had new



Milton Bearden

priorities and support for the covert operation was waning. Senior government and intelligence officials were fearful that any news of the BND's liaison with the CIA regarding Crypto would lead to all manner of political fallout and outrage in Europe and around the world. Files show that on 9 September 1993, the CIA station chief in Germany, Milton Bearden, reached an agreement with BND chief Konrad Porzner for Langley to buy Germany's shares in Crypto for \$17 million. Following the end of the liaison, a BND intelligence officer asked the question if Germany "still belonged to this small number of nations who are not read by the Americans." A further reference to Five Eyes.

END OF RUBICON

Crypto continued, but in time Langley realised that the operation was nearing its usefulness. New players on the world market and emerging technology meant that its global catchment and sales area was diminishing.

In 2017, Crypto's headquarters near Zug were purchased by a real estate company. A year later its assets were sold and Langley officials were seemingly content that its secretive role as an intelligence front company would remain just that - secret. However, the international scale of the operation meant this would not last.



Konrad Porzner



US troops use a Crypto-manufactured cipher machine

The company was liquidated in 2018 and succeeded by Crypto International. Its directors soon released a statement saying the espionage threads were “very distressing.” CyOne purchased the Swiss element meaning former Crypto technicians and staff were shielded from the espionage and could still work. For the record, the Swiss Government, which used only secure Crypto’s systems, is at present, CyOne’s only customer.

This mammoth CIA and BND intelligence endeavour revealed the extent and power of communications technology... and the use of front companies. Its exposure has led to all



A bust of William Friedman on display at the NSA’s National Cryptologic Museum. The caption reads - ‘Dean of American Cryptology’

“Do I have any qualms? Zero! It was a very valuable source of communications on significantly large parts of the world important to US policymakers...”

Bobby Ray Inman, CIA and NSA

manner of questions, and in February 2020, the formal opening of a Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry - an investigation by the Swiss Government. This followed a near year-long probe by the country’s Ministry of Defence. An MOD spokeswoman issued an email response to questions about the affair: *‘The events under discussion date back to 1945 and are difficult to reconstruct and interpret in the present day context’.*

Political groups and a number of countries have also asked officials to probe and uncover just how much intelligence was lost. Warwick University Science Professor Richard Aldrich gave context to the espionage: “Operation Rubicon was one of the boldest and most scandalous operations, because over a hundred countries paid billions of dollars for their own state secrets to be stolen.”

Strangely, the Crypto affair provides a reason why the US Intelligence Community is so concerned about China’s Huawei 5G technology, and the company’s alleged secret links with the country’s Ministry of State Security (MSS).

As a footnote to this mammoth international endeavour, some of those who ran the programme or were aware of its existence



Bobby Ray Inman pictured in 2016

have been questioned. For example, Bobby Ray Inman who served as NSA Director and Deputy Director CIA, in the 1970s and early 1980s, said: “Do I have any qualms? Zero! It was a very valuable source of communications on significantly large parts of the world important to US policymakers.”

Politically, the Crypto affair has impacted the perception of Switzerland as a neutral country.



President Trump at the Davos event

THE SVR PLUMBERS: Confirmation of the covert CIA-BND operation follows reports that Swiss counter-intelligence officers foiled a Russian SVR attempt to eavesdrop on world leaders at the World Economic Conference in Davos, Switzerland, in August 2019. In this case the operatives were allegedly dressed as plumbers.

When they were challenged, the men presented diplomatic papers. They were not arrested and left the country. Russia’s Foreign Ministry reject media reports that the men planned to bug the venue.

NUCLEAR SPIES

CIA 'Agent' Sentenced to Death in Iran

Following what probably seemed a much exaggerated claim made last July by Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS), that its counter-intelligence branch had identified 290 foreign spies, including seventeen members of an operational and "integrated CIA spy network," the country's Judiciary announced that one "captured CIA agent" has been sentenced to death. A further ten persons with alleged ties to Western intelligence agencies have also been jailed.



Gholamhossein Esmaeili

Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaeili told journalists: "The Supreme Court has confirmed the death sentence handed down to Amir Rahimpour, who was a highly paid CIA agent." He accused Rahimpour, an electrical engineering specialist, of attempting to pass secret intelligence files on Iran's nuclear programme to Washington, and using the cover of various work placements to hide his covert role. He added that two other "CIA spies" working for a charity had also been given ten-year prison terms for their role in espionage. These persons were not named.

Following the 2019 MOIS announcement of its "great counter-intelligence action," MOIS Director Mahmoud Alavi, announced that his Service had caused "great disruption to the CIA," and that Langley had even "established committees" to "lessen the harm." This he said was "confirmed by interviews performed by Western news outlets with eleven US spy experts," who called the collapse of the CIA network "disastrous."

Various images of persons in the network were published by state media houses, with added commentary from an unnamed official that: "The identified spies worked in sensitive



MOIS Director Mahmoud Alavi

and vital private sector centres in the economic, nuclear, infrastructural, military and cyber areas. Here they collected classified information."

CYBER OPERATION

Ali Shamkhani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council also hinted that MOIS had penetrated US Internet systems allowing it to gain access to the CIA and foreign spy networks. And it was this intelligence that reportedly helped identify several individuals, including Rahimpour, who had access to people working in sensitive positions. "Tens of spies were caught in Iran's actions," he said.

Intelligence sources believe the hacking group was the Iranian Cyber Army, formed 15-years ago by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRSC), and one of the largest in the world. Its former head was Mohammad Hussein Tajik, himself a Quds Force operator. In 2016, Tajik



Ali Shamkhani



Iranian Sejil 2 and Qiam missiles. The CIA and Mossad believe Tehran's ballistic missile and nuclear programmes are inextricably linked



Shahram Amiri - executed

CIA THREADS

In June 2019, Iran executed Jalal Hajizavar, a former defence contractor, for espionage. At his trial he allegedly confessed to "performing



Mohammad Hussein Tajik - assassinated in 2016

was detained for allegedly passing materials to opposition activists. Shortly thereafter, he was assassinated in his home. The cyber group is now controlled by MOIS (Ministry of Intelligence and Security).

Speaking about the spy revelations, US Secretary of State and former Director CIA, Mike Pompeo, dismissed the reports. "It is part of the nature of the Ayatollah to lie to the world," he said. "I would take with a significant grain of salt any Iranian assertion about actions they have taken." President Trump also said, "the Iran report on capturing CIA spies is totally false... zero truth."

Esmaeili said Rahimpour made a "great deal of money from the Americans, but he would be soon held to account," presumably a reference to his impending death sentence.



Five alleged members of the CIA network Iran claims to have dismantled



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

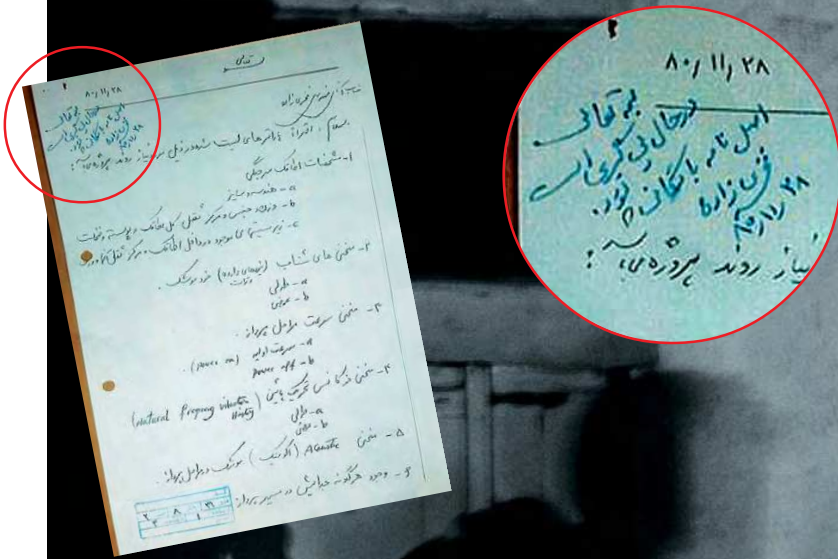
espionage on behalf of the CIA." Three years earlier, an Iranian nuclear scientist was executed for passing secrets to the CIA. Shahram Amiri reportedly defected to the United States in 2009, but returned to Iran a year later. Amiri said he had been kidnapped, and though initially welcomed, events soon turned sour. A Tehran court dismissed his defence and he was hanged in August 2016.

SPIES OR ACTIVISTS?

In late February 2020, Iran jailed a further ten persons, recognised in the West as "environmental activists," for spying on behalf of the United States and other Western countries.



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu believes Iran's nuclear ambitions remain undaunted



One document secured by the Mossad team in Iran includes a comment that analysts believe is code for current work adapting a missile to carry a nuclear warhead...

'In the name of God... right now in treatment process'

Their trial, held behind closed doors before a Revolutionary Court, heard the suspects secured information damaging national security. Esmaili said they had "collaborated with the hostile government of America."

Neither the White House nor CIA responded to the latest spy allegations.

ORIGINS OF NUCLEAR PROGRAMME

The death sentence imposed on Rahimpour coincided with the release of an Iranian document secured during a 2018 Mossad operation in Tehran, which purports to prove that Iran's nuclear missile programme dates back to at least 2002 or even earlier.

The handwritten file, dated 28 November 2002, is from a senior Iranian official asking for various parameters and other data needed

for affixing a warhead to a missile. In the corner of the document a comment from Moshen Fakhrizadeh, the country's most senior nuclear scientist. He writes (responds): 'In the name of God... right now in treatment process'. Analysts believe this is coded talk for confirming his request is already being processed.

The document was seized following the audacious Mossad operation on 31 January 2018, which involved agents accessing a compound in the Shorabad district of Tehran. Hundreds of thousands of files pertaining to Iran's nuclear programme, including its nuclear bomb ambitions, were secured. A short time later Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared at the United Nations and delivered an account of Iran's work and progress. His talk was supported by various images showing the material Mossad had



Moshen Fakhrizadeh

stolen, this included an archive of hundreds of thousands of pages of nuclear-related files, many of which were scientific blueprints.

Iran had moved the papers to the secret compound following the signing of the 1955 Nuclear Treaty which limited its uranium enrichment programme. Unfortunately for Tehran, the venture was surveilled by Mossad agents, thus allowing the Israeli spy agency time to plan the raid.

IRANIAN MISSILE WARNING



WASHINGTON: Pentagon officials have revealed intelligence secured on a new Iranian missile poses extreme danger to US aircraft. Two shipments of the missiles were seized by the US Navy on 9 February in the Arabian Sea.

Described as 358 - an anti-aircraft and cruise missile, the weapon has the accuracy and duration to strike warplanes and slow moving airborne targets such as helicopters and the tilt-rotor MV-22 Osprey.

Officials also warned the technology on the missile can defeat US counter-measures. CIA sources believe Iran has already delivered a number of the weapons to Houthi terrorists in Yemen.



Netanyahu displays the nuclear intelligence trove stolen by Mossad agents

THE COPYCAT



Tobias Rathjen

FAR RIGHT TERRORIST KILLS 10 IN GERMANY

In Hanau Germany, 16 miles east of Frankfurt am Main, a Far Right terrorist shot nine people dead in two popular shisha (hookah) bars before returning home and killing himself and his mother. His father managed to escape.

The attack, on 19 February, began at the Midnight Bar around 10.00pm. Witnesses said the gunman fired into people's heads at close proximity, "as if he was executing them." The shooter then drove to the Arena Bar & Cafe to continue his killing spree. Several other people were shot, but survived their injuries.

The incidents are the latest targeting foreign nationals and came just weeks after

Germany's domestic intelligence agency (BfV), again warned of the threat of Right Wing groups and extremists.

Horst Seehofer, Federal Minister of the Interior, said the "attack was terrorism," and linked to an unnamed group. "The security threat from right-wing extremism, anti-Semitism and racism is very high," he said. "It is the biggest security threat facing Germany."

Surveillance footage led police to the prime suspect, a man initially referred to as Tobias R. [Later identified as 43-year-old Tobias Rathjen]. He had posted a manifesto on-line including conspiracy theories and deeply racist views attacking Arab and Turkish

migrants. He also referenced the "destruction of Israel."

At least five of the Hanau victims were Turkish nationals, said Huseyin Avni Karslioglu, Turkey's Ambassador to Germany. A Bosnian, Pole, Bulgarian and Romanian man were also killed.



Horst Seehofer

Forensic specialists examine one crime scene in Hanau



Chancellor Angela Merkel discusses the latest Far Right attack in Germany



Security officers at the Midnight Bar

WHAT IS AVAXHOME?

AVAXHOME-

the biggest Internet portal,
providing you various content:
brand new books, trending movies,
fresh magazines, hot games,
recent software, latest music releases.

Unlimited satisfaction one low price

Cheap constant access to piping hot media

Protect your downloadings from Big brother

Safer, than torrent-trackers

18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

All languages

Brand new content

One site



AvaxHome - Your End Place

We have everything for all of your needs. Just open <https://avxlive.icu>



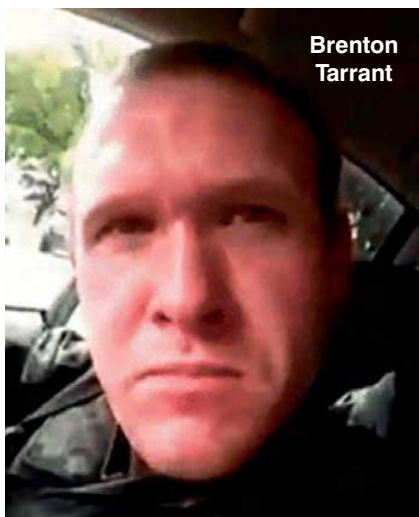
A victim is removed from the Midnight Bar



Turkey's Ambassador to Germany
Huseyin Avni Karlioglu

Chancellor Angela Merkel condemned the "poison" of racism. "Everything will be done to investigate every last detail of these appalling murders," she said. Her Deputy, Olaf Scholz, took to Twitter: *'Politically, nobody can deny that 75-years after the Nazi dictatorship there is real terror again'.*

The latest attack appeared to target people of Turkish ancestry: three million Turks live in Germany. The incidents followed shortly after the arrest of 12 members of a Far-Right group. They were accused of plotting an attack using semi-automatic weapons to murder worshippers at mosques. Intelligence sources said the



Brenton
Tarrant



Peter
Beuth

group wanted to replicate the attacks carried out by white nationalist Brenton Tarrant in Christchurch, New Zealand, last year. In this case, the terrorist killed 51 people at the Al Noor Mosque and Linwood Islamic Centre.

TOBIAS RATHJEN MANIFESTO

Ministry of the Interior official, Peter Beuth confirmed a 24-page manifesto had been found at Rathjen's home. Within, Rathjen called for the elimination of entire countries and populations, including Morocco, Egypt, Israel, Turkey, Iran, India, Pakistan, Vietnam and the Philippines. Part of one document recovered read: *'This would only be the rough cleansing. It would be followed by the fine cleansing. I would eliminate all these people, even if we are speaking about billions of people. It has to be done'.*

It has since transpired, Rathjen contacted police three months earlier complaining that "secret police were tapping into people's minds and controlling world events." Germany's General Prosecutor Peter Frank said it was unclear if the content revealed a direct threat to ethnic minorities. Since he took office in 2015, Frank has made tackling Right Wing violence his priority.

The German Government has a number of projects intended to stop nationalistic impulses before they appear. Strict laws also

prohibit any glorification of the Nazis, with bans on symbols like the swastika and gestures like the stiff-armed salute; denial of the Holocaust is illegal. But security officials have frequently been accused of being "blind in the right eye," for intentionally or inadvertently overlooking some far-right activity. This was rejected by Interior Minister Horst Seehofer - "We are not blind in any eye," he said.

Security forces in Germany are now preparing for possible reprisal attacks in the wake of the shootings in Hanau. Counter-terrorism officials said that revenge violence by left-wing extremists is now likely, as well as attacks on representatives of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) Party. Security has also been stepped-up at mosques across Germany.

Germany's Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) has a list of 60 high-profile Far Right extremists it considers a threat to national security. They are designated 'Gefährder' (Troublemaker). A further 12,700 Right Wing extremists are "orientated towards violence," according to the BKA.

The data was sourced from the BfV, whose Director, Thomas Haldenwang believes many Right Wing groups are now beginning to form a dangerous alliance.



BfV Director Thomas Haldenwang



INTELLIGENCE COLLEGE IN EUROPE

Twenty-three European countries have signed a letter of intent in Zagreb, Croatia, to help establish the Intelligence College in Europe (ICE). The college will not have a permanent site, but intends to network intelligence organisations on the continent.

ICE has not been conceived as an intelligence-sharing platform or agency, but aims to provide an area where those within the industry and associated areas can exchange notes, ideas and information on current and past events, such as terrorism, conflicts and espionage. Also within its remit, planning for future

horizon events. The agreement follows a meeting in Paris last year, where numerous intelligence figures first discussed the concept.

At the Zagreb event, in the presence of Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic, representatives of 23 European countries signed the document, which sets out the aims of the College, its scope of action and its governance.

Plenkovic explained that the college will not only be an “educational institution” but include a network of people from academia, the media and other



Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic (right) and Daniel Markic, Director of SOA (Security and Intelligence Agency)



areas... everyone else.” One of its objectives will be to “find solutions to various threats of the modern world, and especially in Europe.”

In respect of intelligence collection, distribution and analysis, always associated with the intelligence world, Plenkovic said: “I think this is a very good form of cooperation which is more open than what is usual for this type of service.” Just how much input the college will receive from ‘conventional’ intelligence services, is yet to be fully understood.

Croatia currently holds the rotating Presidency of the EU Council, and was one of the main drivers of the initiative. Crucial to the intelligence college concept, which a number of intelligence people have questioned, is Daniel Markic, Director of SOA, Croatia’s Security and Intelligence Agency. “This is a new form of cooperation, which

means it will not replace the operational cooperation we have between EU member states and other countries such as the USA or others. However, we want a little more transparency and trust.”

Despite Britain leaving the European Union, it too is a participant of ICE. The college will have a rotating presidency.

The original idea was first raised by President Emmanuel Macron of France in 2017. He said Europe should become more “self sufficient in security and intelligence gathering, if it does not want to depend on information provided by the United States, China or Russia.”

Some intelligence officials in the UK and USA, believe Macron, after referencing a central intelligence body, was trying to establish a European version of the CIA, though he rejects this. Others however, believe ICE could well be the “corner stone of a CIA-type initiative.”

The ‘college’ will not impact on Britain’s intelligence liaison with America.



European Security Commissioner Julian King (centre), at the 2019 Paris launch of the European College in Intelligence



The agreement establishing ICE awaits signing in Zagreb



THE SOFIA SANCTION

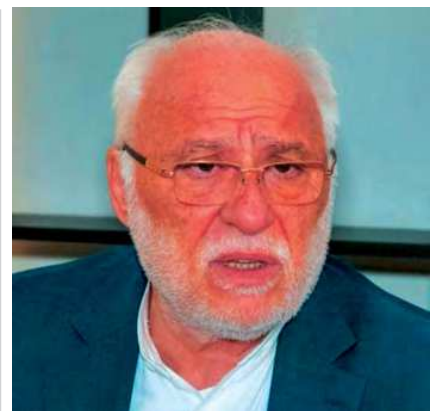
SALISBURY THREADS TO GRU AND UNIT 29155

Arrest warrants issued for alleged Russian GRU trio suspected of involvement in attempted assassination of Bulgarian businessman - this as MI6 and SANS intelligence officials liken incident to 2018 UK Novichok nerve agent case

Bulgarian prosecutors have launched a legal battle to extradite three Russian nationals for the attempted murder of Emilian Gebrev, 65, Director General and owner of EMCO, a small arms manufacturer based in Sofia. Court case files record that between 28 April and 4 May 2015, *'an attempt was made by intoxication using an undetermined organo-phosphorus substance'* to kill three Bulgarian nationals. The other two persons injured were Gebrev's son Hristo, and a senior executive.

The case first surfaced a year ago after intelligence officials from Bulgaria's State Agency for National Security (SANS), likened the incident to the attempted assassination of MI6 agent and former GRU officer Sergei Skripal, in Salisbury, 2018. Informed sources believe the Sofia sanction was authorised because Grebev's factory exported to Ukraine and that he was in the process of acquiring another weapons factory "coveted by a Russian oligarch."

Prime Minister Boyko Borissov has held meetings with British officials over the Gebrev and Salisbury incidents



Emilian Gebrev

And whilst the names of the three Russians were not referenced by officials, SIA confirmed European arrest warrants had been issued for the men's extradition and Interpol Red Notices circulated. Journalists in Bulgaria have described all three suspects, as GRU (military intelligence) officers.

BACKGROUND

Whilst attending a dinner party at the Hotel Marinela, Grebev began vomiting and hallucinating before falling into a coma. Together with his son and the company director, the men were rushed to the Military Medical Academy (MMA) for treatment.



Gebrev was taken to Bulgaria's Military Medical Academy (MMA) in Sofia

Doctors could not identify the poison used in the attack. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was duly notified and received medical reports and samples. Gebrev spent four weeks in hospital. Some journalists have reported a second attempt to kill him occurred at a Black Sea resort shortly after.

Thereafter all manner of investigative probes followed, but the cause of Gebrev's illness could not be determined and the case was suspended in April 2016. However, following the Skripal incident, Gebrev sent a letter to State Prosecutor General Sotir Tsatsarov and explained he believed the reason for his illness may well be linked to Novichok. The Sofia case was reopened in October 2018. A number of meetings followed between senior UK and Bulgarian officials and resulted in what

could be described as a joint investigation. Britain's Ambassador to Bulgaria Emma Hopkins, who after meeting with Prime Minister Boyko Borissov, said: "We are working in a joint team and a close partner-



**Bulgarian
State
Prosecutor
General Sotir
Tsatsarov**



UK Ambassador to Bulgaria Emma Hopkins

ship. We are going to find out the facts in this case."

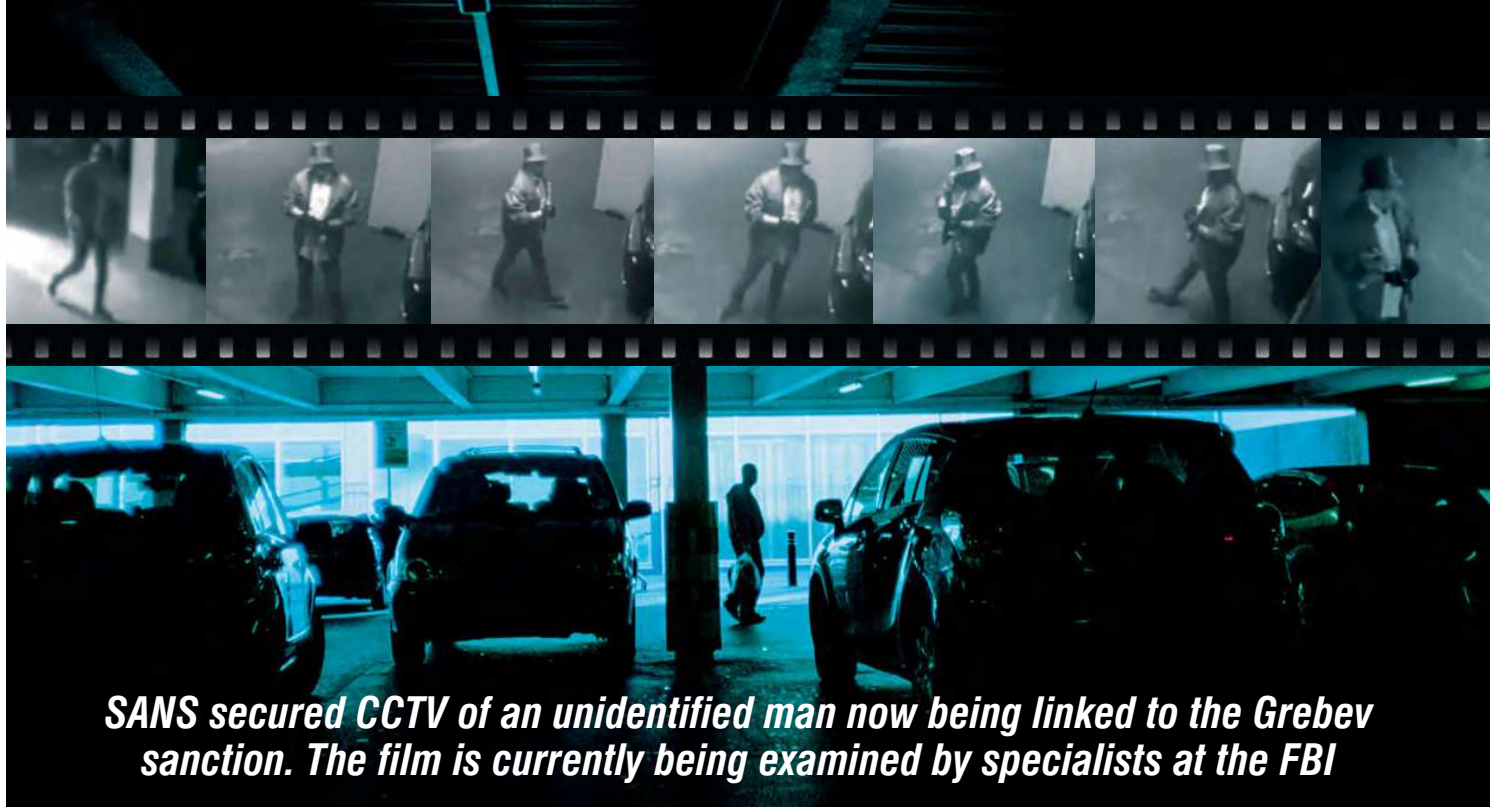
Further research ensued and in early 2019, an intelligence official from SANS said they were "positively probing a possible link to the poisoning of Sergei Skripal." Unbeknown to many, at the time of the Salisbury incident, MI6 officers had already liaised with their counterparts in Bulgaria. What transpired between MI6 and SANS is unclear, but prosecutors have now revealed "information on both cases has been exchanged."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed his country's connection to the Sofia incident. "Why have we found out about this only now?" he said. "We do not know whether this corresponds with reality at all." Kremlin officials also reference a reported comment

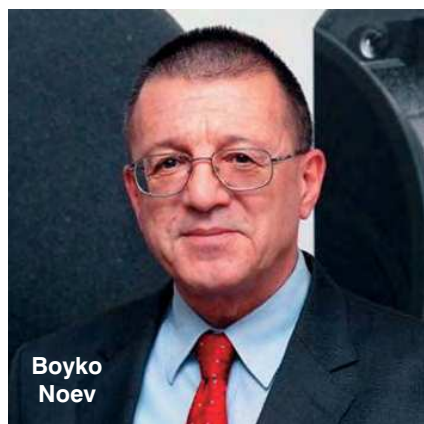


The Gebrev case file, just like that of MI6 agent Sergei Skripal, has been passed to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at The Hague





SANS secured CCTV of an unidentified man now being linked to the Grebev sanction. The film is currently being examined by specialists at the FBI



Boyko Noev

made by Gebrev's friend and former Defence Minister and Ambassador to NATO Boyko Noev. He said he was "not too sure" about the GRU link. Noev did however acknowledge Moscow has long targeted Bulgaria in respect of export licences. "Russia wants to strike deals but Gebrev always beats them," he said. On his Twitter account, Noev continues to output progress on the Gebrev investigation and activities of GRU agents in Europe.

Moscow state media houses blamed Britain for attempting to link the cases.

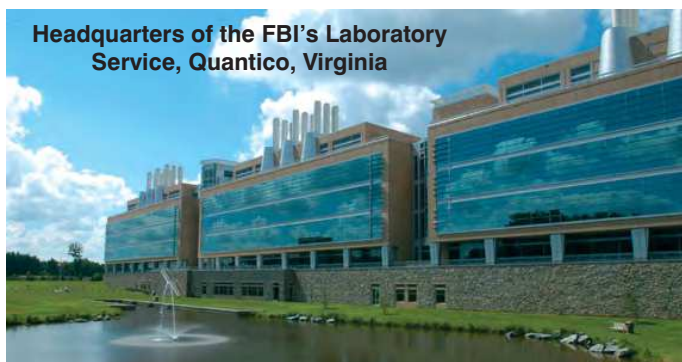
NEW LEADS

In January 2020, Bulgarian prosecutors released CCTV footage of a masked man walking in an underground car park between EMCO company vehicles. He was reportedly in

the company of two colleagues. The film was taken on the same date (28 April 2015) that Gebrev and his colleagues fell ill. Eye Spy understands specialists at the FBI's Operational Projects Unit (OPU), part of the Bureau's Laboratory Service, Quantico, Virginia, were provided with the imagery and attempted to identify the suspect. And a name soon started to circulate.

THE SALISBURY CONNECTION

The Gebrev Sofia 'hit team' was linked to the GRU operation in England. One of three



Headquarters of the FBI's Laboratory Service, Quantico, Virginia

Russians named by Bulgarian prosecutors shared the surname of an operator identified by investigators in the UK - Fedotov. He is wanted in connection to the Skripal sanction. The operative had visited Bulgaria at least three times in 2015, and was in Sofia at the time of the poisoning. On this occasion, investigators learned he had booked into the Hill Hotel in the same complex as Gebrev's EMCO office and where the CCTV footage was taken. Fedotov was described as a "ghost" by MI5 sources.

Prosecutor Tsatsarov acknowledged, "there now appears to be a link between the Salisbury and Sofia incidents because of a suspect wanted in England." [Fedotov].

The name Fedotov was also researched extensively by some investigative outfits, including Bellingcat and Fontanka. Bellingcat, during its probe into the Skripal affair, named Denis



2018. Two GRU officers caught on CCTV in Salisbury. Inset: Sergei Skripal



Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Moscow



Acting GRU Director Vice Admiral Igor Kostyukov



Head of SANS Dimitar Zdravkov Georgiev and Service shield

GRU UNIT 29155

Intelligence sources believe the GRU team assigned to such ventures was established around 2009 - Unit 29155.

Quoting intelligence officials, a *New York Times* feature published in October 2019, described the organisation as being 'tasked with foreign

assassinations and destabilising European countries'.

And besides the Sofia and Salisbury attacks, Unit 29155 is alleged to have played a part in the failed 2016 coup in Montenegro, in which an attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Milo Dukanovic was foiled. In this case the objective was to stop the country joining NATO. Two Russian nationals were accused of being behind the plot and named as Eduard Shishmakov and Vladimir Popov.



Alleged early photograph of Fedotov

The unit is also linked to operations in Switzerland, Spain, France, China and Turkey (to name but a few). All of these alleged events are currently being investigated. Fedotov, along with other operatives of the unit all passed through the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In respect of the Sofia investigation, despite the security services requesting the extradition of three GRU operatives, British Intelligence and the SANS believe as many as eight GRU people were involved in the operation.

Sergeev as a suspect. It later transpired he used the operational alias Sergei Fedotov - a man whom MI5 believe was the coordinator of the Skripal sanction team. Intelligence sources told Eye Spy he is a Major General in the GRU.

Fedotov arrived in Britain two days before the 4 March 2018 Salisbury incident took place, along with his associates Anatoliy Chepiga and Alexander Mishkin. He hurriedly departed London for Moscow via Rome a few hours later.



Display at the FBI's Operational Projects Unit (OPU)



Prime Minister Milo Dukanovic with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

INSIDE MI5

THE SECURITY SERVICE



DEFENCE OF THE REALM

Security Service Allows News Correspondent and Camera Team Access to its Millbank HQ

TV News Security Editor Rohit Kachroo, was given unprecedented (but controlled) access to see various rooms in MI5's London headquarters, next to the River Thames, and discuss aspects of the Service's work with staff and Director-General Sir Andrew Parker.

His visits, made over a three-month period, culminated in an engaging 30-minute documentary for the ITV Tonight Programme - *'Inside MI5: Keeping the UK Safe'*. Sir Andrew was frank in his views about national security, and acknowledged that as good as his staff were, it was impossible to stop every terrorist attack, noting more and more incidents are the result of small terror cells and individuals. "There are thousands of them [suspects] and we cannot, monitor closely, what all these people are doing all of the time."

One MI5 officer also spoke of an FBI-like undercover sting operation in which Service operatives posed as would-be terrorists to



Former Prime Minister Theresa May



MI5 Director-General Sir Andrew Parker, gave a candid and insightful overview of the work performed by "ordinary" but "incredibly talented and dedicated people"

help derail a viable ISIS plot to assassinate then Prime Minister Theresa May.

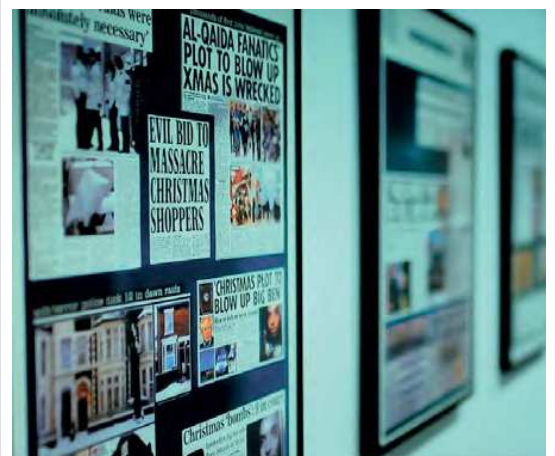
May too revealed how she had been told of the operation by the Security Service, and the complexities of the endeavour.

Kachroo travelled with and spoke to two MI5 A4 Watchers from its surveillance directorate. They did not reveal any trade secrets, but said their work was broad and varied and could involve tracking terrorist or espionage subjects the length of the country.

Another MI5 officer - 'Rob' - described his deep cover role as an 'agent runner' and recruiter. "We have to speak to people connected to extremist groups to understand what's really happening," he said. He also discussed MI5's 'wardrobe', calling it the "biggest in the world."

ROOMS WITH SECRETS

There were also glimpses of the secret world that is home to around 4,500 personnel. Kachroo was allowed into MI5's small museum - packed with exhibits, artefacts and commentary on previous operations and





Silhouette of the undercover MI5 officer who discussed the Theresa May operation



An undercover MI5 officer discussed the take-down operation of ISIS man Naa'imur Zakariyah Rahman who plotted to assassinate Prime Minister Theresa May in 2017. Rahman planned to detonate a bomb at the gates of Downing Street, killing members of the security detail and gain access to May. The plot was foiled by MI5 assisted by New Scotland Yard and the FBI.

significant moments in time. One display featured items secured during the organisation's takedown of the al-Qaida cell which endeavoured to bring down several airliners over the Atlantic. The counter-terrorist operation, codenamed OVERT, disabled the so-called 'Liquid Bomb Plot', which involved secreting explosives onto aircraft in plastic drinking bottles.

Kachroo walked alongside Sir Andrew down a corridor which featured dozens of newspaper cuttings featuring the work of the Service. The signature logo on Sir Andrew's office was also seen for the first time. ➤



Rohit Kachroo discusses the work of MI5 with Director-General Sir Andrew Parker



PHOTOGRAPHS © ITV NEWS/MI5 © CROWN COPYRIGHT



Rohit Kachroo with a relaxed Sir Andrew Parker



MI5's museum contains a plethora of reports and artefacts secured from 111-years of operations



Kachroo enters MI5 headquarters



On a lighter note, a number of staff discussed social activities. 'Katrina' spoke of MI5's version of Strictly Come Dancing, which is called 'Secretly Come Dancing'. The Service also hosts its own brass band and other clubs.

Besides being taken into the heart of MI5's main operations' centre, Kachroo was also allowed a glimpse of the Service's primary research and analysis room, which he called "probably the most secret library in the world." And many eagle-eyed Eye Spy readers called to say they had clearly seen the magazine featured on the reading shelf!

Sir Andrew said he had allowed the news team into MI5, because he thought it helpful to explain to the people its protects, a little more insight into the work and human side of MI5.

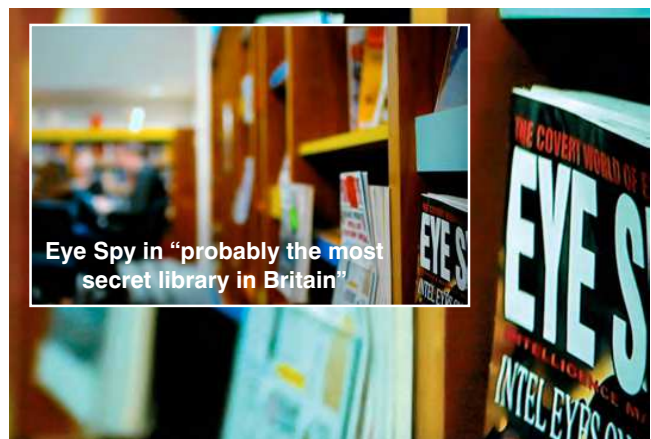
All in all, it was an insightful, but all too brief 'visual document' of the work performed by the Service, but a fitting tribute to Sir Andrew who is expected to depart in the next few months.

TECHNOLOGY AND ENCRYPTED MESSAGES

In a separate conversation, Sir Andrew discussed secret communications' platforms, and urged private sector technology companies to help the Service identify those intent on terrorism. Referencing how the real world is policed and regulated, he said he found it "mystifying" the same does not apply to cyberspace. "It's a wild west, unregulated and inaccessible to authorities." He admitted encryption sometimes meant messages cannot always be read by the Service and urged companies to assist, especially when armed with a warrant.

As for privacy and wider surveillance concerns, Sir Andrew said: "We are only interested in people who mean us harm. We are interested in terrorists and spies, and that's where we focus our attention."

LINKS: www.itv.com/news/topic/inside-mi5/



Eye Spy in "probably the most secret library in Britain"



MI5 ROYAL VISITOR

HM THE QUEEN PAYS TRIBUTE TO STAFFERS

On 25 February, HM The Queen visited MI5 headquarters at Thames House, Millbank, to thank Service personnel for their “tireless efforts helping keep the country safe.”

Accompanied throughout by MI5 Director-General Sir Andrew Parker, she said: “I am always struck by the remarkable resolve with which you carry out your vital role.

“There will no doubt continue to be significant threats and challenges ahead. But on each of



HM The Queen with Sir Andrew Parker



MI5 headquarters seen from across the River Thames

my visits to MI5, I have been impressed by the way that you have adapted to the changing threats to our nation.

“Whether responding to the threats from the Nazis or the Cold War, domestic terrorism or the cyber sphere, you have always demonstrated the utmost commitment to your motto: ‘Regnum Defende’ - *Defence of the Realm*.

“Because of the nature of your work, it is without public recognition, so it is on behalf of the country that I say to you all, thank you.”

During her visit, The Queen viewed exhibits in the MI5 museum which included a display highlighting the work of WWII MI5 double



HM Queen Elizabeth talks to MI5 staff at Thames House



Agents Tate and Garbo

agents Juan Pujol Garcia - codename Garbo and Harry Williamson (Wulf Schmidt) - codename Tate.

The spies were integral to the major deception operations against Germany. From convincing Hitler the D-Day landings were at Calais rather than Normandy, to misreporting where German rockets were landing so they would adjust their targeting further away from populated areas - their work proved invaluable to the Allied war effort.

The Royal Household also revealed they too played a part in WWII deception operations. Visits to troops by members of The Royal Family were deliberately organised to distract attention from operations.



VAULT 7

"The single biggest leak of classified national defence information in the history of the CIA..."

WikiLeaks

THE CIA'S BURNING HOUSE

MISTRIAL OF FORMER CIA EMPLOYEE ACCUSED OF PASSING SECRETS TO WIKILEAKS

The trial has ended of Joshua Adam Schulte, 31, a former CIA and NSA engineer accused of providing WikiLeaks with highly sensitive classified CIA intelligence papers, including many revealing methods used to hack computers, cell phones and other electronic devices.

US District Judge Paul Crotty, declared a mistrial after the jury failed to reach a conclusive verdict on the most serious charge of espionage. He was however, found guilty of

making false statements to the FBI and contempt of court.

BACKGROUND

Some of the files central to the original espionage case, show how smart televisions could be turned into surveillance platforms - the user oblivious the system is capturing imagery and sound. The alleged theft was described by prosecutors as the "single biggest leak of classified national defence information in the history of the CIA."

FBI officers raided Schulte's New York City flat in March 2017, and recovered various computers. Amongst the data, an alleged 10,000 images and videos of child pornography.

Using the pseudonym 'Jeremy Weber', a CIA computer specialist giving evidence at the trial, said the affair was "crippling to the Agency," and that his office, on the ninth floor of a heavily guarded building just outside Washington DC, was turned into an "FBI crime scene."

Tasked with trying to assess the damage done to Langley's covert eavesdropping programmes, much of which was focussed



on the activities of overseas terrorists, and re-write programmes ensuring security, Weber said he and his team worked 20-hour days. "The house was burning down and we were trying to figure out what was going on."

Away from the assessment team, other analysts embarked on a simulated risk operation to determine the safety of overseas CIA assets and agents who were exposed by the leak. It is believed Langley urgently recalled some operatives, while others were warned their role was being frozen.



Joshua Schulte seen using a cell phone within the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York



William Sweeney Jr.



Schulte worked within a secret CIA cyber research unit just outside Washington DC

Following his arrest eighteen months ago, William Sweeney Jr. Assistant Director-in-Charge of the FBI's New York Field Office said: "Schulte had utterly betrayed the nation. As an employee of the CIA, Schulte took an oath to protect his country, but he blatantly endangered it by the transmission of classified information."

THE LEAK

WikiLeaks somehow secured the files in 2017, and duly named them 'Vault 7'. Thereafter they began posting the documents on-line. Following the Edward Snowden affair, senior intelligence officials were determined the culprit/s would be found. At this point an investigation was launched to determine how the web site had obtained the material in the first place - leading to Schulte. He had apparently left the CIA and moved to New York just a month or so before the documents were published.

Some of the charges filed against the defendant were linked to the Espionage Act.

Schulte's solicitor said they are "unconstitutionally overbroad and vague," adding the Espionage Act was supposed to be used against those who transmit secrets to foreign governments. They insist it should not be applied to WikiLeaks. Prosecutors argued differently.

Prosecutors argued he gifted the material because he was "angry and disgruntled at work." Some jury members did not agree,

Schulte's solicitor, Sabrina Shroff, had insisted that there "would be no proof presented showing a relationship between Schulte and WikiLeaks." She said her client was chosen because he was an easy target, this after investigators failed to uncover the source of



Joshua Schulte



CIA headquarters, Langley, Virginia

the leak. "He was a difficult employee, but being a difficult employee does not make you a criminal," she said.

Weber told investigators Schulte had breached security protocols by using his position as a software programme administrator to gain "great access to top secret programmes" without approval from senior management.

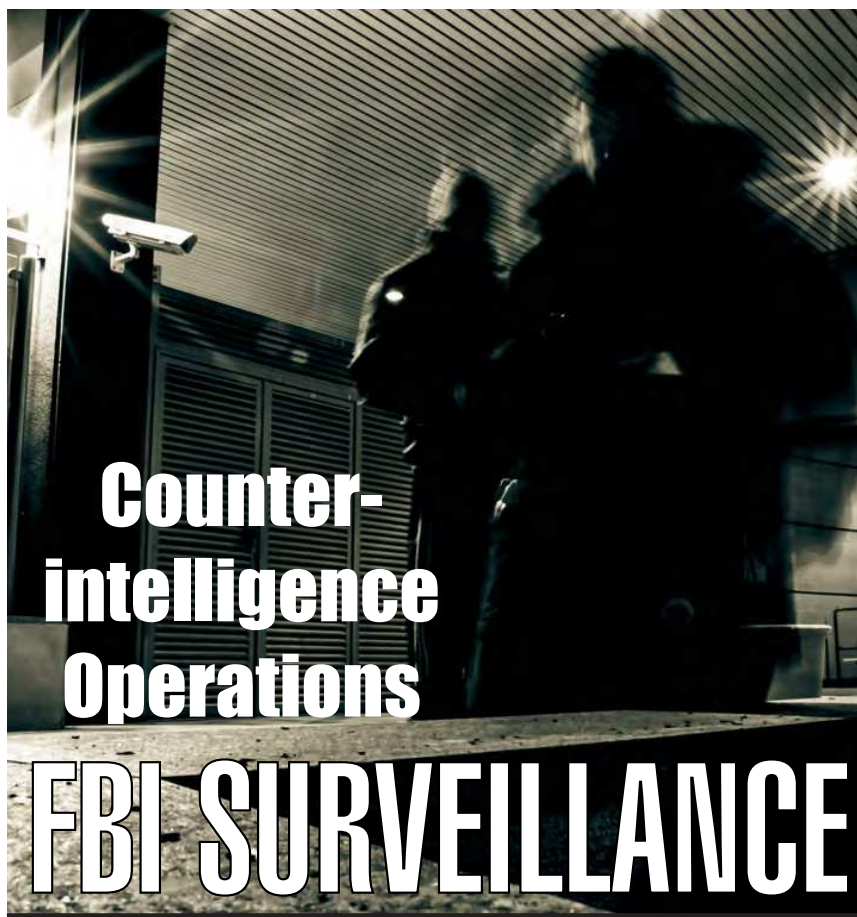
The legal team of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange also watched the case with interest. Despite being in self-exile in London at the time of the Vault 7 leaks, he gave a press conference on the material. He claimed the CIA operation related to Vault 7 was housed at Langley's Cyber Center, calling it a "devastating act." His solicitors are curious to see the Schulte case outcome - as Assange is wanted in connection with "soliciting and publication of classified military and diplomatic documents." Efforts are still reportedly underway by the US Justice Department to extradite Assange back to America.

Interestingly Schulte, who pleaded not guilty to 11 criminal counts, once told Weber that Edward Snowden, the former NSA and CIA contractor who leaked over a million documents: "Snowden should be executed because he betrayed America."

Schulte could have been jailed for upto 135-years if convicted of espionage. The lesser charges means he will probably receive a five-year term. However, he may yet face another trial.



Julian Assange



Counter-intelligence Operations

FBI SURVEILLANCE

Two agents of Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS), have been jailed in the United States for undertaking surveillance and intelligence collection on American residents. A third surveillance operative controlled by Russia's SVR, has been arrested on charges of being an unregistered foreign agent. He was involved in a Miami surveillance operation to identify a key FBI intelligence source.

Bureau officials also revealed more Chinese nationals have been detained in Florida at two extremely sensitive sites.

THE IRAN OPERATION

Ahmadreza Mohammadi Doostdar, 39, who holds dual US-Iranian citizenship, and Majid Ghorbani, 60 an Iranian national living in California, received prison sentences of 38 and 30 months respectively, for their part in a surveillance operation to identify members of an Iranian opposition group - MEK (Mujahedin-e Khalq). The MEK are vocal critics of the current Iranian regime and are committed to its overthrow.

In the past five years, MOIS has widened its surveillance of the MEK, which has a strong presence in Europe, to other parts of the world, including the United States. Counter-intelligence operations in France, Germany,

Belgium, Austria, Luxembourg and elsewhere have uncovered a network of MOIS-sponsored operatives, who working covertly with Iran's diplomatic service, are intent on damaging MEK activities.

Some activities have been linked to darker actions such as assassination. In June 2018, the Mossad provided intelligence to France's DGSJ of a MOIS operation to bomb the French-based National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI)* conference just north of Paris. This led to the arrest of a small team of MOIS agents, including two Iranian sleeper agents, Amir Sadouni and Nasim Naami, based in Belgium. They were enroute to the conference in a car which was stopped. Inside, police



Ahmadreza Mohammadi Doostdar



The MOIS operations targeted MEK conferences in order to identify key supporters and controllers of the opposition group



Former New York City Mayor and attorney to President Trump, Rudy Giuliani

discovered 500 grams of the explosive TATP and a detonator. French intelligence officials accused Iranian Deputy Minister and Director of Intelligence Saeid Hashemi Moghadam of ordering the action.

Some intelligence sources believe the primary target in this case, besides MEK heads, was former New York City Mayor and attorney to President Trump, Rudy Giuliani, who delivered a speech at the event.

In Germany, six agents were also arrested, including a MOIS officer based at Iran's Embassy in Vienna, Austria. He was named as Assadollah Assadi. And in respect of the Vienna embassy, it is considered the controlling station of MOIS operations throughout Europe.



Assadollah Assadi - agent controller

Iran's Foreign Ministry issued a statement following the Paris incident: "We deny all the allegations against Iran."

US TRIAL AND TRADECRAFT

During the US trial, information was imparted by the FBI on the tradecraft used by the agents, especially in the field of anti-surveillance. Doostdar's tactics in particular were enough to suggest the suspects were involved in illegal activities. He is said to have constantly turned around (rubbernecked), used car and shop windows to detect followers, placed his head downwards when near CCTV and changed his clothing constantly. All of this only served to heighten Bureau suspicion. Despite the tradecraft being described as "poor" in court, an FBI officer wrote in his surveillance log, *'it was sufficient to indicate he was a trained agent of MOIS'*.

US Assistant Attorney General for National Security, John Demers, commenting on the FBI operation against Doostdar and Ghorbani, said: "This case illustrates Iran's targeting of Americans in the United States in order to silence those who oppose the Iranian regime. The defendants gathered information that could be used to harm them or their families."



Embassy of Iran in Vienna, Austria. This building is key to MOIS' operations throughout Europe

BACKGROUND

Doostdar travelled to the United States in July 2017 on instructions from his MOIS controller; here he met with Ghorbani and recruited him as an agent. Besides MEK activities, Jewish targets were also surveilled and photographs taken of key buildings in Chicago.

In September that year, Ghorbani attended an MEK conference in New York and secretly photographed senior activists and group leaders. He had been given instructions to "infiltrate" the group. Shortly before Christmas, Doostdar returned to the United States and collected the imagery and other documents. He paid Ghorbani around \$2,000 before returning to Iran.

In May 2018, Ghorbani then attended an MEK conference in Washington DC and repeated his surveillance on those critical of the regime. Both men spoke on the telephone to discuss how the information should be transmitted back to Iran. By now, the FBI, probably in receipt of additional intelligence from Mossad, launched their own investigation. This led to the arrest of Ghorbani in August 2018 and Doostdar in September after he flew back to America.

A US official said the Iranians thought that by using a resident of the United States as an agent, the surveillance would be protected.

*The National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) and MEK are regarded as synonymous.

MIAMI SPY ARREST

MEXICAN SCIENTIST ARRESTED AS RUSSIAN AGENT

Mexican national Hector Alejandro Cabrera Fuentes, 34, a resident of Singapore, has been arrested in Miami on espionage charges. According to court documents, Fuentes was recruited by Russian Intelligence in 2019 and made several trips back and forth to Moscow.

Prosecutors allege he was given a description of a vehicle used by a key US Government source, and told to locate the vehicle and obtain its license plate number.

According to officials, Fuentes' target was linked to the FBI's counter-intelligence



division in Florida and engaged in operations targeting active Russian spies.

Fuentes was instructed that once he had located the FBI operative, he was to rent an apartment next to him in order to surveil him further. The FBI say he paid an associate \$20,000 to do this.

Fuentes met with his Russian handler in April or May 2019 and travelled to Miami on 13 February 2020 from Mexico City. The next day, Fuentes, after locating his target, tried to enter his residence. His activities were noticed by a security guard who approached his vehicle and observed his wife taking photographs of a vehicle's license plate.

On 16 February, Fuentes and his wife travelled to Miami International Airport to fly back to



Hector Alejandro Cabrera Fuentes

Mexico City, but the FBI were already waiting. The couple were stopped by US Customs and Border Protection. Evidence of their surveillance activities, including the image of the licence plate was discovered.

His cell phone records show he was in regular contact with his handler in Moscow.

In court Fuentes admitted having a secret second wife in Russia, thus in return for helping the Russians, he hoped his wife and two daughters would receive help to leave Russia.

His past Russian connections were also revealed. Aged 18, Fuentes received a scholarship from the Russian Federation to earn a bachelor's degree in microbiology. Fuentes called the opportunity a "dream." He went on to earn a master's degree at Kazan State University in Russia.

Fuentes appeared in Miami Federal Court and was charged with being an "unregistered foreign agent" for Russia - a spy.

TOURISTS OR SPIES?

KEY FLORIDA SITES SURVEILLED BY CHINESE

FBI counter-intelligence have detained more Chinese nationals after a series of incidents at President Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach and the US Naval Air Station at Key West in Florida. The base is home to several important air, sea and land services, including the US Army's Special Forces Underwater Operations Headquarters.

A woman arrested in December at the Trump getaway has now appeared in court. Jing Lu was caught by security officials after she passed through a service door and began taking photographs of the building. A few days later, a Chinese student was detained after taking photographs and video footage of the naval base. Two more students were arrested



shortly later for doing exactly the same thing. This takes the number of people detained to six, after similar incidents in the last two years.

Now FBI officials are examining the possibility that China has despatched operatives in the guise of students to collect information on key sites throughout the country.





EYES AND EARS: SURVEILLANCE

THE FBI HAS ONE OF THE MOST EXPERIENCED SURVEILLANCE DIRECTORATES IN THE WORLD

Like MI5's A4 Watchers, the FBI has over 1,000 skilled surveillance officers, operating across the country. Those wanting a career in surveillance work are advised they must be comfortable in the following situations:

- Travelling domestically on both operational and training missions
- Working in a team environment outside of a typical, ordinary office setting
- Working nights and weekends as necessary
- Adapting to an ever-changing work environment
- Working with photography and other electronic equipment



1. Surveillance photograph taken in New York City in 2004, shows SVR spies Mikhail Kutsik and Vladimir Guryev. Both were arrested in 2010 as part of the Bureau's Operation Ghost Stories.

The date of the actual photo is recognition that the men, part of a spy network operating on the eastern seaboard, were under suspicion for years.

2. SVR operative Anna Chapman pictured in 2010. Evidential surveillance of her activities with other members of the network proved pivotal to the FBI's case.

3. FBI photograph of Vladimir Guryev and Richard Murphy. Part of the SVR spy network.

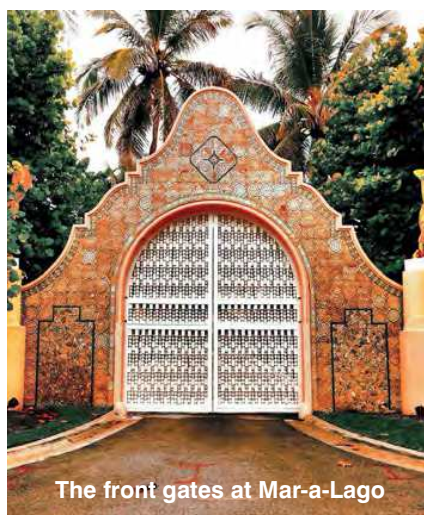


Frank Figliuzzi

One former FBI Assistant Director for Counter-Intelligence, Frank Figliuzzi, believes the incidents could be a distraction operation to an even greater endeavour. "Coincidences take a lot of planning," said Figliuzzi. "These types of brazen and repeated attempts to breach security at two separate facilities in the same region are highly unusual and worthy of serious investigation by our intelligence community."



President Trump with senior defence and White House officials in the SCIF at Mar-a-Lago, is briefed on a missile strike in Syria



The front gates at Mar-a-Lago

His views were supported by Robert Daly, Director of the Kissinger Institute on China and the United States at the Woodrow Wilson Center. "All of these people are in the same location, are Chinese, and have cameras and backgrounds that are not those of casual tourists," he said. "I never thought this could be anything other than a coordinated effort."

The first arrest of a Chinese national at the naval facility came in September 2018. In this case Zhao Qianli, 20, was found to have taken numerous photographs, including several of the important antenna site. He told investigators "I was lost."

In respect of the Mar-a-Lago Club, in March 2019, investigators arrested Yujing Zhang, 32,

for breaching security. At the time of the incident, Trump was golfing nearby. When the FBI search Zhang's hotel room, they discovered nine USB drives, two cell phones and five SIM cards, and interestingly, a radio frequency device to detect concealed cameras.

Following his rise to power, President Trump instructed that a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) be built at Mar-a-Lago. This is now used by the president and senior White House, defence and intelligence officials to host meetings.

At her trial, Zhang was convicted of trespassing, but as suspicions grow that the MSS has launched a major intelligence collection operation, others may not be so fortunate.

A MAN CALLED INTREPID

Imposing New Statue for Sir William Stephenson

By Lynn Philip Hodgson
and Cassandra Koch

For forty-four years, a dedicated team in Whitby, Ontario, Canada, have been battling to not only tell the story of legendary MI6 officer Sir William Stephenson, codename Intrepid, and the critical part Whitby played in the war effort, but to ensure he receives the recognition he so greatly deserves...

Sir William Samuel Stephenson, CC, MC, DFC was born on 23 January 1897, as William Samuel Clouston Stanger in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He adopted the Stephenson name from the family who raised him.

Stephenson joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 12 January 1916. On 15 August 1917, he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps



COURTESY: OSS SOCIETY/NARA

Sir William Samuel Stephenson

where he became a Sopwith Camel Flying Ace credited with shooting down 12 enemy aircraft. Shot down and captured himself, Stephenson ingeniously escaped from a German prisoner-of-war camp in October 1918. By the end of WWI, he had achieved the rank of Captain and had earned the Military Cross and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He went on to become an inventor and wealthy businessman.

During the 1920s, he enhanced a facsimile device that revolutionised the newspaper industry by enabling the wireless transmission of photographs. Stephenson diversified into more lucrative industries: radio and aircraft manufacturing, steel for auto manufacturing, construction and cement. He witnessed the aggressive build-up of arms within Germany during his business travels. The Treaty of Versailles, signed in 1919 following WWI, forbade Germany's rearmament.

BRITISH SECURITY COORDINATION

In 1940, one year since the start of World War Two, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill requested that Stephenson run a most secret MI6 endeavour - the British Security Coordination (BSC). It was to be based in New York City's Rockefeller Center and staffed by



Stephenson's contribution to the Allied victory in WWII is to be honoured by a new sculpture by renown artist Ruth Abernethy

hundreds of selected personnel and intelligence people. It also included powerful propaganda and media elements. Stephenson's initial directives included the investigation of enemy activities and the establishment of security measures against sabotage to British property. Of paramount importance, Stephenson was to use subterfuge to influence American public opinion in favour of Britain's war effort. Stephenson became the central liaison officer between the intelligence services of Britain and the United States after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

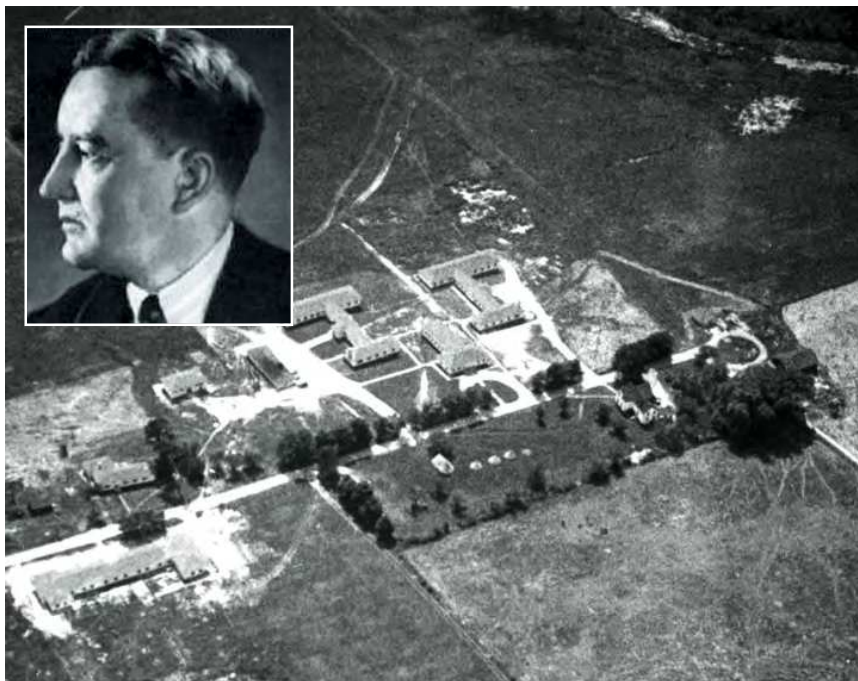
His role also included liaison between the BSC and the US Government, recruiting agents, and establishing a secret spy-training base in Whitby, Ontario on the shore of Lake Ontario. This paramilitary school trained over 500 secret agents for missions behind enemy lines.

In the words of Sir William Stephenson: "They assumed frightful risks, had no protection or privilege of uniform, carried the responsibility of countless lives in the solitary missions they accepted on trust, and often were forced to make lonely decisions that could mean merciless death to their families and countrymen. Many of these agents and resistance fighters lie in unmarked graves. Relatively few have gained recognition beyond mention in confidential archives. Most of those who survived returned to peaceful pursuits, unable



Ruth Abernethy

COURTESY: JR RIBEE



Aerial view of North America's biggest WWII agent training centre - Camp X

to receive honours or rewards. Those who are named in this narrative are but a few of the vast hidden army to whom the free world owes a debt that cannot be repaid."

CAMP X

The secret Special Training School No. 103 (STS-103), unofficially known as Camp X, started operations on 6 December 1941. It was intended to link Britain and America at a time when the United States was forbidden by

the Neutrality Act to be directly involved in WWII. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the US officially entered the war on 8 December 1941, and the importance of Camp X in intelligence work was thrust to the fore.

From 1941 to 1945, William Stephenson recruited, trained and sent secret agents from Camp X in Whitby, Ontario to London, England to be assigned to various covert missions. Many of these have been published in Eye Spy.



Lynn Philip Hodgson pictured with a listening device at Britain's codebreaking museum Bletchley Park. The intelligence author has produced numerous works on Stephenson and Camp X



Pin badge of the British Security Coordination - BSC

"Per capita, the secret war was bloodier than the Somme. The only difference was that the cries were muffled, and, in many instances, the corpses were never found," said General Colin Gubbins, Chief of the Special Operations Executive (SOE). ➤



Ruth Abernethy pictured with HM Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh



General Colin Gubbins

COURTESY: TREVOR LUSH



Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC) operators punch out secret coded messages onto paper reels for transmission to Britain's Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park

Sir William Stephenson put his stamp on intelligence and Special Operations, and his contributions are recognised throughout the world of intelligence today.

KNIGHTHOOD

King George VI knighted Stephenson in 1945. The US awarded him the Medal of Merit in 1946 for his contribution to the establishment of its own intelligence organisations, which soon evolved into the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Stephenson was one of only two non-Americans to be thus honoured. Additionally, Stephenson was honoured with the Companion of the Order of Canada (1980), the Manitoba Order of the Buffalo Hunt Chief

(1985), and a Canada Post stamp for The Millennium Collection: Media Technologies (1999).

William Stephenson's key aides from the BSC headquarters in New York's Rockefeller Center, authored a summary of Stephenson's wartime activities. Local author, historian and Eye Spy Canada Editor, Lynn Philip Hodgson donated a copy to the Whitby Public Library in September 2019.

STATUE

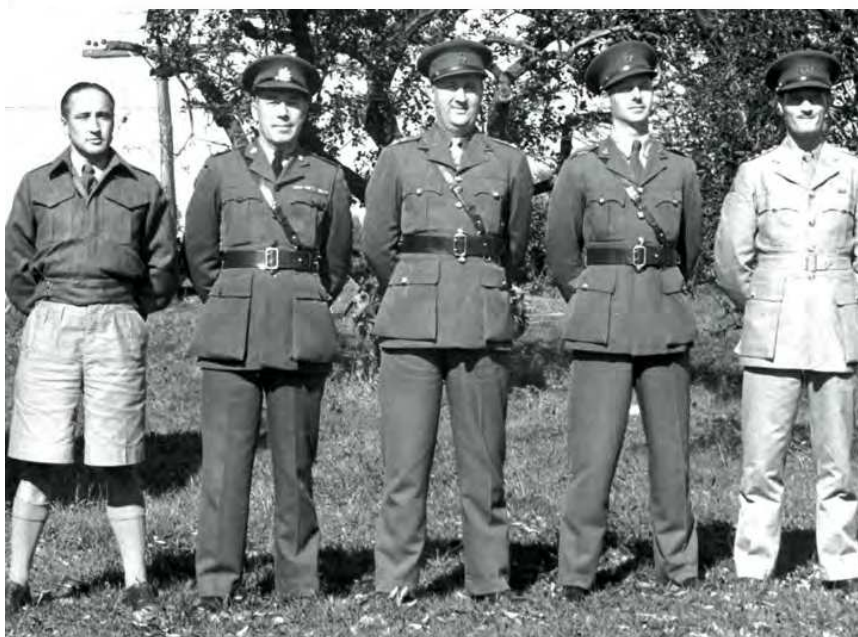
His work is to be further honoured this year. Noted artist Ruth Abernethy, will be creating a sculpture sited at Whitby's Central Library,



A Canadian instructor and CWAC operator

Celebration Square and dedicated in the Town of Whitby on 11 November 2020. The sculpture will have a bold 'X' standing eight feet tall. The X not only represents Camp X, but one arm symbolises Britain and the United States, the cross arm is Canada. The figure of Sir William Stephenson, will be leaning into the X. As a Canadian, he understood the culture of both the British and the Americans and was able to get them to work cooperatively to achieve victory. Many historians believe that without Sir William Stephenson, the Allies would not have won WWII.

The fundraising goal for this project is to raise \$200,000. The sculpture will be a contribution to Whitby's public art and reflective of Sir William Stephenson impact on history and the sacrifice that took place during the war.



1942. British and Canadian officers at Camp X



Major William Fairbairn - the great Camp X trainer of SOE and OSS operatives



Statue of Atlas,
Rockefeller
Center, NYC

To contribute to this campaign for the commissioning of this statue, donations are being received with the help of the town of Whitby into a Public Art Fund. Tax receipts will be issued for any amount of \$25.00 or more.

To donate please contact:

LINKS:

Sue Green at
sue.green@rogers.com
Elizabeth Roy
at roye@whitby.ca

Cheques/checks can be made out to:
'Town of Whitby'

Please reference the 'Sir William Stephenson Statue Project' on the cheque and mail to:

Town of Whitby, C/O Janet Battersby 575
Rossland Road East, Whitby, ON L1N 2M8
Canada.

Telephone 905-430-4300. Contributions of
over \$5000.00 will be recognised at the
location of the statue.

With the support of Sue and Bryan Green and
Councillor Elizabeth Roy.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Special thanks to Lynn Philip
Hodgson for historical content and the many
years dedicated to conserving the story of
Camp X for all Canadians and those interested
in intelligence. Eye Spy urges its readers to
support the fundraising project.



THE 'CLUELESS' MI6 STATION CHIEF

How Former MI6 Chief Fooled the KGB with Tradecraft

Recently declassified Cold War files released by the Czech Government, reveal how the former head of MI6, Sir Richard Dearlove, posted to Prague in 1973 as Station Chief, tricked the KGB into thinking he was just a "clueless diplomat."

Sir Richard, who served as 'C' from 1999 to 2004, portrayed himself as a First Secretary living a normal family life as a diplomat behind the Iron Curtain, this as suspicious Soviet counter-intelligence officers went to great lengths to surveil him.

Living with his wife, Rosalind, and two children, he gave the impression he was a young and inexperienced diplomat working at the British Embassy, rather than an highly trained intelligence officer. This was perhaps reflective and assisted by his previous work in the Civil Service.

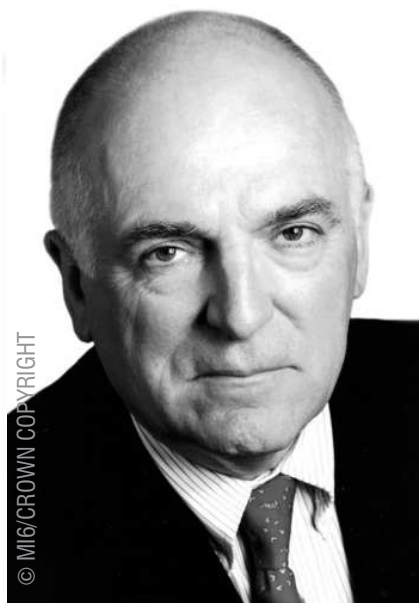
The files show a Czech spy, identified as Agent Ludek, from the country's State Security Service (StB), conducted surveillance on Dearlove and befriended him on his arrival in Prague. Another StB spy worked as a caretaker in his apartment block in order to monitor his movements, while around the city operatives posed as members of the public.

One document containing Ludek's overview of Dearlove and sent to his superiors, reflects his perception of Dearlove: *'He was an inexperienced diplomat, who is quite clueless, careful, even timid'*. He also wrote: *'He is strongly under the influence of his wife, who has several times publicly given him a telling off'*.

However, the Soviets were oblivious to his secret liaison with one of MI6's most valuable Czech assets - double agent Miloslav Kroca - codenamed 'Freed'. He was the head of the British section of the StB. Dearlove and Kroca met in secret locations in the city and surrounding forests.

TRADECRAFT

To help conceal his true role in Prague, Dearlove used tradecraft and deception. This included not being a spendthrift and ➤



Sir Richard Dearlove pictured during
his time as MI6 Chief



1970s Surveillance. Richard Dearlove pictured in a Prague restaurant with his wife Rosalind. He was a skilled operator who used tradecraft

carefully monitoring just what rubbish was thrown away at his flat. An StB file states: *'He is most frugal, he hardly drinks any alcohol and his household waste is so small as to be imperceptible'*. In respect of visitors, the surveillance logs note that visitors to his residence were few, and *'the target walked around his flat in a suit'*.

Speaking to the media of his time in then Czechoslovakia, Dearlove said: "All the information he [Ludek] gleaned was deliberately disclosed to him and to make him feel that I was a young and inexperienced



Former StB HQ, Prague

the StB realised the extent of his betrayal and the MI6 operation; and this through a bizarre incident.

Kroca's widow became ill after taking an aspirin tablet. She took the bottle of pills to a chemist for examination: he became suspicious and sent it to the authorities for further testing. It transpired it was a tablet, which when diluted made invisible ink. Thereafter the KGB realised Kroca had been a British spy.

Sir Richard Dearlove KCMG OBE joined MI6 in 1966 and departed in 2004. He now serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees University of London. In more recent times Sir Richard, 75, he has become more outspoken on security issues, including Huawei's 5G technology roll-out in Europe.



**British Embassy, Prague
Czech Republic**

Czech-speaking diplomat, rather than a highly trained Secret Intelligence Service officer."

It was only when Kroca died of a heart attack in 1976 and Dearlove returned to Britain that

SOE AGENT CODENAMED LISA WARTIME SPY HONOURED IN LONDON

Seventy five years after World War II ended, several key figures, including the most highly decorated spy of the conflict, a famous codebreaker, soldier and airman, were remembered by Great Western Railway, in train naming ceremonies during March and April in the run-up to VE Day (Victory Europe).

The first of these took place at Paddington Station, London on 6 March, attended by Princess Anne and her husband Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence. Here, Odette Hallowes, also known as Odette Churchill and codenamed 'Lisa', a London-based French national who became a Special Operations Executive (SOE) operative and spy, was honoured. She was a survivor of the notorious Ravensbruck concentration camp.



**Odette
Hallowes**



Princess Anne and her husband Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence attended the Odette ceremony



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GWR Head of Communications Dan Panes said: "Naming trains and locomotives is a long tradition of the railway and one which GWR continues, supporting and promoting the people and communities we serve. I am really pleased we are able to honour some of the heroes of the war effort, continuing to help tell their incredible stories, and especially during this year where we remember all those who gave so much."

Odette's granddaughter, Sophie Parker, said: "It means so much to our family that Odette is

being recognised and remembered in this most moving way. Odette's story is one of courage, dignity and hope; all of which were so important to her during her wartime service, and in overcoming the torture she suffered. I know Odette would be extremely humbled by this honour, and would want it seen as a tribute to all those brave women of the Special Operations Executive, especially those who never returned home.

Others having an Intercity Express Train named after them include: Alan Turing from London, who led Hut 8 at the Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park, responsible for breaking German cyphers; Harry Billinge MBE from St Austell in Cornwall, a veteran of D-Day; Wing Commander Ken Rees from Wales, Wellington Bomber pilot who was imprisoned in Stalag Luft III.

GERMAN SPIES, CODES AND CARTOONS

A fascinating archive of WWII correspondence between a resident of Nottingham, England, and intelligence and war officials in London, recently appeared on e-Bay.

The materials reflect a member of the Home Guard's obsession that comic strips appearing in newspapers such as the *Daily Mail* and *Daily Mirror*, as early as 1940, concealed secret codes and messages. He was convinced

drawings and text found in strips such as 'Just Jake' and 'Buck



Ryan', must be intended for German agents. The character

Buck Ryan was a private investigator whose antagonists also included German spies.

The concerned man eventually wrote to MI5, The Under Secretary of State and The War Office about his fears.



Private Eye Buck Ryan

At first he was not taken seriously, but eventually he began receiving replies from Box 500. This of course was the wartime address of MI5.



Qassim al-Rimi

CIA STRIKE AQAP

Heir to Al-Qaida Throne Killed by CIA-Controlled Armed UAV in Yemen

One of the world's most wanted men commanding a burgeoning al-Qaida force in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), has been killed in Yemen. Intelligence commentators state Qassim al-Rimi, 41, a member of the group for over two decades, died as a result of an air strike in late January 2020. The attack involved at least one armed, but unspecified UAV, which targeted a safe house in the Wadi Ubaidah area of Marib, central Yemen.

Following the incident, local news stations said two militants had been killed. At the time, Washington would only say "confidence was high that a dangerous terrorist was dead." One of the operatives is said to have been identified as Al-Rimi, described as a terrorist "whose pedigree can be traced to the era before the 9/11 attacks." The other was believed to have been a deputy to the current head of al-Qaida - Ayman al-Zawahiri.

The action followed months of surveillance by the CIA using local sources, and amidst warnings of a major action against US and Western targets. He had a bounty of up to \$10 million for his capture or death issued by the US Justice Department. Intelligence officials believed he was one of the likely candidates to take over leadership of the entire al-Qaida network from al-Zawahiri.

Initially based in Afghanistan, Al-Rimi returned to his native Yemen where he was arrested in 2006 for plotting to assassinate the country's US Ambassador. However, within months he escaped along with 20 other associates and helped establish al-Qaida's most powerful franchise. Thereafter he was linked to numerous terrorist operations, including one which resulted in the deaths of eight Spanish tourists in Yemen in 2007. He assumed control of the group in 2016 after AQAP leader Nasir al-Wuhayshi was killed in another USAF strike.



William Ryan Owen

A short time later, a radio broadcast attributed to Al-Rimi, taunted President Trump over a Yemen operation in which a US trooper was

killed - the first casualty under Trump's leadership. He was US Navy SEAL William Ryan Owen, who died during a raid in Yakla, Yemen. A concerted effort to trace and eliminate Al-Rimi was duly actioned.

On 6 December 2019, Al-Rimi posted claims on the Internet, that he was the controller of AQ operative Mohammed Saeed Alshamrani, who shot dead three US military personnel at the US Naval Station Pensacola, Florida (See Eye Spy 126). In an 18-minute video, Al-Rimi boasted that he organised the operation.

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and CIA Paramilitary Operation Officer (Special Activities Division - SAD), Mick Mulroy, on learning of Al-Rimi's demise, said it was a "significant moment." He added the "US never forgets."





The Northwest Airbus A330 airliner which AQAP attempted to down. The airline merged with Delta shortly after the incident, hence the Delta livery. Right: 'Underwear Bomber' Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab. His bomb failed to detonate



Former CIA Special Activities Division officer, Mick Mulroy

On 6 February 2020, Pentagon and White House officials confirmed the action and announced Al-Rimi's death. A statement read: *'Al-Rimi's death further degrades AQAP and al-Qaida. We will continue to eliminate these threats. The United States and our allies are safer as a result of his death'*. President Trump tweeted news of the CIA operation.

Memorial at Norfolk Naval Station honouring the 17 US Navy personnel killed by AQAP on the USS Cole



White House officials said the President had congratulated the military and intelligence services for removing three of the world's most menacing operatives in as many months - ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, IRGC Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani and now Qassim Al-Rimi.

A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

AQAP has long history in carrying out operations targeting the United States. Its operatives were responsible for attacking the USS *Cole* in Aden Harbour, Yemen, 12 October 2000. In January 2019, a CIA-controlled UAV killed AQAP member Jamal al-Badawi who was linked to the attack. AQAP's 'technical' arm headed by Ibrahim al-Asiri built the bomb worn by 'Underwear Bomber' Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab in 2009. In this case the

objective was to bring down an airliner (Northwest Airlines Flight 253) enroute to Detroit from Amsterdam shortly before Christmas, but the device failed to explode. A year later, al-Asiri organised bomb plots on cargo flights in the UK and UAE. Both failed and the devices were recovered. Just like A-Rimi, Al-Asiri was killed by a CIA-controlled UAV in 2018.

Since 2017, the United States has carried out over 50 airborne attacks on AQAP, killing an estimated 250 terrorists. An operation on 31 August 2019, targeting a training camp in Yemen resulted in 40 AQ deaths alone.

The Yemen tribal region of Hadramout is the ancestral home of deposed al-Qaida leader Osama bin-Laden.



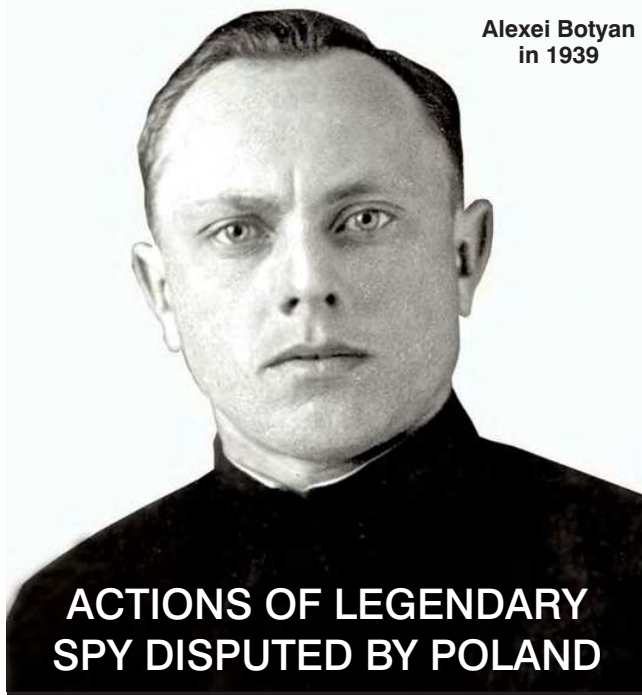
AQAP deceased - Jamal al-Badawi, Nasir al-Wuhayshi and Ibrahim al-Asiri

The USS Cole was struck by a bomb-laden fast boat



THE KGB SCOUT

HERO OF RUSSIA PASSES



Alexei Botyan
in 1939

ACTIONS OF LEGENDARY SPY DISPUTED BY POLAND

Russia has announced the passing of veteran Soviet scout* Alexei Botyan, whom it hailed as a hero for saving the Polish city of Krakow from the Nazis towards the end of World War II. Poland disputes Moscow's version of events and references another Ukrainian-born spy as the real hero. Botyan grew up in Poland and joined the Polish Army in 1939 at the outbreak of war with Germany. After the conflict, he was recruited by Soviet Intelligence and worked for the KGB and SVR until 1989.

Following his death in Moscow on 13 February 2020, three days after his 103rd birthday, President Vladimir Putin expressed condolences, saying he always admired Botyan. "He was a legendary intelligence



Alexei Botyan
served with
the KGB for
four decades



2007. Alexei Botyan receives his Hero of Russia medal from President Vladimir Putin

officer and a strong and extraordinary person," he said. "He led and took part in outstanding special operations that made an important contribution to the great victory which became an eternal part of Russia and world history."

In 2007, Putin invited Botyan to the Kremlin and awarded him the Hero of Russia medal.

HISTORICAL CONTROVERSY

According to SVR officials, and as war neared its end in January 1945, "Lieutenant Alyosha," as he was affectionately known, helped blow up a munitions depot containing explosives which the Nazis planned to use to destroy a dam and flood Krakow. The SVR said Botyan considered his role in helping save the city his greatest achievement.

The war against Germany ended four months after the Soviet Army forced the Nazis to leave Poland. And strangely, that's all Russian and Polish historians can agree upon. Poland does not regard the Soviet force as saviours, and rejects the story about the Nazi dam plot. And in respect of Alexei Botyan, he is relatively unknown in the country.

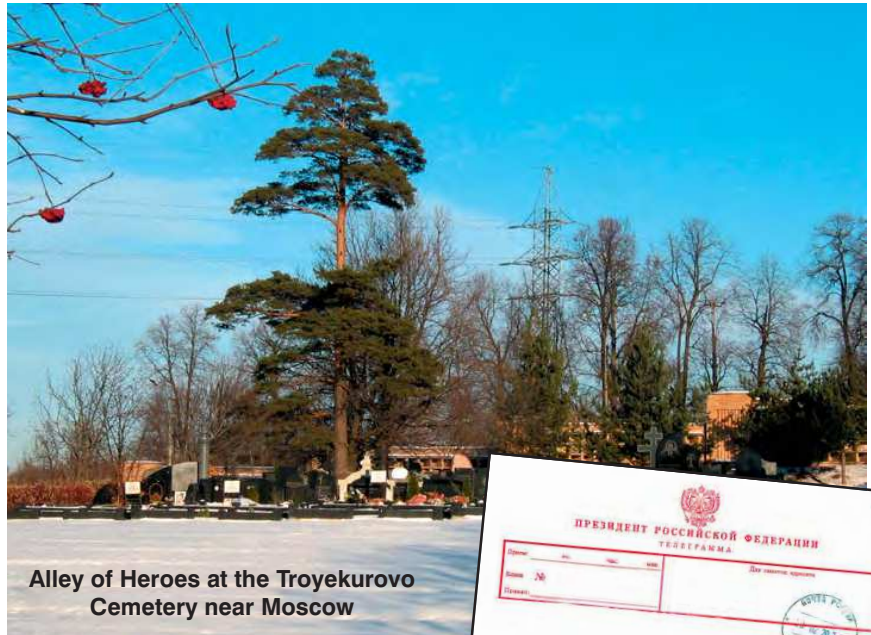
Slawomir Debski, an historian who heads the Polish Institute of International Affairs, said the story of a "gallant Soviet spy saving Krakow is an urban legend that benefits Russia's President Vladimir Putin." Debski also headed The Centre for Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding and was a member of the Polish-Russian Group for Difficult Matters.



Berlin 1940. Foreign Ministers Vyacheslav Molotov (left) and Joachim von Ribbentrop



Slawomir Debski



Alley of Heroes at the Troyekurovo Cemetery near Moscow



German and Russian troops in Poland

When Botyan was honoured in Moscow on his 100th birthday, Poland's daily newspaper *Rzeczpospolita*'s editorial carried a line supported by many historians and intelligence watchers: 'Russian version of events [only] appeared when Vladimir Putin was in power'.

Another Polish daily, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, said that in the official Russian narrative, Botyan had replaced another Soviet agent, the Ukrainian Yevgen Berezniak, who was also hailed for his role in saving Krakow.



Molotov and Ribbentrop following the signing of the Pact



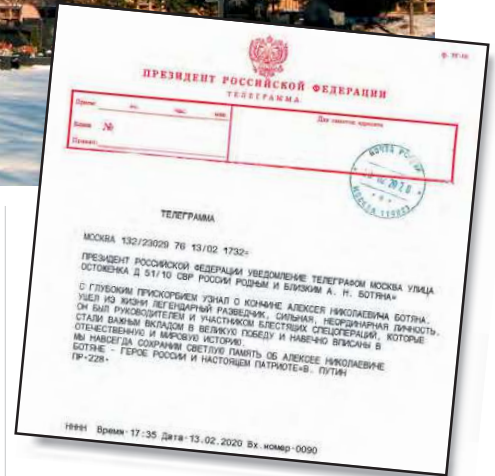
Yevgen Berezniak

MOLOTOV-RIBBENTROP PACT

In December, President Putin reminded world leaders of the sacrifices the Soviet Union had made during World War II. He controversially included Poland among the countries responsible for starting the war, and defended



Alexei Botyan



President Putin's telegram sent to Botyan's relatives expressing his sorrow

the Soviet Union's initial collusion with Nazi Germany. He failed to mention the secret Soviet-Germany Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact to invade and carve up Poland.

The Pact, officially known as the Treaty of Non-Aggression between Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, was a neutrality agreement between the countries signed in Moscow on 23 August 1939, by Foreign Ministers Joachim von Ribbentrop and Vyacheslav Molotov, respectively.

On 28 September 1939, the Soviet Union and Germany signed the German-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Demarcation, changing the secret terms of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. They moved Lithuania into the Soviet sphere of influence and shifted the border in Poland to the east, thus giving Germany more territory.

As for Alexei Botyan, he remains a Russian intelligence hero and was buried on the Alley of Heroes at the Troyekurovo Cemetery with full military honours. A film, documentaries, books and many special reports have been produced reflecting his intelligence work.

*Scout - a description afforded to agents, spies and assets by Russian Intelligence.

INTERNATIONAL INTELLIGENCE EXTRA

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF GLOBAL EVENTS

TUNISIA



On 6 March 2020, a suicide bomber riding a motorcycle detonated a bomb near the US Embassy in Tunis, killing himself and injuring five police officers. A police official said an assailant had tried to enter the embassy but was prevented by a security detail guarding the diplomatic mission in the Berges du Lac district.

US Embassy, Tunisia



Tunisia faced a rise in terrorist activity following the 2011 revolution, with attacks killing dozens of security personnel, civilians and foreign tourists. While the security situation has significantly improved since a series of deadly attacks in 2015, Tunisia has maintained a state of emergency for four years and assaults against security forces have persisted.

VENEZUELA



The Spanish Government has approved the extradition of Venezuela's former military intelligence chief Hugo Carvajal Barrios to the United States where he faces charges of drug and weapons trafficking.

"Two cases are open against Carvajal in New York and Florida over alleged ties with Colombian rebel group FARC and over alleged drug smuggling into the United States," a Spanish Government spokesperson said.



In November, Spain's High Court ruled in favour of the extradition, though Carvajal, who was free in the country, went missing at the time and his whereabouts today are unknown. Carvajal has on several previous occasions denied any wrongdoing.

CHINA



Qihoo 360 Technology, a Chinese Internet security company known for its anti-virus software, has accused the CIA of targeting the Chinese Government and several of the country's critical industries in a decade-long espionage campaign.

The claim comes just weeks after the US charged four Chinese military officers over the 2017 Equifax breach in which hackers stole personal data, including names, addresses and personal information, belonging to 147 million Americans.



Qihoo said on 3 March that between 2008 and 2019 the US may have acquired China's "most classified business information."

The company said it made the discovery by comparing the sample code it had collected to CIA hacking tools - Vault 7 - released by WikiLeaks in 2017.



Joshua Adam Shulte, a former CIA employee linked to the leak, was found not guilty of disclosing classified information.

Chinese state media house the *Global Times* wrote: 'They lay bare the US' astonishing hypocrisy in attacking China for years, while accusing China of cyber-attacks'.

Qihoo also recently claimed that South Asian hackers were using the coronavirus outbreak to target China's medical institutions "on the frontline of fighting the epidemic."

UNITED KINGDOM



English Heritage has announced two new blue plaques honouring the work and lives of World War Two Special Operations Executive (SOE) spies, Noor Inayat Khan and Christine Granville, are to be erected. Polish born Granville's (Krystyna Skarbeck) plaque will be placed on a London hotel where she lived for three years until her death in 1952. She was the longest serving female officer in the SOE.

Radio operator Khan, who worked secretly in Paris, was caught and executed in 1944 by the Nazis.



She will be honoured by a plaque on a residence in London's West End.

IRAN



Iranian advanced persistent threat (APT) groups have been known to be active throughout the world, but a recent discovery by ClearSky Cyber Security (with support from Dragos) indicates that their reach and ability may have been underestimated. ClearSky researchers uncovered a cyber espionage scheme called Fox Kitten that dates back to 2017,



which has seen Iranian hackers quietly gain a persistent foothold in both government and private sector organisations throughout the world. The scheme primarily made use of unpatched VPN vulnerabilities as a point of entrance, and appears to have largely gone undetected until now.

The Iranian cyber espionage campaign focused on organisations in Israel, but also penetrated targets in at least 10 other countries including the United States and Australia. The attackers gained footholds in IT

companies, utility providers, defence contractors, petroleum and aviation companies.

The primary purpose of the campaign was to spy and steal information over an extended period of time. However, the Iranian hackers also left attack infrastructure in place to quickly and effectively distribute damaging malware.

Cyber operations originating in Iran have increased since the CIA strike which killed Iran's Quds Force leader Qassem Soleimani.

INDIA

India's National Investigation Agency (NIA), working with investigators from the country's Naval Intelligence agency, have detained 13 people, including 11 Indian sailors on espionage charges. According to prosecutors the men were "honey-trapped by Pakistan ISI operatives on social media." After being blackmailed, the sailors allegedly then started to impart information

on social media platforms which was of national security importance. The context of the information is unclear. Prosecutors state the men were paid through a covert money transfer operator. He too was arrested.

The Indian Navy has since imposed a ban on its personnel using social media platforms such as Facebook.



National Investigation Agency headquarters in New Delhi

TURKEY



Three Turkish journalists have been arrested for reporting on the funeral of an operational Turkish intelligence officer reportedly killed in Libya. Editor Baris Pehlivan was arrested 6 March as part of a state-led probe of OdaTV's coverage of the officer's low-key 2 March burial ceremony in the Manisa province of western Turkey.

State prosecutors say Pehlivan, along with news director Baris Terkoglu and reporter Hulya Kilinc - both of whom were detained 4 March - disclosed the agent's identity in violation of national law.

Turkish Communications officials blocked OdaTV's website on 4 March. Visitors to the site were greeted by the following government disclaimer: *'After technical analysis and legal consideration based on the law nr.5651, administrative measures have been taken for this website dated 05/03/2020 of the Information and Communication Technologies'.*



Kilinc said she published the officer's first name and the initial of his last name only after an opposition lawmaker had already publicly identified the deceased agent. The trio face up to nine years in prison if found in breach of national security laws.

SWEDEN



Mystery continues to surround the death of Swedish-born Annie Borjesson, 30, who was found dead close to Glasgow



Annie Borjesson

Prestwick Airport, Scotland on 4 December 2005, just one day before she was due to fly back to Sweden.

The official cause of 'drowning by suicide' has never been believed by her family and friends. Heavily redacted documents, classified 'Secret' by Sweden's Foreign Ministry, that were part of a 12-month investigation by police, have served only to increase suspicion.

Newly secured files suggest the reason for the redaction is because 'disclosure of the information will damage Sweden's international relations or, in other ways harm national interests'. The context of this statement has never been understood.

There was no post-mortem examination and her family are appealing to Swedish authorities for the full release of all files relating to her death. The London funeral company used to transport the body back to Sweden discovered heavy bruising on Borjesson's body which did not feature in the autopsy report.

Her mother, Guje Borjesson, said she was "troubled by Sweden's decision to shroud her daughter's death in secrecy." The Scottish Crown Office has also refused to release post-mortem photographs.

In the years since her death, conspiracy theories have focused on alleged CIA rendition flights through Prestwick Airport, used to transfer prisoners between countries. Borjesson's case also featured in a recent six-part Sky News' podcast series - 'StoryCast'. This too made reference to the CIA flights.



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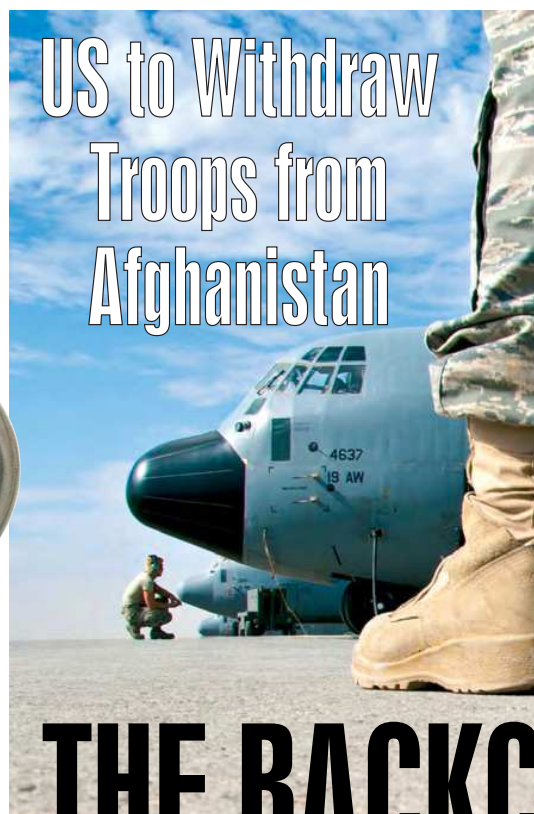
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US to Withdraw Troops from Afghanistan

THE BACKC

CIA-Engineered Peace Talks Prove Pivotal as Taliban and United States Sign Peace Agreement

The United States has signed a peace treaty with Taliban militants aimed at ending the 18-year war in Afghanistan that began a year after 9/11, as US forces moved against al-Qaida and those who organised the 2001 terrorist attacks.

For the past four years, the CIA Station in Kabul, has kept open communication backchannels with the Taliban's leadership, allowing all manner of secret discussions to take place. And this incredibly dangerous endeavour has led to the agreement signed in Doha, Qatar, on 29 February 2020. This was performed by US Special Representative Zalmay Khalilzad and head and co-founder of the militant Islamist group, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spoke cautiously to Taliban leaders, calling it "a true test" of their commitment to peace. "We will closely watch the Taliban's compliance with their commitments and calibrate the pace of our withdrawal to their actions. This is how we will ensure that Afghanistan never again serves as a base for international terrorists.



CHANNEL AGREEMENT



The Taliban have lost as many as 100,000 operatives, according to some estimates

"This agreement will mean nothing and today's good feelings will not last if we don't take concrete actions on commitments and promises that have been made," Pompeo said, directing his comments at his counterparts.

The deal could have been signed months ago, but reflective of its future fragility, was postponed following the shooting dead of a US soldier in Afghanistan.

No representative of the Afghanistan Government was present at the talks. Most of Kabul's input was via intelligence and diplomatic channels.

SCALE OF WITHDRAWAL

As part of the agreement, the US Department of Defense is drawing back a number of the approximately 13,000 troops stationed in the country, although more than 8,000 will remain to ensure certain counter-terrorism conditions

are met by the Taliban. The CIA and other intelligence groups will probably remain throughout.

Another condition of the agreement calls for the release of 5,000 Taliban members from



29 February 2020. Zalmay Khalilzad, America's Special Envoy for Afghan Reconciliation, signs the peace deal with the Taliban's political head Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar in Doha, Qatar



US troops entered Afghanistan just weeks after the al-Qaida attack on the United States on 11 September 2001

Afghan Government jails, although it was not clear if the Afghan Government will comply immediately. The US is also working for a complete ceasefire which will be discussed in Oslo.

AL-QAIDA

For eighteen months negotiators have carefully pieced together the agreement, but both sides 'injected' caveats.

A senior US official told journalists that the deal "explicitly mentions al-Qaida" and called for the Taliban to sever all its ties, effectively isolating the group. In the past decade ➤



13 September 2001. President George Bush speaks to emergency service workers at 'Ground Zero'. He was determined to bring those responsible for nearly 3,000 deaths to justice, and the invasion of Afghanistan soon followed. By 2010, the US had deployed 100,000 troops to Afghanistan. However, Bush admits he never envisaged troops would still be there nearly two decades on.

relations between the two groups have grown and the CIA recognise that the country has become something of a safe haven for many AQ franchises and senior commanders. "The Taliban will not allow any of its members, other individuals or groups, including al-Qaida, to use the soil of Afghanistan to threaten the security of the United States and its allies," said Pompeo.

Speaking of the 2,500 American service personnel killed in the fighting in Afghanistan since 9/11, and 30,000 others who suffered injuries, General Mark A. Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said: "We owe a debt of gratitude to America's sons and daughters who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan, and to the many thousands who served over the past 19 years.

"The only responsible way to end the war in Afghanistan is through a negotiated political settlement. Today is a reflection of the hard work of our nation's military, the US Department of State, intelligence professionals, and our valued partners. The United States is committed to the Afghan people, and to ensuring that Afghanistan never becomes a safe haven for terrorists to threaten our homeland and our Allies."

Around 3,500 Alliance personnel have been killed in the conflict since 2001. Taliban losses are a matter of debate, but analysts believe between 75,000-100,000 operatives have died. The Afghanistan Ministry of Defence said 65,000 military and contract personnel have perished and nearly 40,000 civilians have been killed.



General Austin Miller, US and NATO commander in Afghanistan, on the streets of Kabul as the signing of the agreement nears



US troops blow-up a suspected Taliban safe house and weapons dump

Along with members of the United Nations Security Council, the United States intends to remove members of the Taliban from its



29 February 2020. US Special Envoy for Afghan Reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad, played a pivotal role in the signing of the agreement



29 February 2020, Kabul. Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani flanked by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and US secretary of Defense Mark Esper as the agreement in Qatar was signed



UK and US Defence Secretaries Ben Wallace and Mark Esper



British and Afghan troops

The UK was the first country to support US forces militarily. Britain lost 450 service personnel in the fighting. Speaking shortly after the Taliban peace agreement was signed, British Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said: "I welcome this small, but important step towards the chance for Afghans to live in peace, free from terrorism." He also said the sacrifices made by UK troops should never be forgotten



US Secretary of Defense Mike Pompeo at the signing ceremony

sanctions list with the aim of achieving this objective by 29 May 2020. Washington will also remove the entire group from its prescribed sanctions list by 27 August 2020.

Once all factors are in place, the United States will request recognition and endorsement of



US troops and Afghan security personnel

the agreement by the UN Security Council. All NATO forces will then depart. The US is also seeking a special fund to help continue the training programmes of Afghan police and security forces.

The Taliban's chief negotiator, who headed a 31-strong team, claimed it was a "victory," but Pompeo was more guarded and warned: "I know there will be a temptation to declare victory... but victory for Afghans will only be achieved when they can live in peace and prosper."

"Victory for the United States will only be achieved when Americans and our allies no longer have to fear a terrorist threat from Afghanistan and we will do whatever it takes to protect our people."

US Defense Secretary Mark Esper and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg were in

Kabul with Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani when the agreement was signed. Ghani said: "This is a hopeful moment. The road ahead will not be easy and will require patience and compromise among all parties." He also acknowledged that he was ready to negotiate with the Taliban, telling reporters, "all the people of Afghanistan are looking forward to a permanent peace. The tragedy of 9/11 brought us together."

Stoltenberg praised the bravery of both NATO and Afghan forces and hailed the agreement which he hoped would bring "a better future for Afghans" and help maintain international security.

GONE IN 60 SECONDS?

Intelligence analysts believed the biggest threat to peace was a false flag operation or incident actioned by an external party. ➤





US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo departs Qatar following the signing of the peace deal

Neighbouring Iran has been referenced by the CIA in previous Estimates of the Situation.

However, on 3 March, just hours after the agreement was signed, attacks on over 40 border and internal checkpoints, including three army posts in Kunduz

attributed to Taliban fighters, killed at least 20 Afghanistan troops and six policemen. The incidents forced the United States to respond.

A series of retaliatory airstrikes by the USAF against Taliban strongholds in Afghanistan's

southern Helmand province, were conducted. US Forces-Afghanistan spokesman Sonny Leggett, did not immediately address the media, but tweeted: *'The US conducted an airstrike on March 4 against Taliban fighters in Nahr-e Saraj, Helmand, who were actively attacking an #ANDSF checkpoint. This was a defensive strike to disrupt the attack'.*

In a later interview he said: "We call on the Taliban to stop needless attacks and uphold their commitments. As we have demonstrated, we will defend our partners when required."

And in another worrying development, again exposing the fragility of the agreement, a Taliban commander said that despite "the victory" they would "resume



Taliban political head Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar shakes the hand of Zalmay Khalilzad, America's Special Envoy for Afghan Reconciliation. He holds a copy of the peace agreement - which remains fragile following recent events

attacks on Afghan national forces." Another Taliban leader said they were "still committed to the peace deal."

LAST WORD

THE LEVINSON MYSTERY JUDGE RULES IRAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EX-FBI'S MAN'S DISAPPEARANCE

On 10 March 2020, US judge Timothy Kelly, ruled that Tehran was responsible for kidnapping and torturing Robert Levinson, 71, a former FBI officer who went missing 13-years ago during an investigation into skimming of Iranian oil profits. The ruling clears the way for the family's \$1.5 billion claim against the regime. He was last known to be alive in 2011 because of photographs e-mailed by his captors.

"If he is alive, he would be the longest-held civilian hostage in American history," said judge Kelly. The case brought by Mr Levinson's wife and his seven children "is largely about whether it was the Iranian regime that committed these barbarous acts", he said. "The court finds, in no uncertain terms, that it was."

MISSING

SINCE 3/9/2007
FROM KISH ISLAND, IRAN

**United Nations
DELEGATES**

Please Encourage the Islamic Republic of Iran
to work with the U.S. to bring Bob home
1-800 CALL FBI
On Behalf of the Levinson Family



The damages - which will be decided at a separate hearing - are payable from a fund created of seized assets and fines levied against banks for breaching Iranian sanctions.

US courts have thus far made awards of \$46 billion to victims of Iranian-backed terrorism including the families of 241 US soldiers killed in the 1983 bombing of a US Marines' barracks in Beirut.

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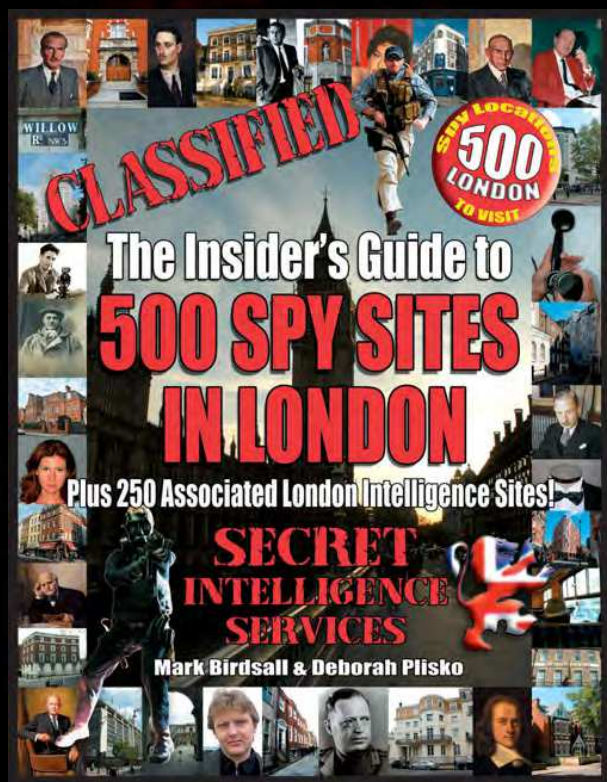
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