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INTELLIGENCE MAGAZINE

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HAND OF RUSSIAN INTEL?

CHINA'S SPY NETWORKS
THE PERFECT STORM

THE WIZARDS OF FEAR
OUTFOXING THE CIA

RICHARD MOORE
NEW CHIEF OF MI6

ALEXEI NAVALNY

Extreme Prejudice

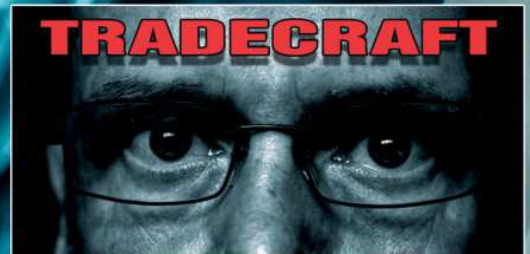
TRADECRAFT

THE LANGUAGE OF SPIES

• MOSSAD & UNIT 8200 • EDWARD SNOWDEN • COZY BEAR CYBER MENACE
• UAE-ISRAEL ACCORDS • RUSSIA INTERFERENCE • MI9 WWII OPERATIONS
• WEAPONISING SPACE • FBI COUNTER-ESPIONAGE STING • IRAN SPY GAMES



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NUMBER 129 2020



THE MI6 SPYMASTER

13



Richard Moore

UK Foreign Intelligence Service - New Chief

HOUSE OF SPIES

26



CHINA INTEL FOCUS

WIZARDS OF FEAR

56



The secret Kremlin intel programme targeting US troops in Afghanistan

THE INSPECTOR

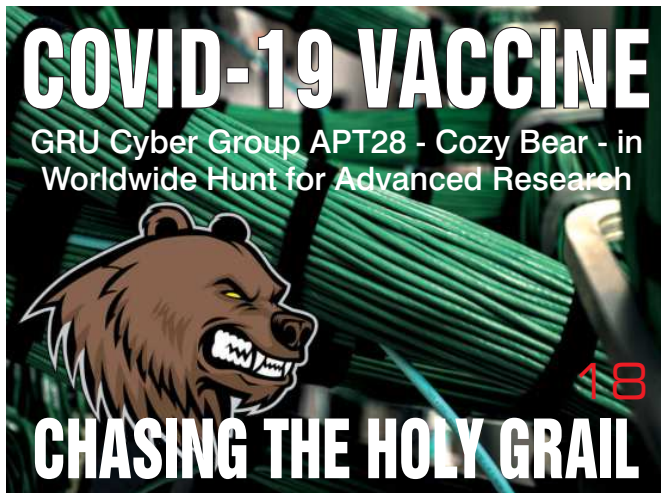
71



More rogue Russian satellite activity monitored by West

COVID-19 VACCINE

GRU Cyber Group APT28 - Cozy Bear - in Worldwide Hunt for Advanced Research



18

CHASING THE HOLY GRAIL

EXTREME PREJUDICE

48



New Novichok Sanction
Intelligence hands behind attempted assassination of Kremlin critic Navalny

52

A-Z

THE LANGUAGE OF SPIES



EDWARD SNOWDEN

White House Opens Gateway to America for NSA Leaks Man



31

EYE SPY 129



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MAJOR CONTENT GUIDE

- 4 THE CIA OFFICER AND HARRY DUNN**
UK and US establish new agreement in wake of accident which killed civilian Harry Dunn and CIA officer's claim of immunity
- 6 JULIAN ASSANGE**
The extradition hearing of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange begins in London as "suicide fears" referenced
- 10 CHARLIE HEBDO**
Fourteen people accused of involvement in the 2015 Charlie Hebdo newspaper attack go on trial in Paris
- 12 VIENNA SPY GAMES**
Austria has accused Turkey's intelligence agency MiT of running a network of spies in the country
- 13 MI6 APPOINTS NEW 'C'**
Britain's foreign intelligence service has appointed experienced Richard Moore as new 'C', dashing hopes of first female Chief
- 16 CODENAME MADELEINE**
A blue plaque honouring the WWII work of SOE operative Indian Muslim Noor Inayat Khan is erected in London
- 22 BRENTON TARRANT**
Right-wing terrorist Brenton Tarrant who killed over 50 people in Christchurch is jailed for life with no possibility of parole
- 24 THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS**
The United Arab Emirates, Israel and Bahrain sign historic agreement as embassies and ambassadors to be assigned
- 28 THE CORE**
British Intelligence advice leads to U-turn by Government over use of Huawei technology in country's 5-G network
- 36 MOSSAD AND UNIT 8200**
Israeli intelligence accused of engaging in new operations in Iran as tensions rise in the Gulf
- 44 THE RUSSIAN REPORT**
An intelligence report is released on Russian influence and propaganda operations in Britain
- 48 EXTREME PREJUDICE**
Russia's GRU accused of attempting to kill Putin opponent Alexei Navalny in new Novichok attack
- 56 THE WIZARDS OF FEAR**
The CIA investigate claims Russia and Iran have been paying rogue Taliban groups to kill US servicemen in Afghanistan
- 67 FBI STING OPERATION**
Undercover FBI agents trap former CIA officer who was supplying China with key intelligence
- 68 SIDELINED**
Denmark has suspended its spy chief Lars Findsen and two other officers for unauthorised surveillance
- 69 CHINA ARRESTS KEY MEDIA MAN**
Police in Hong Kong have arrested the territory's main media opponent to tough new security laws - Jimmy Lai

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"Russia poses the greatest military and geopolitical threat to European security. China is increasingly authoritarian and assertive. It poses the greatest threat to world order..."



Lt. General Hockenhull, UK Chief of Defence Intelligence

CHINA AND RUSSIA: ESPIONAGE, INFLUENCE & PROPAGANDA



Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause major disruption, distress and sorrow around the world, the great game of espionage is still being played. Intelligence is a 24-hour-a-day highly specialised field that for a multitude of reasons will always remain active, though here too agencies have had to alter work practices and put a hold on planned operations - though not all. Alternatively, the coronavirus has opened new opportunities for some rogue agencies, spies, and sadly terrorists.

Eye Spy examines the burgeoning activities of the world's biggest spy network controlled by China's Ministry of State Security. From the United States to Australia, countries have been impacted by operations launched by China, this as Beijing seeks to expand its global prowess. From stealing technology to influencing political players, the MSS is rarely out of the news. In recent months, its military activities in the South China Seas has led the CIA to submit reports that conflict is now a real possibility.

Not far behind China is Russia. Its recent spy operations resulted in numerous expulsions of 'diplomats' from Europe and elsewhere. And sadly, one agency, according to highly placed intelligence sources, has again engaged in an incident involving the deadly Novichok nerve agent. Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny was the target in this case, but by good fortune and expert medical treatment in Berlin, he survived.

Staying in Russia, there are rumours circulating aplenty that the White House is seeking to open a gateway for the return of whistleblowing NSA contractor Edward Snowden, who resides in Moscow. President Trump has said that Snowden's actions are not as bad as those of some former senior intelligence officials. Interesting months lie ahead.

In other intel theatres, the Abraham Accords signed by the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Israel to normalise relations in the Middle East has been hailed as a "game changer." So too the nearing peace agreement between the Taliban and Afghan Government.

MARK BIRDSALL, MANAGING EDITOR



6



16



22



35

HEADLINERS



48



68



69



72

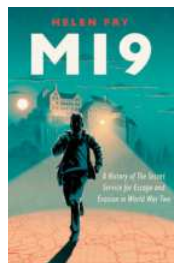
- 6 Julian Assange •16 Noor Inayat Khan •22 Brenton Tarrant
- 35 Peter Dzubinski •48 Alexei Navalny •68 Lars Findsen
- 69 Jimmy Lai •72 Sergei Surovikin

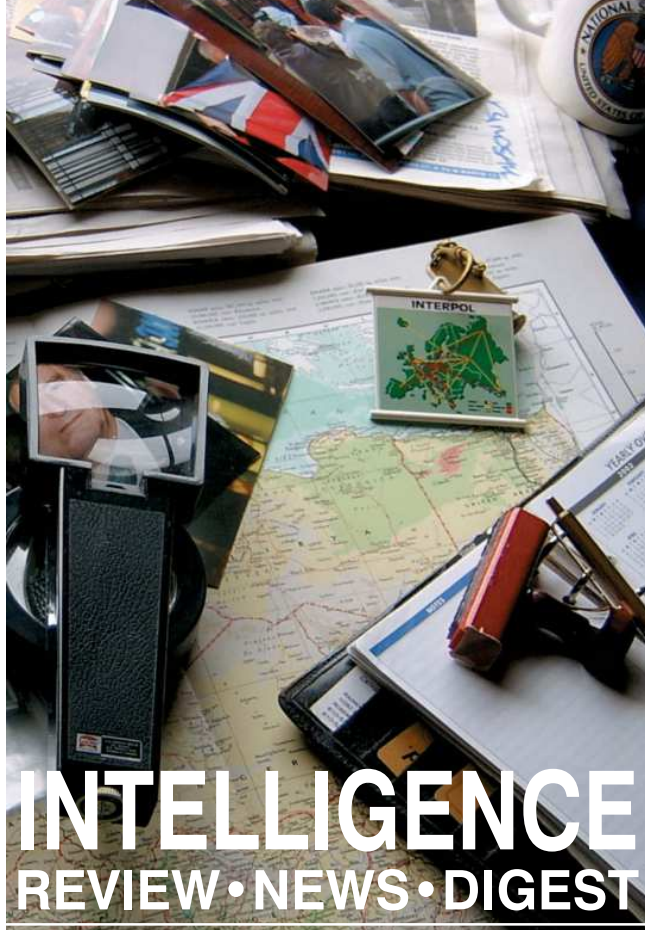
INTELLIGENCE CHOICE A MAJOR PLAYER IN WWII ESPIONAGE

Historian Helen Fry presents an engaging and indepth new overview of the work of WWII British intelligence agency - MI9. This extremely important organisation assisted the escape of many prisoners of war, but unbeknown to most, it also played a key role in intelligence collection, distribution and espionage, which has rarely been recognised... until now.

A truly fresh appraisal using previously classified files and information sourced from many key people and organisations.

•73 MI9 ESCAPE AND EVASION





INTELLIGENCE REVIEW • NEWS • DIGEST

AMAZON AND NSA

EX-NSA DIRECTOR APPOINTED BY INTERNET GIANT

Amazon has appointed former National Security Agency Director Keith Alexander to its board of directors. Alexander will serve on the company's Audit Committee, the web-based retail giant said in a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.



Keith Alexander

Alexander was at the helm of the Agency when NSA contractor Edward Snowden leaked thousands of secret documents in June 2013. These revealed numerous intelligence programmes and how data is collected from around the world.

Snowden tweeted about Amazon's announcement, claiming Alexander was 'personally responsible for the unlawful mass surveillance programmes that caused a global scandal'.

Alexander, a retired four-star US Army general, served as NSA Director from 2005 until his retirement in 2014. A few months later he moved into private cybersecurity and became President and co-CEO of IronNet Cybersecurity.

As for Snowden, rumours continue to circulate that President Trump is considering granting him a pardon. See page 31 - *Edward Snowden - Gateway to USA?*

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

UK AND USA AGREE TO END 'EXTENDED' IMMUNITY

Anne Sacoolas, the CIA officer who killed UK civilian Harry Dunn, 19, by dangerous driving last August, could still face trial. Sacoolas returned to the United States a few weeks after the incident claiming diplomatic immunity. She has rejected previous calls to appear before a UK court in person, but Attorney General Suella Braverman is considering trying her in absentia. The move was revealed by Justice Secretary Robert Buckland, who said senior law makers are discussing the option.

Sacoolas's husband (also an intelligence officer) worked at a USAF listening station at RAF Croughton in Northamptonshire, and held a diplomatic post, thus at the time was allowed to extend his immunity to his spouse. This agreement was considered "secret," according to some sources. However, on 10 September 2020, Dunn's parents,

Charlotte and Timothy, were told by the Director of Public Prosecutions that Anne Sacoolas "did not have diplomatic immunity," and that the suspect should not have been allowed to leave the country.

In December 2019, Sacoolas was charged by British Police, but an

extradition order submitted by the Home Office was rejected by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

In July, a change of law to end anomalies involving diplomatic immunity came after UK Premier Boris Johnson and Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab met with



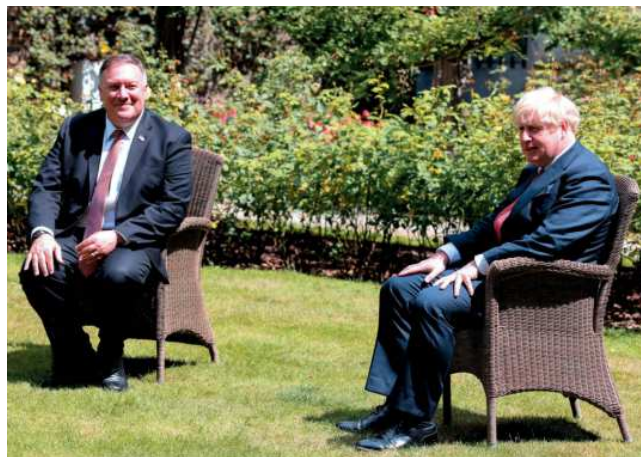
Harry Dunn

Pompeo in London. Raab welcomed the decision: "This has closed the anomaly that led to the denial of justice in the heartbreaking case of Harry Dunn."

A US State Department spokesman said the change, "reflects our especially close relationship with the UK." Interestingly, the law change is not retrospective.

A legal official told Eye Spy that if the incident involving Harry Dunn happened today, the accused would be liable to arrest by police.

The Dunn's actually met with President Trump at the White House last October. However, they declined his offer to meet with Anne Sacoolas on US soil.



21 July 2020. UK Prime Minister and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in the gardens of Downing Street. The case of Harry Dunn and a law change to immunity was discussed and agreed upon

9/11 MASTERMIND

Proceedings Open to Media Eyes and Ears

Preparations are underway for the Military Commission pre-trial proceedings at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay (NSGB), for the 'United States v Khalid Shaikh Mohammad'.

The long-awaited pre-trial hearings, which were referenced a decade ago, will hear various arguments from prosecutors and KSM's legal team. Crucial

commentary made by Director CIA, Gina Haspel, two years ago will probably be re-referenced. In this case, one KSM solicitor argued that the case should be dismissed because of "unlawful influence" by Haspel.

This refers to her sworn testimony before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, when the D/CIA argued that KSM was the architect and mastermind of 9/11,



Khalid Shaikh Mohammad

and that he financed the 1993 bomb attack on the World Trade Center. She also stated her belief that he was the planner of the infamous Bojinka plot in the Philippines and that he personally killed *The Wall Street Journal* journalist Daniel Pearl.

In August 2018, KSM's solicitor Roti Radostitz, said her client was "entitled to the presumption of innocence." The defence argued that even if one member of the panel has been affected by Haspel's comments, then it would constitute unlawful influence in violation of the statute and the

rule. Radostitz also spoke of the 'tweets' made by President Trump, which showed support for Haspel's testimony to the Senate.

At the time, prosecutors argued that Haspel simply repeated comments made by Mohammad himself to a Combatant Status Review Tribunal.

Haspel is on record saying she was "proud of the fact", that her Agency had "identified and captured KSM."



Director CIA, Gina Haspel, testifies before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence



Joint Task Force Guantanamo Commissions Buildings

THE SPY HANDLER

VIENNA MOVES TO EJECT FSB OFFICER

Austria has expelled a Russian diplomat, who officials said has been engaged in economic espionage for over a decade. In a statement issued by the country's Foreign Ministry, a spokesperson said, "his behaviour had violated

diplomatic relations and was not in accordance to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations."

According to intelligence sources, the diplomat, described in the media as an "agent handler," had worked with an Austrian national at a "high-tech enterprise for years." The Austrian later admitted that the Russian was his "curator."

The Russian Embassy in Vienna soon released a statement condemning the move and warned retaliatory action would follow. "We are outraged by the decision which is detrimental to constructive relations."

Hours later, Moscow said it had declared an Austrian diplomat "persona non grata" after summoning Austria's Ambassa-

dor to Russia Johannes Aigner to convey the news. Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov acknowledged the move was based on the "traditional tit-for-tat principle."

The expulsions further damages the security relationship between the countries. In June, a 71-year-old former Austrian Army colonel was jailed after being convicted of

espionage on behalf of Moscow. A security officer said the man, who was not named, "deliberately disclosed military secrets to a Russian agent." This related to weapons systems and Austria's land, sea and air force structure. It later transpired that he had participated in espionage on behalf of Russia for 25-years and received a little over \$300,000 for his service.



Johannes Aigner

CIA OBSERVATIONAL TRADECRAFT

LANGLEY, VIRGINIA: The CIA posted a challenge game to their Twitter account for readers to spot the differences in two photos of a city centre scene. The CIA asked aspiring spies to find 10 changes. Alongside the images a caption read: 'Put your observation skills to the test'. However, eagle-eyed users actually found 12 and quickly seized upon the opportunity to respond that the public had beaten Langley at their own game. One follower tweeted: 'Hey CIA... we got more than 10 differences'. Another told the Agency how easy the challenge was and went on to list 11 differences, while a third disclosed that he was able to crack the puzzle in less than a minute.

A day after the upload, the CIA tweeted: 'If you found more than 10 differences, you practiced good tradecraft. Always look for opportunities to learn more'. And of course, the image changes were shared.

LONE WOLF TERRORIST ATTACK

Former MI5 'Subject of Interest' Kills Three in Southern England

On June 20, a Libyan refugee living in the UK killed three civilians in Forbury Gardens, a park in Reading, southern England, and injured several others during a frenzied knife attack. Khairi Saadallah, 25, who had fled North Africa in 2012 for "fear of Islamists," attacked several groups of people who were enjoying the warm evening weather and a little socialising following some lifting of restrictions imposed amidst the outbreak of COVID-19.

Saadallah had recently been released from prison for non-terrorist related offences.

UK nationals James Furlong, 36, a history teacher, and his friend Joe Ritchie Bennett, 39, an American pharmaceutical worker who had lived in UK for 15-years, died at the scene. Another victim, scientist David Wails, passed shortly after. Saadallah was arrested moments later by police and his apartment raided by counter-terrorism police. Within hours, New Scotland Yard Assistant Police Commissioner Neil Basu, head of counter-terrorism, said the incident was being treated as a terrorist attack. Basu said: "From our inquiries undertaken so far, we have found nothing to suggest there was anyone else involved in this attack and we are presently not looking for anyone else in relation to the incident."

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he was "appalled and sickened that people should lose their lives in this way."

MI5 SURVEILLANCE

In respect of a possible allegiance to any specific group, few details have been released, but Eye Spy learned MI5 had monitored the terrorist after the organisation secured intelligence he had researched travelling to conflict areas in the Middle East. No authentic lead was uncovered and monitoring lessened. Some sources believe Saadallah was motivated by ISIS to engage in a lone wolf attack, others state the case could involve "mental health issues."

The incident is the third terrorist act in the UK, since Downing Street lowered the country's official threat level from Severe to Substantial in November 2019. Two of the incidents resulted in fatalities.



UK Security Minister James Brokenshire

however, he accepted that some counter-terrorism policies may be reviewed in future

Faced with questions that the attack was "possibly preventable," UK Security Minister James Brokenshire said: "In any given week there may be hundreds of leads,"



Khairi Saadallah

days. "We are looking at all the facts and circumstances of this case and if there are lessons that need to be learned and things that need to be changed."

Mr Brokenshire said that the security services had foiled 25 authentic terrorist plots in the last three years.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL PLOT

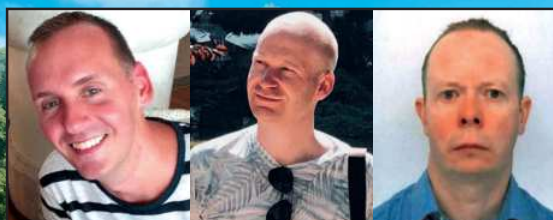
Meanwhile, in an ongoing terrorist court case, unrepentant would-be suicide bomber Safiyya Amira Shaikh, 37, reiterated in court, that she wanted to "kill as many people as possible," in a 2020 Easter attack on visitors to London's famous St Paul's Cathedral.

The ex-company director had engaged in an attempt to source explosive devices from contacts who she believed were ISIS. Unbeknown to her, they were undercover intelligence and security officers from MI5 and New Scotland Yard.



Safiyya Amira Shaikh

Shaikh, who MI5 said became radicalised in 2015, has already admitted preparing acts of terrorism and disseminating various ISIS booklets. (See Eye Spy 127).



Joe Ritchie Bennett, James Furlong and David Wails



Police cordon off roads leading to Forbury Gardens

MANCHESTER ARENA BOMBING

The Public Inquiry into the May 2017 Manchester Arena bombing, which resulted in 22 deaths has opened. Evidence is being heard on a wide range of subjects to consider if more could have been done to prevent the attack, and lessons learned that may prevent future incidents of this nature. The seemingly slow response to the attack is also being examined.



Salman Abedi enroute to the arena

Much focus is on intelligence, though officials acknowledge that some sensitive MI5 and MI6 materials are being edited or heard behind closed doors.

Salman Abedi, with help from his brother Hashem, who was jailed for at least 55-years in August, detonated a home-made bomb at the arena as an Ariana Grande concert neared its end. New CCTV footage showed him struggling to carry the heavy rucksack bomb to the event.

The inquiry has heard a plethora of information on his activities prior to the attack. He became an MI5 'Subject of Interest' in 2010, and Paul Greaney QC (Queen's Council), said that cell phone records seized a few months before the atrocity showed he had been in "regular contact" with known terrorist organiser Abdalraouf Abdallah who was jailed in 2016. Greaney said MI5 had received intelligence on Abedi on two occasions, "the significance of which was not fully appreciated at the time."

- Some 40,000 people are on various watch lists with an estimated 3,000 under active surveillance or more intense scrutiny by MI5 and other security and intelligence bodies.



Salman and Hashem Abedi

ASSANGE EXTRADITION HEARING

END GAME OR FREEDOM FOR WIKILEAKS FOUNDER?

Julian Assange, 49, returned to court on 7 September for a hearing to decide whether he should be extradited to the United States for leaking hundreds of thousands of secret and classified US files.

Earlier, Assange's partner Stella Moris, a South African-born solicitor, attempted to deliver an 80,000-strong signed petition opposing his extradition, to 10 Downing Street. Security guards at the gates told Moris, who was flanked by members of Reporters Without Borders, they could not accept the material because of current COVID-19 health and safety regulations in place.

As the hearing progressed at London's Central Criminal Court, Assange continually commented on the evidence being presented. He was told during the hearing that it would proceed without him if he continued to speak from the dock and interrupt witnesses. "You will hear things, no doubt many things, you disagree with during these proceedings," District Judge Vanessa Baraitser told him. "If you interrupt proceedings again it is open to me to proceed in your absence."

But following another outburst, this time as defence witness Clive Stafford Smith was giving evidence, Baraitser did adjourn the hearing temporarily.

SUICIDE CONCERNS

In an interview published in *The London Times*, Moris, 37, feared Assange would take his own life, and that of their two young sons, who were conceived during his seven-year-long asylum stint at the Embassy of Ecuador in London. "They would grow up without a father," she said.



Assange faces 18 charges, 17 of which fall under the US Espionage Act for the release of 500,000 secret files in 2010, many detailing the US military campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq. The CIA and Pentagon also believe he conspired with US Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to secure intelligence documents before recklessly exposing confidential sources around the world.

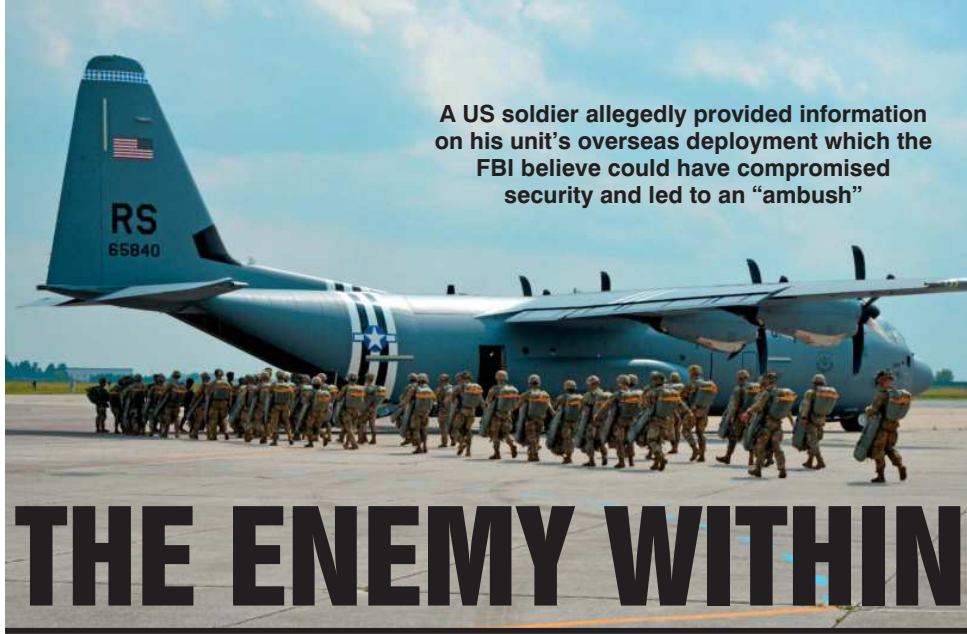
If extradited and convicted in a US court, Assange could be jailed for up to 175 years.

- On 10 September the hearing was temporarily halted amid fears a prosecutor was exposed to COVID-19. The case resumed after a video link was installed.



Stella Moris (centre) at 10 Downing Street. Members of Reporters Without Borders hold the petition signed by 80,000 people

Video still © DAILY TELEGRAPH



A US soldier allegedly provided information on his unit's overseas deployment which the FBI believe could have compromised security and led to an "ambush"

THE ENEMY WITHIN

US Trooper Charged with Terrorism Offences

A US trooper has been charged with alleged terrorism offences, after a security probe revealed he had submitted sensitive information about his unit to an occult-neo-Nazi outfit called the Order of the Nine Angels (O9A) and other jihadist groups.

Ethan Meizer, 22, was arrested in June by officers of the FBI's New York Joint Terrorism Task Force, for "conspiring and attempting to murder US nationals and military service personnel and attempting to provide material support to terrorists in a foreign country."

US Acting Attorney Audrey Strauss said: "Meizer allegedly attempted to orchestrate a murderous ambush on his own unit by unlawfully revealing its location, strength and armaments to a neo-Nazi anarchist white supremacist group." Other charges include passing information about his unit to an al-Qaida liaison. She called Meizer "the enemy within."

Meizer joined the army in 2018 and within a year was a member of O9A. By early 2020, the FBI learned he had used an encrypted device to send messages to the O9A, shortly after his unit was



Symbol of Order of the Nine Angels

informed of plans to redeploy to Turkey. This included information which would have facilitated a potential ambush on the troops. A court record also states: 'The FBI seized from an iCloud account



maintained by Meizer an ISIS document with a title that included 'Harvest of the Soldiers and described attacks and murders of US personnel in approximately April 2020'.

The Order of the Nine Angels have in the past expressed support for all manner of infamous people and terrorist groups, including Adolf Hitler and Osama bin-Laden.

FBI Assistant Director William F. Sweeney Jr. said: "Meizer declared himself to be a traitor of the United States and described his own conduct as tantamount to treason... we agree. He turned his back on his unit and now faces a lifetime of service behind bars - which is appropriate given the severity of the conduct we allege." His hatred of the United States and his disregard to his colleagues was reflected in the fact that, "he disclosed sensitive information to multiple extremists," Sweeney added.



A photo secured by the FBI from Meizer's collection. Note the book - Order of the Nine Angels amongst other materials of interest

THE BEIRUT BLAST

ONE OF THE LARGEST EXPLOSIONS EVER RECORDED KILLS OVER 200

Lebanese authorities said that the huge Beirut explosion on 4 August, which killed at least 220 people, and injured 5,000 others, was caused by the detonation of 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate. The chemical compound is commonly used as an agricultural fertiliser, and had been stored for six years at a port warehouse, after being moved from an abandoned container ship the MV *Rhosus*. Reports suggest it was probably a nearby fire that spread into storage areas.

The blast is one of the largest accidental ammonium nitrate

explosions ever recorded - so powerful that it was heard more than 140 miles away in Cyprus.

The resultant devastation, which has left an estimated 300,000 people



DIPLOMATIC COVER

RUSSIAN SPY REMOVED FOLLOWING ALLEGED AGENT CONTACT

Norway's Foreign Ministry said a Russian diplomat has been expelled from the country on suspicion of espionage. The official worked in the trade section of the Oslo embassy and was reportedly in contact with a Norwegian national arrested just days earlier and charged with espionage.

Siri Svendsen, Communication Advisor for the ministry said: "We have informed the Russian Ambassador that one of his colleagues is unwanted in Norway and has been asked to leave the country. This is because the person in question has performed



Siri Svendsen

actions that are not compatible with his role as a diplomat."

The decision followed a meeting between the official, described as an intelligence officer by Norway's

National Police Security Service (PST) solicitor Line Nyvoll Nygaard, and a man at an Oslo restaurant. The Russian was in fact Assistant Trade Attache Aleksandr Stekolsjivok. A court official said: "Reference is made to the hidden meeting activities over time, the way they have communicated, and to the fact that he has received not insignificant amounts of cash in return." PST said the liaison "could harm vital national interests."

The Norwegian was later identified by broadcaster NRK as Harsharn Singh Tathgar, 50. Born in India, he works for DNV GL, the largest technical consultancy to the global renewable energy, oil and gas industries. DNV GL said the accused had been employed in the classification section (for ships) for a number of years working in the "defence sectors, primarily within materials technology." At the time of his arrest he was leading a joint industry project on 3D printing.

A Russian Embassy spokesperson said their official was "unjustly detained" and that the



PST Director Hans Sverre Sjøvold

action was a "violation" of his diplomatic status. "He was searched and not allowed to contact the embassy or to summon representatives from the consular department." An official protest was filed. PST said he was not arrested.

Tathgar has denied endangering national security, but reportedly acknowledged he did receive money. If convicted he faces up to 15-years in prison..

Russia responded by declaring Jan Flaete, a diplomat at the Embassy of Norway in Moscow, "persona non-grata," and he was expelled.

The new spy case follows the return of Frode Berg, a Norwegian national who was sentenced to 14-years in prison in Russia, and exchanged in November 2019.



Embassy of Russia, Oslo



homeless, sparked violent protests across the country and the already



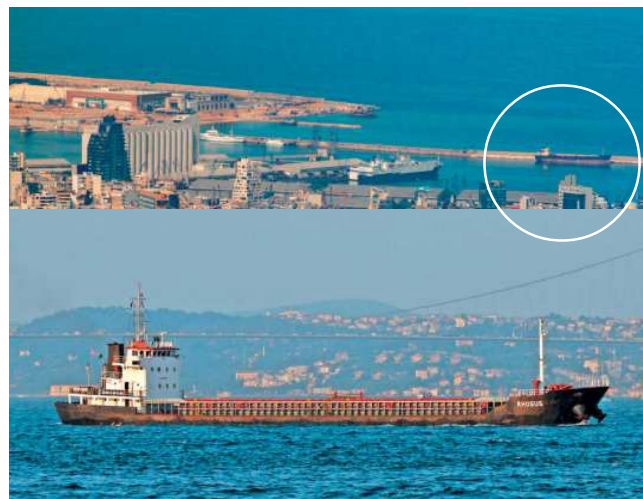
Prime Minister Hassan Diab

fragile Government, led by Prime Minister Hassan Diab, stepped down. Lebanon is suffering its worst economic crisis in decades, coupled with rising COVID-19 rates, the government has been plagued by accusations of corruption and gross mis-management.

The FBI despatched several investigators at the request of Lebanese authorities, who alongside other international experts probed the August blast. The Bureau's exact findings have yet to be released.

On 3 September, a specialist Lebanese military unit discovered more than four tons of ammonium

nitrate near Beirut's port - a chilling reminder of the horrific explosion in August.



The MV Rhosus. Top. The abandoned vessel (circled) pictured in the Port of Beirut in 2017

CHARLIE HEBDO



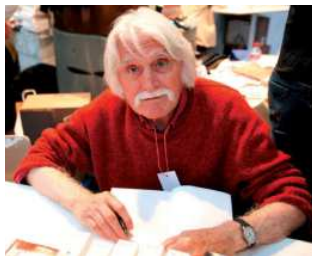
'LOGISTICS MEN, FINANCIERS AND RUNNERS' GO ON TRIAL IN PARIS

Fourteen people have gone on trial in Paris charged with terrorism offences over the satirical *Charlie Hebdo* magazine attacks in Paris in January 2015. Twelve people were killed at the media house and five others at a kosher supermarket in the city. The primary assailants, brothers Cherif and Said Kouachi and Amedy Coulibaly are dead, but the security services sought and arrested other suspects who are accused of assisting the terrorists.

Three terror-filled days began when Cherif and Kouachi entered the premises of the weekly newspaper shooting dead a security guard. Within minutes they had killed 10 journalists and a police officer before escaping in a vehicle. Whilst police searched for the attackers, another attack began. Coulibaly killed a police officer and took several people hostage inside a Hyper Cacher Jewish supermarket; four of whom he duly murdered. All the terrorists, who had pledged allegiance to al-Qaida, were killed by police marksman

Such is the interest in France, the trial, which began on 2 September, is the first-ever terror trial to be filmed. Current laws mean it is illegal to video legal hearings. The offence carries a fine of \$21,000.

Of the fourteen defendants, eleven appeared in court; three others



Francois Cavanna - creator of Charlie Hebdo - he died a year before the attack

who are believed to have fled to Syria and Iraq to join ISIS, will be tried in absentia. French investigators believe two of the suspects perished when Coalition war planes bombed ISIS positions. Nevertheless, the three remain the subject of international arrest warrants.

One prime suspect, dubbed 'the driver', who was jailed after



Cherif and Said Kouachi, Amedy Coulibaly

attempting to reach Syria is Ali Riza Polat, a 35-year-old Franco-Turkish man. He is charged with complicity in a terrorist act. In court he cried out: "I am innocent! I'm here because certain people, lying squealers, said all sorts of nonsense, but they're lying."

The 2015 attack took place after *Charlie Hebdo* published controversial cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed. This was criticised by many Muslims around the world. Now the media house chose to republish the cartoons just one day before the trial began. French President Emmanuel Macron defended the decision on grounds of free

speech, but publication again led to widespread protests across the world.

Some 200 witnesses are expected to give evidence against the 14 suspects. Dismissing suggestions they represented just "little helpers," Anti-Terror Prosecutor Jean-François Ricard said: "It is about individuals who are involved in the logistics, the preparation of the events, who provided means of financing, operational material, weapons [and] a residence. All this is essential to the terrorist action."

The trial is expected to last several months.



The incident led to the deployment of thousands of troops on the streets of Paris and other cities



Counter-Terrorist officers and journalists alike descended on the offices of Charlie Hebdo following the deadly attack

THE ROOMS WHERE IT HAPPENED

Spate of Books Critical of President Trump



Happier times... former National Security Advisor John Bolton and President Trump

All manner of debate, anger and controversy has ensued following publication of former US National Security Advisor John Bolton's new book - *The Room Where it Happened* (Simon & Schuster). The White House had tried to have the book banned, but a federal judge, Royce Lamberth, declined to block publication. However, he said Bolton had failed to complete a proper national security review and it was "likely to contain classified materials." He added Bolton had "gambled with national security" leaving himself open to potential liability."

President Trump supported the judge and tweeted: '*Bolton must pay a very big price for this, as others have before him. He likes dropping bombs on people and killing them. Now he will have bombs dropped on him*'.

Bolton served as National Security Advisor from April 2018 to November 2019, following Trump's move to tighten his grip over the US Intelligence Community.

Many have compared the ongoing controversy case to the famous publication of the



Daniel Ellsberg

'*Pentagon Papers*'. They were leaked by whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg and contained highly controversial material on US activities during the Vietnam War. And just like

Trump in the Bolton saga, then President Nixon failed to halt publication.

Carl Tobias, a law professor at the University of Richmond, told the *Guardian* newspaper, "the government could criminally prosecute Bolton for violating the non-disclosure agreement and jeopardising national security."

A representative of Simon & Schuster said judge Lamberth's decision, "vindicated the strong First Amendment protections against censorship and prior restraint of publication." However, on 15 September the Department of Justice confirmed it has now launched an official criminal case.

Hundreds of thousands of copies have been published worldwide and its content has created much interest in the intelligence world for insight into an array of relevant subjects:

from internal White House-intelligence feuds, to the materials uncovered during the daring Mossad raid on a warehouse in Tehran which housed so many secrets about Iran's nuclear ambitions and prowess.

In respect of the Mossad operation, Bolton writes: '*Like any product of mining, uranium is processed mechanically and chemically in advance of actually being put to use before it can be enriched. Of course, Israel knows for certain what form the uranium is in since it has stolen documents, as does the IAEA, which has collected samples, but the likelihood is that the uranium at Turqzabad was yellowcake*'.

Of related interest, a book written by President Trump's niece, Mary L. Trump, a criminal psychologist sold 950,000 in all formats in just one day. The title is suggestive in its own right - *Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man*.



Michael Cohen

Other books critical of Trump are also appearing in greater numbers. Former *Washington Post* icon Bob Woodward's *Rage* is now a best-seller, and his former personal solicitor and Vice President of the Trump Organisation Michael Cohen's work *Disloyal*, debuted at number one on the Amazon best-seller list on the day of its release in August.



2018. John Bolton with Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. It is believed the men discussed many aspects of the Mossad operation in Iran which resulted in a great deal of information being secured on Tehran's nuclear ambitions

VIENNA SPY GAMES

Austria Accuses Turkey of Games of Espionage and Influence

Charges set to be filed as operative confesses to spying for Turkey's National Intelligence Organisation (MiT)



Franz Ruf Director General for Public Safety, Interior Minister Karl Nehammer and Integration Minister Susanne Raab, discuss recent activities by Turkey in Austria

Austria's domestic intelligence agency - BVT (Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Counterterrorism) are also investigating further incidents of suspected espionage, said Interior Minister Karl Nehammer. In a press conference he warned Turkey that such activities would not be tolerated. "This is about an exertion of influence by a foreign power in Austria and this will in no way be accepted." There were "clear indications of Turkish influence in Austria," said the country's Director General for Public Safety, Franz Ruf.

The new findings follow extensive investigations by Austrian police after violent clashes between Turkish and Kurdish groups in Vienna in June.

Interior Minister Karl Nehammer



Director General for Public Safety, Franz Ruf

One person has fully confessed to having been "recruited by the Turkish secret service to spy on other Turkish citizens or Austrian citizens with a Turkish migration background and then report them to the Turkish security authorities," Nehammer said. He added that the judiciary will file charges on suspicion of espionage. No details about the man's identity have been disclosed.

RECRUITMENT

Austria has found that more than 30 Austrian nationals were detained in Turkey between 2018 and 2020 after entering the country. BVT has supposed intelligence that Turkey's National Intelligence Organisation (MiT) tried



BVT Director Peter Gridling

to recruit them. Nehammer said: "Turkish espionage has no place in Austria. There is no place for Turkish influence on liberty and fundamental rights in Austria. We will fight against it vehemently."

Integration Minister Susanne Raab said: "Austria has become a target country for Turkish espionage. The Turkish secret service is exerting influence on individuals, associations and mosques. Erdogan's (President of Turkey) long arm reaches as far as Vienna."

Austria has provided case notes to Europol and the Presidency of the European Council.

Turkey's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hami Aksoy, dismissed the spy allegations describing them as "baseless." He accused "anti-Turkey circles" of being behind the stories. "We are astonished that the Austrian Government has reached conclusions that implicate our country," he said. "We urge Austria to stop chasing artificial agendas."

- In 2016, German Intelligence reported that the MiT was active in the country and "menacing German Turks."



Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hami Aksoy



CHIEF OF SERVICE



Richard Moore joined MI6 in 1987 before moving into the diplomatic world

Joint Biosecurity Centre by Eton friend Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Two years ago there was much discussion the post would be assumed by a female for the very first time. The name of one candidate was constantly spoken about in the corridors of MI6 - "a firm favourite for Chief," Eye Spy was told. She reportedly headed a network of MI6 officers and agents and was honoured by HM The Queen for her work. For obvious security reasons her name cannot be published.

Two other females were also referenced by inside sources. The vastly experienced ➤

NEW MI6 SPYMASTER RICHARD MOORE IS 'C'

Born in Tripoli, Libya in 1963, and fluent in the Turkish language, Richard Moore CMG, has been appointed the new Chief of MI6, this following the departure of Sir Alex Younger. The vastly experienced and travelled 30-year career diplomat and intelligence man, who studied at Oxford University and Harvard, had previously held director roles in MI6 after joining the Service in 1987. Much of his work was conducted at MI6's overseas stations. He departed the Service in 2010, seeking a more balanced occupation in the Foreign Office.

Moore, 57, was one of several candidates (male and female) in running for the position, the favourite being Tom Hurd, a senior Home Office official and former Director-General of the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism. In May 2020, Hurd was chosen to head the



Tom Hurd



Richard Moore returns to Vauxhall Cross after a 10-year political 'sabbatical'



Moore's appointment comes at a time of growing tensions with Russia and China



2019. Departing Chief of MI6 John Sawers after receiving his Knighthood from HM The Queen

political players Dame Karen Pierce and Madeleine Alessandri. In February 2020, Alessandri was appointed Permanent Secretary at the Northern Ireland Office, and Pierce as UK Ambassador to the United States, thus ruling both women out of contention for MI6 Chief.

THE TRAVELLING MAN

Moore served as Deputy National Security Advisor in the Cabinet Office, and British

Ambassador to Turkey from 2014 to 2017. He also served (diplomatic/intelligence) and operated in Vietnam, Malaysia and Pakistan.

At the time of his appointment to lead MI6, he held the post of Director General for Political Affairs at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). FCO are the political overseers and financiers of MI6.

One interesting fact relating to Moore was revealed freely by himself when he was

appointed ambassador to Turkey. In Ankara, he told a news editor that he was the grandson of Jack Buckley, an IRA member based in Cork, Ireland, who joined the group at the onset of the uprising against the British.

"My grandfather fought against the British Government in the separatist Republican Army between 1916 and 1922," Moore said. "He received a medal from the Irish President. Now I am the ambassador of the British Government."



Dame Karen Pierce



Foreign and Commonwealth Office



Richard Moore (left - both images), spent a decade in diplomatic service

After announcing Moore's appointment, and noting his previous role in MI6, UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said: "I am delighted to appoint Richard as the next Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service. He returns to SIS with tremendous experience and will oversee the work of a group of men and women whose tireless efforts are rarely seen in public, but which are critical for the security and prosperity of the UK."

Downing Street Cabinet Secretary Mark Sedwill also added his congratulations: "Richard's experience in the intelligence field will prove vital in pursuing national interests overseas and protecting the UK from emerging foreign threats. I'm confident Richard will be an excellent Chief, who will embody the values of the Service and act as a fine role model to SIS staff."

Departing Chief, Sir Alex Younger, whose extended tenure made him the longest serving Chief for half a century, welcomed Moore's appointment and return to MI6, describing him as a "highly accomplished intelligence officer."

John Sawers, who served as 'C' for five years between 2009 and 2014, said: "Mr Moore has

the perfect blend of experience... running intelligence operations. He knows how intelligence is produced and how best to protect national security." Sawers called Moore "calm, engaging, thoughtful and courageous."

Mr Moore, who is married with two children said: "I am honoured to be asked to return to lead my Service. SIS plays a vital role with MI5 and GCHQ in keeping the British people safe and promoting UK interests overseas. I look forward to continuing that work alongside the brave and dedicated team at SIS."

As for Sir Alex, who edged the Service a little more out of the shadows, Dominic Raab praised him for his astute leadership after guiding MI6 through a time of "increased and more diverse threats."

HUMOUROUS AND SERIOUS

As Ambassador to Turkey, Moore played a key role in advocating Britain take a tough stance against those who plotted to bring down Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the 2016 coup d'état. Also whilst serving in Turkey, a newspaper accused a British agent

of a bomb explosion initially attributed to ISIS. Alongside the story was a picture of Daniel Craig playing Bond. Asked by a Twitter user if he was going to respond, Moore tweeted: *'No I don't think so. Someone tell them James Bond is fiction...'*

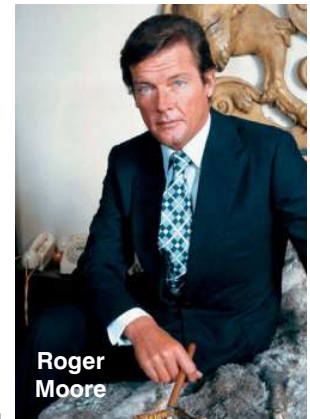
And in a reflection of changing times in the intelligence world, Mr Moore's Twitter account at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, did not appear to impact on the decision to appoint him. Indeed, he 'liked' a posting made by a Twitter user who wrote: *'The name's Moore... Richard Moore'*. This, a reference of course to Roger Moore who played fictional MI6 officer James Bond in the 007 franchise.

All this is suggestive that the new Chief has a sense of humour, but it's doubtful he will continue to use the media platform in future months.

CHANGING TIMES

The corridors of Whitehall's diplomatic and security offices and British Intelligence are inextricably linked. This was part evidenced by the diplomatic backgrounds of a number of leading contenders to the post of Chief of Service.

Mr Moore's appointment comes at a time of much change at the highest echelons of British Intelligence. Ken McCallum recently took up his post as MI5 Director-General, and GCHQ's fledgling, but powerful National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) will soon have a new leader in the person of Lindy Cameron. She is an international development official skilled in post-conflict reconstruction.



Roger Moore



Irish volunteers pictured at the beginning of the quest for independence from Great Britain. The new MI6 Chief is the grandson of an IRA member who joined the organisation in 1916



Lindy Cameron

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NOOR INAYAT KHAN CODENAME



MADELEINE FIRST BRITISH FEMALE MUSLIM SPY AWARDED WITH BLUE PLAQUE

Britain's World War II spy Noor Inayat Khan, who served with the Special Operations Executive (SOE), has become the first Indian and Muslim woman to be honoured with a memorial Blue Plaque at her former central London home and operational base from 1942-43. Known to her friends and colleagues as 'Nora Baker', Khan, who was fluent in the French language, was despatched to occupied France to assist the French Resistance.

Khan was actually born in Moscow in 1914, to an Indian father and an American mother.

The Blue Plaque scheme run by the English Heritage charity, honours notable people and organisations who were based at particular buildings and locations across London. The panel who decided upon the award, described Khan as "Britain's first Muslim war heroine in Europe." She was nominated for the award 14-years ago.

Radio Operator. In January 2020, Noor's character featured in an episode of the BBC's popular *Doctor Who* series





Visitors to the city can find her plaque at 4 Taviton Street in Bloomsbury. In nearby Gordon Square Gardens, a bronze bust of Khan was unveiled by the Queen's daughter Princess Anne at a special ceremony in 2012.

AN UNLIKELY SPY

Khan's biographer and *Sunday Times* bestselling author, Shrabani Basu, said she was born into a princely Indian Sufi family and descended from Tipu Sultan, the 18th century ruler of Mysore. Describing her as an "unlikely spy," Basu said: "She knew the area and was a brilliant radio operator. She went under cover behind enemy lines and set up crucial links sending information back to London."



Female prisoners at Dachau concentration camp wave as they are freed from captivity by US forces. Khan was not so fortunate

The fearless SOE operative believed in non-violence and religious harmony but gave her life in the fight against fascism when her adopted country needed her. "It is fitting that Noor Inayat Khan is the first woman of Indian origin to be remembered with a Blue Plaque," said Basu, author of the *Spy Princess: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan*. "As people walk by, Noor's story will continue to inspire future generations. In today's world, her vision of unity and freedom is more important than ever."

Aged 30, Khan was the first female wireless operator sent to Nazi-occupied France but was captured, tortured and executed at the notorious Dachau concentration camp in September 1944.



2012. Shrabani Basu and Princess Anne at the unveiling ceremony of Khan's commemorative bust



THE CODENAME

Whilst in captivity she consistently refused to provide her Gestapo interrogators with information about her colleagues and field work. The only intelligence the Germans knew about Khan personally was her codename - Madeleine. Unfortunately they did discover a codebook that historians believe led to the capture, and in some cases, the death of a number of her associates in France. It also allowed German Intelligence (Abwehr) to send messages to British radio field offices (disinformation) purporting to be from her.

Her spy career is littered with many acts of bravery, and even

when imprisoned she continued to use tradecraft taught by her controllers in the SOE. For example, whilst imprisoned in Pforzheim, Germany, Noor carved out 'Nora Baker, Radio Office Service RAF, 4 Taviton Street, London' on the bottom of her eating bowl to communicate with fellow prisoners.

Khan was posthumously awarded the George Cross in 1949 and is one of only four women to have received Britain's highest non-combat award for gallantry.

EDITOR'S NOTE: As Eye Spy 129 went to print, English Heritage notified us that also being recognised with a blue plaque, is fellow SOE agent, Christine Granville, born Krystyna Skarbek.



Russian Intelligence Cyber Group APT29 Targets Institutions at the Forefront of COVID-19 Research

Three of the Five Eyes grouping of communications and intelligence organisations, have backed an assessment accusing Russian Intelligence of being behind an elaborate and concerted effort to illegally secure critical information on COVID-19 research. Details of the breach, which almost certainly involved the cyber hacking group APT29 (APT - Advanced Persistent Threat), better known as Cozy Bear and/or The Dukes - was revealed by the UK's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), part of GCHQ.

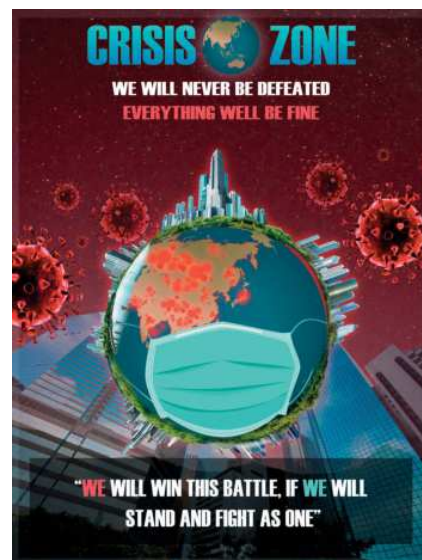
The NSA, Canada's Communication Security Establishment (CSE) and GCHQ, have monitored and retraced several major hacking operations targeting pharmaceutical facilities back to Russia. The medical centres are all



believed to be at the forefront of research into producing a viable vaccine for Coronavirus.

FLAWED COMPUTER SECURITY?

Intelligence officials said the hackers had "exploited software and vulnerable computer systems" using malware called WellMess and WellMail allowing for the download of highly sought after research. Part of the attack was aimed at tricking scientists and users into



handing over login credentials allowing for further exploitation. Whilst British officials said no vaccine research had been compromised, a secondary comment seemed most puzzling, in that they failed to acknowledge or deny if any of the cyber attacks had successfully achieved their

objective in stealing the medical secrets. UK Security Minister James Brokenshire said APT29 had "got into certain networks and is effectively surveilling them to look what is



James Brokenshire

there." He too confused intelligence watchers by adding: "There was no evidence or information of any damage or any sort of harm, but it is still completely unacceptable for Russian intelligence officers to be acting in this fashion."





Sergei Naryshkin
Director SVR. His
organisation has
been accused of the
cyber attack



NCSC ANALYSIS

NCSC, who described the hackers as "Russian cyber actors," said it was "95% certain" Russian Intelligence was responsible. Part of a released report states: 'Throughout 2020, APT29 has targeted various



Paul Chichester

organisations involved in COVID-19 vaccine development in Canada, the United States and United Kingdom, highly likely with the intention of stealing information and intellectual property relating to the

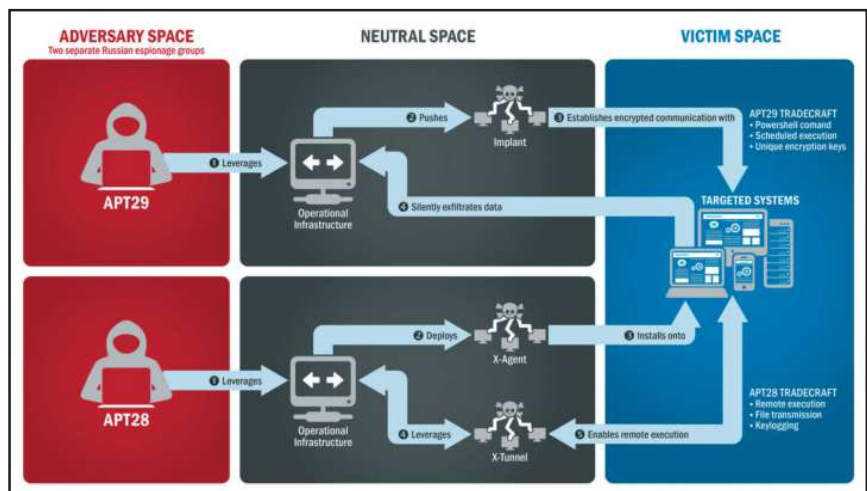


Diagram produced by the US Computer Emergency Readiness Team showing how APT28 and APT29 use malware to penetrate computer systems

development of testing of COVID-19 vaccines'.

NCSC Director of Operations, Paul Chichester said: "We condemn these despicable attacks against those doing vital work to combat the Coronavirus pandemic. Working with our allies the NCSC is committed to protecting our most critical assets and our top priority at this time it to protect the health sector." Chichester, who has worked in intelligence for 25-years, then urged companies to familiarise themselves with NCSC guidance on protecting computer networks.

THE TARGETS

The UK is at the forefront of research into developing a vaccine, with scientists at Oxford University and Imperial College London

regularly cited in the media. Here scientists say a vaccine could be ready by early 2021. Similar efforts at a number of premier US and Canadian institutions are also being hailed as "ground-breaking." Just as relevant, such organisations are liaising and sharing scientific research, much of which undoubtedly flows through computer systems.

It should be noted that the NCSC did not reveal the identity of those research facilities targeted by APT29.

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said it was "completely unacceptable" ➔



Left: The Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, Wuhan, after it was closed down. It was identified as the likely start point of the virus, though many scientists and intelligence officials remain uncertain

that Russian intelligence services would target those working to combat the Coronavirus pandemic. "While others pursue their selfish interests with reckless behaviour, the UK and its allies are getting on with the hard work of finding a vaccine and protecting global health," said Raab. "The UK will continue to counter those conducting such cyber attacks, and work with our allies to hold the perpetrators to account."

SURVEILLANCE

The NSA and US Cyber Command first began monitoring rogue traffic targeting those involved with COVID-19 research as early as April 2020. At around the same time, Assistant Attorney General for US National Security John Demers said: "Hackers



John Demers

employed by foreign governments are trying to steal vaccine research. The first country to find a vaccine will have be hailed and it will be a significant geopolitical story."

In May, a joint UK and US advisory cited hacking groups attempting to source information from research institutes involved in vaccine research. And whilst no specific country was named, few doubted they were based in Russia, China and Iran. And since then GCHQ, CSE and the NSA have collectively used their prowess to identify the culprits behind the latest cyber attempts to source crucial, and highly valuable vaccine research. This probe ultimately led to the NCSC statement.

Commenting on the latest APT29 action, NSA Cyber Security Director Anne Neuberger said:



The NSA and US Cyber Command has identified numerous attacks originating with APT28, APT29, and other cyber units operated by Russian Intelligence



Anne Neuberger

"The National Security Agency along with our partners, remains steadfast in its commitment to protecting national security by collectively issuing the critical cyber security advisory as foreign actors continue to take advantage of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic."

ANOTHER BEAR MENACE APT28

The cyber group APT28 or Fancy Bear first surfaced around 2014. Operated by the GRU (military intelligence), it has been blamed for numerous major cyber attacks, including the hacking of systems used by the Democratic National Committee (DNC) during the 2016 US General Election. APT29 was also involved in that particular operation.

Following the DNC hack, Washington indicted 12 GRU agents and officers for their role. A year earlier, following a prolonged cyber attack on the German Bundestag, an arrest warrant

was issued for one of the men cited by US Intelligence.

Other significant incidents attributed to the group include attacks on Holland's General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD), and the country's Ministry of General Affairs and its Safety Board. The latter is leading the investigation into the shooting down of Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 in July 2014.

APT28 is particularly active in the Baltics and Ukraine. In 2016, the group was accused of infecting systems used by the Ukrainian Army which led to a number of weapons malfunctions.

The group has also been accused of hacking international media houses and the personal systems of many prominent journalists. However, its activities are not restricted to any specific theatre and is called upon to assist the GRU regularly.



AIVD headquarters in Zoetermeer, Holland



French military personnel assist medical workers in the transfer of patients suffering from COVID-19

MOSCOW RESPONSE

In Moscow, Kremlin officials rejected the accusations, especially those which said President Putin must have been aware of the operation. His personal spokesman, Dmitri Peskov said Russia was not involved: "We have no information about who may have hacked pharmaceutical companies and research centres in the United Kingdom. Russia has nothing to do with these attempts."

A smiling Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova was also dismissive of the NCSC findings. "This statement is so vague and contradictory that it's actually impossible to comprehend."

A more considered response came from Leonid Slutsky, head of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs. He dismissed the charges as "unfounded and another manifestation of Russophobia." Slutsky then pointed out that Russian vaccine

research is proving successful, and "there is no need to steal."

The UK Government further inflamed tensions with Russia, when a report was released confirming Moscow "had almost certainly interfered in the 2019 British General Election." In this case, Russian Intelligence had "illicitly secured documents," from the personal email account of former Trade Minister Liam Fox. These related to pre-election US-UK trade talks.



Leonid Slutsky

DEFLECTING ATTENTION

UK ACCUSED OF CYBER ATTACK

Amidst the charges of Russian Intelligence cyber probes, the Kremlin hit back at the UK with some allegations of its own. Russia's Ambassador to the UK Andrei Kelin said that attempts were made by cyber hackers based in the UK, to interfere with the country's constitutional referendum that will keep President Putin in power until 2036.

Speaking to the BBC about the referendum, Kelin said: "I have to mention the commission studying the results discovered several attacks coming from the territory of the UK." He declined to give further details when pressed if he believed it was a state-sanction action, but added, "we don't accuse the UK [Government] for what happened."

Asked about the APT29 cyber attack on COVID-19 research sites, Kelin joined his colleagues back in Moscow and flatly denied the charges. Claiming he was oblivious to the existence of the group, he said: "I don't believe in this story at all, there is no sense to it. In today's world, to attribute any kind of computer hackers to any country is impossible."



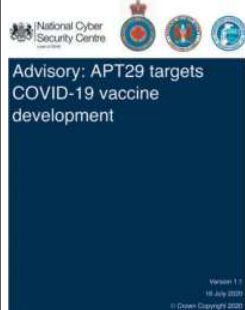
Andrei Kelin

EDITOR'S NOTE: Intelligence opinion is still divided on APT29's parent host - either the SVR (Foreign Intelligence Service) or FSB (Federal Security Service). However, British Intelligence believe the group is overseen by the SVR, but some European agencies lean towards the FSB.

IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

NCSC has released a comprehensive report on its findings - 'Advisory: APT29 targets COVID-19 development'. Its

analysis is supported by NSA, CSE and the US Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (DHS CISA).



LINKS: www.ncsc.gov.uk



Aerial view SVR headquarters



Tarrant films himself on the day of the attack



BRENTON TARRANT

THE EMOTIONLESS TERRORIST

The Sentencing Hearing of Far-Right terrorist Brenton Tarrant, 29, who murdered 51 people, including youngsters, and injured a further 40 at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand in 2019, has concluded. The incidents were described by New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern as “one of the country’s darkest days.” After learning of the court ruling, Ardern said it would mean he would have “no notoriety, no platform... we have no cause to think about him, to see or hear from him again.”

Tarrant, who was born in Australia, has been jailed for life without the possibility of parole. It is the first time in the country’s legal history that a convicted criminal has received such a sentence. “Your crimes are so wicked that even if you are detained until you die, it will not exhaust the requirements of punishment,” Judge Mander told him. On the last day of the hearing, Mander carefully read the names out of every victim.

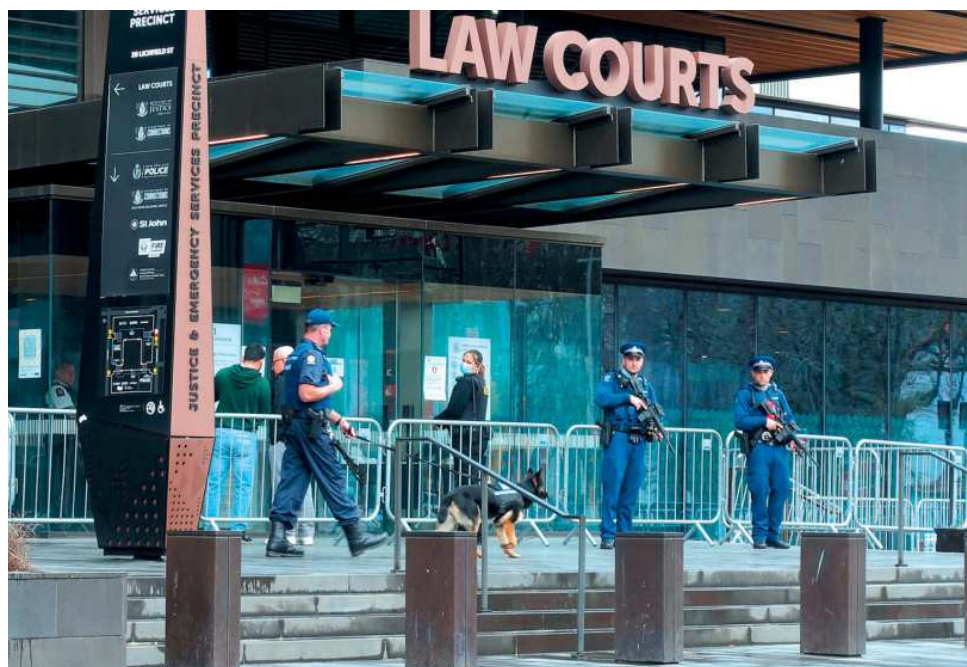
Throughout the hearing the terrorist remained emotionless, even when many of the relatives

of those killed and injured confronted the killer and spoke of their anger and pain. One mother, Maysoon Salama, whose son Atta Elayyan was killed told him: “You gave yourself the authority to take the lives of 51 innocent people, their only crime in your eyes... being Muslims.”

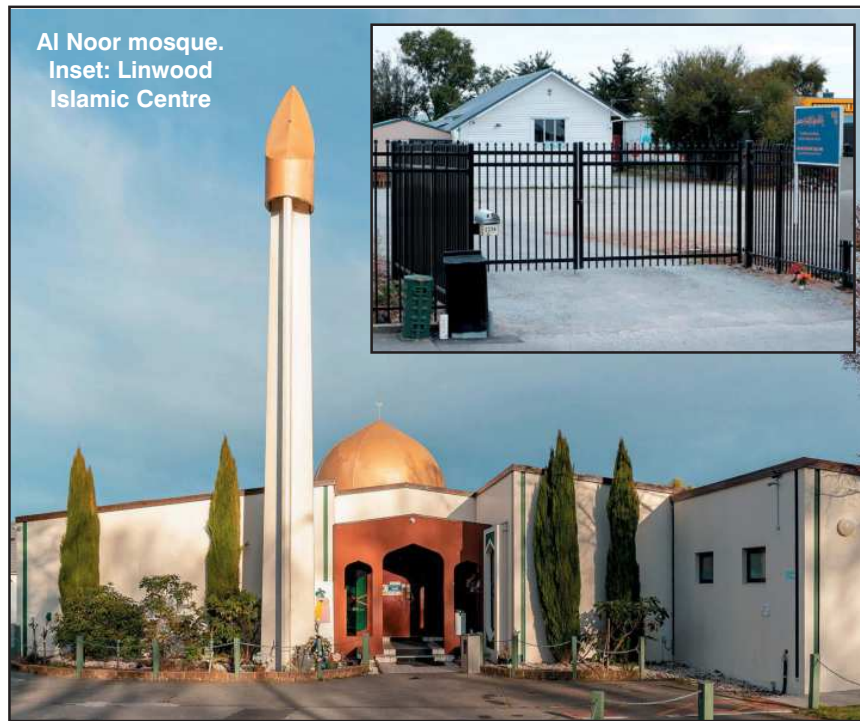
In court, other information and commentary was impactful and disturbing. “He wanted to inflict as many fatalities as possible,” a prosecutor said, and that police learned he planned a third attack at another mosque. “I



An expressionless Brenton Tarrant listens to his sentence being announced in court



24 August 2020. Armed police outside Christchurch High Court as Tarrant’s hearing begins



Al Noor mosque.
Inset: Linwood
Islamic Centre



Prime Minister of Australia
Scott Morrison



Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern visits
a Muslim community in Christchurch
the day after the attack

wish I had killed more,” Tarrant told an investigative police officer.

On the day of the atrocity, 15 March 2019, Tarrant first targeted worshippers at the Al Noor mosque. Around 190 people were inside. Once his weapon was exhausted he calmly walked back to his car and picked up another gun, returning to the mosque to continue his killing spree. The attack was broadcast live on Facebook via a camera he was wearing on his forehead.

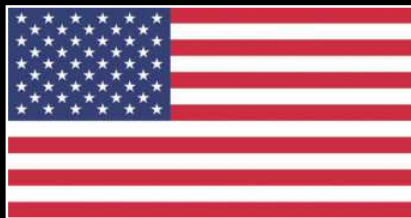
Minutes later he drove to the Linwood Islamic Centre, which had only opened a year earlier, and killed a further two people and injuring several others. When he was captured by police, he told them his plan was to shoot everyone inside and then burn the buildings down.

Described by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison as an “extreme right -wing terrorist,” Tarrant moved to New Zealand in 2017, and almost immediately began to plan his attack against Muslims. Just prior to his deplorable actions, he posted a 74-page ‘manifesto’ called *The Great Replacement*, claiming he wanted to save his own race from multi-culturalism, though this hardly touches upon other concerning content.

The attacks in New Zealand paved the way for major gun reforms, and just weeks later the country banned military-style automatic weapons.

Australia’s Prime Minister Scott Morrison said his country was open to talks about Tarrant being returned to Australia to serve out his life sentence.

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THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS

Agreement Signals New Middle East Theatre

On 15 September 2020, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, United Arab Emirates Foreign Affairs Minister Abdullah bin Zayed and Bahrain Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid al Zayani signed the Abraham Accords Peace Agreement at the White House.

"We are witnessing today a new trend that will create a better path for the Middle East," said Abdullah bin Zayed. He added that this new vision "is not a slogan that we raise for political gains... peace is our guiding principle." Netanyahu described the Accord as a

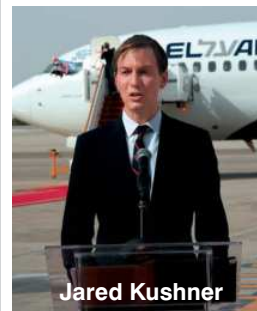
"circle of peace," one which would offer prosperity and security to the Middle East. He also thanked President Trump for his involvement. The US-brokered deal has been hailed as a diplomatic breakthrough that formalises a new burgeoning Middle East alliance.

News of the agreement was released on 13 August, following a virtual conference between Prime Minister Netanyahu, Deputy Supreme Commander United Arab Emirates Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and President Trump. Netanyahu declared: "Today we usher in a new era of



Deputy Supreme Commander United Arab Emirates Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan

peace between Israel and the Arab world... the first in 26-years. This is a great moment, we are making history... it is a combination of limitless possibilities."



Jared Kushner

On 31 August, a US-Israeli delegation arrived in Abu Dhabi, on the historic first commercial flight from Tel Aviv to mark the normalisation of

Left: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Trump, Bahrain Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid al Zayani and United Arab Emirates Foreign Affairs Minister Abdullah bin Zayed



15 SEPTEMBER 2020. WHITE HOUSE. The signed Abraham Accords is displayed by the three representatives of the UAE, Israel and Bahrain

ties between Israel and the UAE. The US team was led by Senior Advisor Jared Kushner. The El Al airliner carried the wording 'Peace' painted on the cockpit of the aircraft in Arabic, English and Hebrew.

In exchange for "full normalisation of relations" between the countries, Israel would forgo, for now, "declaring sovereignty" over disputed territory in the West Bank.

SECURITY FACTORS

"Normalising relations with Israel was a strategic move," said UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Anwar Mohammed Gargash. "However, Iranian policies and actions in the region were a factor. The decision was the outcome of a series of policies we started a few years ago. A successful decision is a give and take, which has been achieved. For

instance, we broke another taboo by inviting Pope Francis to visit the UAE in 2019."

The UAE and Bahrain join Egypt and Jordan in respect of establishing official diplomatic relations with Israel, though other Arab states, including Saudi Arabia and Qatar, have quietly cultivated informal ties with Tel Aviv.

At the White House signing, Trump said there were "five other countries" set to embark on joining with Israel, UAE and Bahrain.

The Abraham Accords - in honour of Abraham, the patriarch of the three major Abrahamic religions of the world - Islam, Judaism and Christianity, will see the signatories exchange embassies and ambassadors. The countries also plan to sign bilateral agreements regarding investment, tourism, direct flights, security, telecommuni-



UAE, Israel and US officials discuss the Abraham Accords in Abu Dhabi



H.H. Sheikh Tahnoun Bin Zayed with US President Donald Trump

cations, technology, energy, healthcare, culture, the environment and other areas of mutual benefit.

MOSSAD TALKS

Some four weeks prior to the signing, Mossad Director Yossi Cohen, visited the UAE for security talks - the first by an Israeli official following the announcement to normalise relations. Many in the intelligence world said the liaison would have been unimaginable just a few short years ago.

Official UAE news agency WAM reported that Cohen met with Crown Prince Sheikh Tahnoun Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, who also holds the position of Deputy Supreme Commander of the Emirates Armed Forces: *'The two sides discussed prospects for cooperation in the fields of security as well as exchanged points of view on regional developments and on issues of common interest'*.

The Crown Prince said the UAE is committed to the principles of peace and tolerance and said the Accord would enhance stability in the region. "The UAE will spare no efforts in delivering that goal," he said.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Mossad Director Yossi Cohen

CHINA COUNTDOWN

The Perfect Storm



**CHINA
FOCUS
PART ONE**

Intelligence Officials Warn of Likely Confrontation

South China Seas, Hong Kong Security, Espionage, Political Interference, Disinformation, Huawei, TikTok

The United States, Australia and a number of Allied nations, have discussed rising tensions in the South China Seas. The engagement took place after months of careful analysis by intelligence agencies concerning the dangerous escalation of incidents and rhetoric. In the last five years, China's Ministry of State Security (MSS), has built a number of artificial islands which support military forces. This has led to an increase in US and allied military exercises, surveillance and operations.

In August, Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison warned that military conflict between the two super powers was "no longer inconceivable." Former premier Kevin Rudd joined the debate, he said a "hot war" could erupt due to a "dangerous political cocktail."

Several nations have accused China of effectively trying to militarise the strategic waters, which Beijing claims are its own. Around \$5 trillion of goods, or 40% of all worldwide trade passes through the region each year.

Australia has now placed a signed memorandum with the United Nations which says the territorial waters claims are without legal

basis. The document was supported by many Western allies, including the US and UK. However, it drew an angry response from China and resulted in a further increase in military activity in regions such as the Taiwan Strait. The US too has rejected the notion that the waters belong to China and continues to sail warships through the seas.

JULY ENGAGEMENTS

This has led to all manner of incidents involving US Navy warships, reconnaissance overflights and forces from China's People's Liberation Army (PLA). One incident, if China's state media can be believed, occurred on 23 July. A Chinese warplane issued a

Australia Prime Minister Scott Morrison and US President Donald Trump





Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne and Defence Minister Linda Reynolds discuss the 'China Situation' with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and US Defence Secretary Mark Esper

warning to a US aircraft which had allegedly flown too close to China's airspace. An amateur radio ham supposedly recorded the following broadcast made to the crew of the US aeroplane: *'This is China Naval Air Force guard... you are approaching Chinese air domain. Change your course immediately or you will be intercepted'*.

Much speculation ensued in China as to the actual aircraft type engaged by the Chinese warplane, but news outlets suggested it was the signals reconnaissance EP-3 Orion or a P-8 Poseidon anti-submarine and multi-task aircraft. The Pentagon opted not to comment on the reports, which are seen by intelligence officials as propaganda. Chinese officials also claimed two unidentified US aircraft flew very close to the mainland, coming within 50 miles of Shanghai.

MSS INTEL ARM?

One organisation based at Peking University, which 'independently' monitors all happenings



Xian H-6J bomber

in the South China Seas is SCSP1* (South China Seas Probing Initiative). It said the US conducted 67 surveillance flights in July compared with 35 in June. Many intelligence commentators believe the think tank is biased towards China.

In a show of force, China held a major aerial exercise in the South China Seas which involved "simulated long range bombing attacks," according to Ministry of National Defence (MND) Spokesman Ren Guoqiang. One of the participating aircraft was the re-designed Xian H-6J bomber (variant of the Russian Tupolev Tu-16 bomber) which is



US Navy P-8 Poseidon

TIKTOK WARNING ANOTHER MSS BACKDOOR?



Nigel Inkster

LONDON: Former MI6 Director of Operations Nigel Inkster, has warned that another Chinese based Internet platform, TikTok, could expose users to Chinese Intelligence. Inkster said the social video-sharing media app could provide hackers access to all manner of secrets, and warned government ministers and all users that it could compromise security.

In August US President Donald Trump issued an executive order which hampered its future use in the United States.

Inkster, a vastly experienced intelligence man, warned that because TikTok is based in China, intelligence analysts fear it could be seen as another gateway for China's spy agencies. Noting the skill and prowess of Chinese hackers, Inkster said: "Where the Chinese intelligence services are very strong is in identifying non-obvious entry points to certain targets." Also of concern. Under Chinese law, any company or national is obliged to assist the government or security forces if asked.

The *New York Times* reported that Microsoft was in talks to purchase TikTok, however, Oracle has reportedly reached an agreement to become its partner in the United States.

capable of carrying air launched cruise missiles.

In a separate statement, Guoqiang also condemned Washington for despatching military forces to Taiwan for joint exercises and training, and claimed Taiwan is an "inalienable part of China." He warned the United States that "we will resolutely defend national sovereignty."

CIA analysts believe that the happenings have created "a perfect storm" and it is almost inevitable a military clash will ensue. ➤



Ministry of
National
Defence
(MND)
Spokesman
Ren
Guoqiang

SECURITY AND TECHNOLOGIES

In recent weeks, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and US Defence Secretary Mark Esper, have discussed the 'China Situation' with their Australian counterparts - Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne and Defence Minister Linda Reynolds. Collectively they have accused China of "violating international norms" and said they intend to fully "uphold freedom of navigation and the rule of law" in the South China Sea.

Esper said China's actions were "destabilising, coercive and intimidating," all to "advance its strategic objectives at the expense of other nations." Reynolds agreed and also revealed both countries are now working together on technologies such as hypersonics, electronic warfare and space-based capabilities.

Esper then congratulated Australia for its decision to reject Huawei and ZTE in its 5G

network. In June, Australia's Federal Communications Commission designated the Chinese companies "security threats." The decision was made amidst Canberra claims that China was engaged in widespread espionage and political interference in Australia.

Britain's Chief of Defence Intelligence Lt. General James Hockenhull said: "Russia poses the greatest military and geopolitical threat to European security. China is increasingly authoritarian and assertive. It poses the greatest threat to world order."



Chief of
Defence
Intelligence
Lt. General
James
Hockenhull

*In March 2020, SCSPI published a report titled: 'An Incomplete Report on US Military Activities in the South China Sea in 2019'. It contains a very detailed itinerary of events throughout the year involving US forces and allied nations in the region. How much data is accurate, open source or has been provided for by China's National Security Agency is unclear.

THE

New Intelligence Warnings Issued over Huawei Technology Prompts Downing Street Rethink

UK REVERSES HUAWEI

CIA intelligence sources believe new analysis of the dangers posed by allowing Huawei Technologies to participate in Britain's 5G network, prompted the government to re-assess an earlier assessment that any possible security issues could be managed by British Intelligence.

However, undoubtedly part of the decision was influenced by new US sanctions which will restrict Huawei's use of US technologies in its future hardware and software products.

Much of the new UK research and analysis was conducted by the National Cyber Security

U2 MONITORS LIVE FIRE EXERCISE



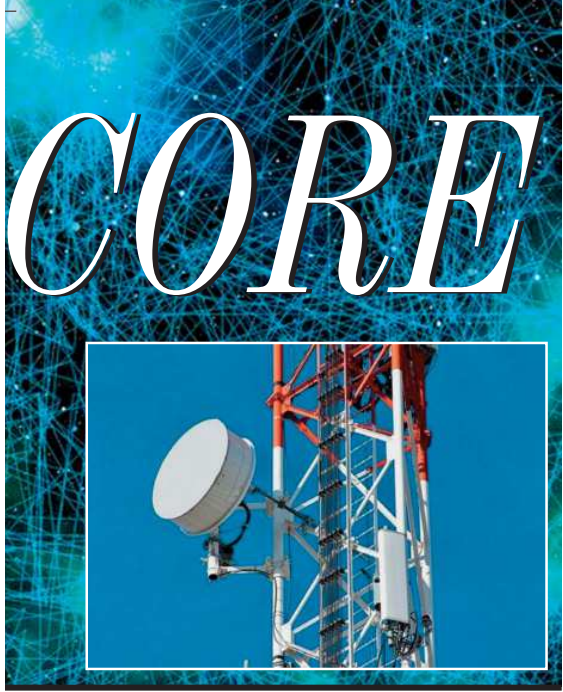
BEIJING: China has officially "lodged a strong complaint" to Washington, after a USAF U2 Dragon Lady reconnaissance aircraft reportedly flew into airspace directly over a live firing military exercise. The exact is unknown, but at the time of the incident China was conducting a military exercise over the Bohai Gulf, east of Beijing.

Wu Qian, spokesman for the Ministry of National Defence said the August overflight "seriously interfered in the normal exercise activity." He warned the incident could easily have led to a misjudgement and response triggering an unintended air-sea incident and further tensions. "It was an act of naked provocation and China is resolutely opposed to it."

A Pentagon spokesperson said the U2 flight took place in the Indo-Pacific region and was "within the accepted international rules and regulations governing aircraft flights." He dismissed allegations of provocation and said "Pacific Air Forces personnel will continue to fly and operate anywhere international law permits."



National Cyber Security
Centre headquarters,
London



I 5G NETWORK DECISION

Centre (NCSC), a major element of GCHQ. Sections of the assessment warned that within just a few years, the country's cell phone infrastructure could be compromised opening the door to espionage.

Earlier this year, Downing Street said the risks of intelligence compromise were minimal, but that has now changed. The UK had agreed to allow Huawei to build antenna stations and masts but disallowed involvement on the most sensitive part of the network known as the 'Core'. Senior UK officials are now seeking to remove all Huawei technology from its telecommunication network by the end of the decade.



Departing NCSC Chief Executive Ciaran Martin. He has chaired the Huawei Cyber Security Evaluation Centre since 2010

UK Digital Secretary Oliver Dowden confirmed the NCSC had "produced and delivered" its findings, allowing a further review of Huawei. "We are now examining it and understanding the implications of it," said Dowden. "US sanctions meant that the UK can no longer assure the security of Huawei's products," he added.

ESPIONAGE RISK

The U-turn follows months of bitter debate and pressure from key intelligence officials, plus warnings aplenty from US Intelligence that in time, the technology would pose serious security risks. Eighteen months ago all US intelligence agencies, military arms and thousands of government offices, were instructed to remove Huawei equipment, this as authentic fears of espionage and the loss of



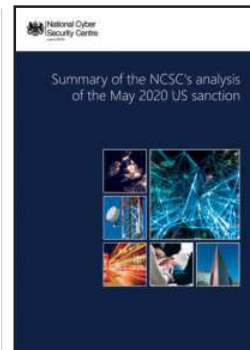
Oliver Dowden

THE PENTAGON LIST CONTROLLED BY THE MSS?



WASHINGTON: The Pentagon named 20 companies it claims are either owned or controlled by the MSS. The list includes Huawei and video surveillance company Hikvision. Other notable inclusions include China Mobile Communications Group, China Telecommunications Corp and aircraft builder Aviation Industry Corp of China.

The move follows widespread US Intelligence fears that Beijing is enlisting major Chinese corporations to seek and secure emerging technologies around the world for military purposes and research programmes. Senator Marco Rubio, whilst welcoming the release of the list, said: "It is a start, but woefully inadequate to warn the American people about the state-owned and directed companies that support the Chinese Government and Communist Party's activities threatening US national security and the economy."



technology secrets were highlighted.

Washington has long protested Huawei is backed by China's Ministry of State Security (MSS). Now the one UK intelligence organisation most

adept at identifying the risk - GCHQ - has said that the Chinese technology giant must play no part in Britain's 5G.

According to former MI6 Chief Sir John Sawers, who explained the impact of US sanctions on Huawei, he said this meant the Chinese telecoms firm now posed security risks to UK, and that Prime Minister Johnson has "good technical reasons" to change his mind.

Writing in the *Financial Times of London*, Sir John discussed the move: 'The security assessment is now different because the facts have changed. As a result reliable



Sir John Sawers

non-Chinese suppliers can no longer work with the company. UK intelligence services can therefore no longer provide the needed assurances that Chinese-made equipment is still safe to use in the UK's telecoms network.

'There are now sound technical reasons for the UK to change January's decision... the security assessment is now different because the facts have changed'.

The reversal means that in all probability, the UK will join with America in banning all Huawei equipment by the end of the year.

Huawei responded angrily. Paul Harrison, the company's head of International Media UK, tweeted: *'UK policy is being dictated by the Trump administration. Should not the US respect a United Kingdom in the post-Brexit era being in a position to chose its own telecommunication strategy?'*

China's Ambassador to the UK Liu Xiaoming also criticised Downing Street's review. He warned it would send out a "wider message about Britain's openness to foreign investment." Xiaoming believes pressure from the United States played a part in the decision to look again at Huawei's position and warned: "If you [UK] want to make China a hostile country, you will bear the consequences."



Liu Xiaoming



Port of Chabahar

MI6 AND CIA CONCERNS OVER SURVEILLANCE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

In August 2019, Iran's Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, visited his China counterpart, Wang Yi, to present a roadmap on a comprehensive 25-year China-Iran strategic partnership that built upon a previous agreement signed in 2016. Many key specifics of the updated agreement were not released to the public at the time. However, the next phase of the 25-year deal between China and Iran has been revealed and has already attracted the attention of MI6 and the CIA.

A new centre focussed on electronic espionage and warfare capabilities around the strategic Port of Chabahar in southeastern Iran on the Gulf of Oman is to be built. The port is one of the busiest in Iran and is already shielded by a major military base in nearby Konarak. Its surveillance reach will extend for approximately 3000 miles and provide mass surveillance and monitoring of the Iranian population - and elsewhere - if intelligence reports are correct.

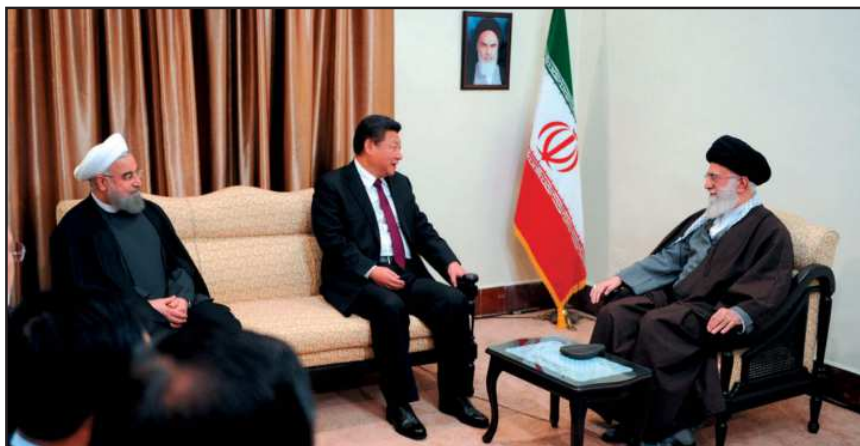
Iran is planning to erect and install an astonishing 15 million CCTV cameras in its major cities - all connected to what has been described as a "long term espionage hub." Senior Chinese officials said it will be linked to state surveillance and monitoring apparatus already in use in China. The go-ahead was



**Foreign Ministers of Iran and China
Mohammad Javad Zarif and Wang Yi**

sanctioned following meetings between senior Ministry of Intelligence Security (MOIS) and Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) officials, and their Chinese counterparts in the National Security Agency of the Ministry of State Security (MSS).

Western intelligence officials believe Beijing sees the move as a building block to make Iran almost fully reliant on China by 2040, and further evidence of its outreach programme - the 'Belt and Road Initiative'. Besides its surveillance and intelligence work, the centre will be utilised by the IRGC in its on-going endeavours in the Gulf.



2016. FIRST STEPS. Iran President Hassan Rouhani (left) with China's President Xi Jinping and Supreme Leader of Iran Ali Khamenei

EDWARD SNOWDEN



Intelligence officials unhappy with possible pardon and still want Snowden charged under Espionage Act

GATEWAY TO USA?

PRESIDENT TRUMP PONDERES PARDON FOR NSA LEAKS MAN

President Trump said he was “going to start looking very strongly” at a possible pardon for exiled NSA and CIA contractor Edward Snowden. “There are a lot of people who think he is not being treated fairly, I hear that,” Trump said. Prior to his General Election victory in 2016, he often referred to Snowden as a “spy and a traitor,” and that “he should be executed.” Following his new remarks, US Attorney General William Barr said he was “vehemently opposed to a pardon.” Barr insisted: “Snowden was a traitor and the information he provided our adversaries greatly hurt the safety of the American people. He was peddling it [the intelligence files] around like a commercial merchant.

We can’t tolerate that.”



Former FBI Director James Comey

Snowden, who gifted over 500,000 classified documents to selected media houses, has been living in asylum in Russia since he fled the United States in 2013.

Trump reportedly asked his inner circle about their views on a pardon and how it would be viewed by the American people. He also discussed the issuing of a guarantee that if he did agree to return to the United States, he would not go to



LAURA POITTRAS/ACLU

prison. Some White House advisors reportedly favoured this option rather than a lengthy trial, where more internal intelligence mechanisms and procedures might be revealed.

Another reason for the change of heart and U-turn, has also been discussed. Intelligence sources believe it is a side-swipe at the US Intelligence Community (USIC), who Trump still believes attempted to derail his campaign to become President. One commentator said: “By giving Snowden a pardon, this would settle old scores and heal some of the ‘wounds’ inflicted by the intelligence world.” Indeed, referencing interference in the General Election, Trump said it was unfair that the likes of former FBI Director James Comey are free while Snowden faces a legal conundrum. ➤



Strange Days. 28 May 2020. President Trump and US Attorney General William Barr in the Oval Office of the White House. The President holds aloft an Executive Order preventing online censorship

"Many people are on his [Snowden's] side. I don't know him, never met him... but many people are on his side"
President Donald Trump

ESPIONAGE WARNING

Nevertheless, many senior intelligence officials believe Snowden should appear in court as a warning to others who may engage in similar acts of espionage. In the Federal complaint filed in 2013, Snowden was charged with: *'Violating the Espionage Act of 1917... unauthorised communication of national defence information... wilful communication of classified communications intelligence to an unauthorised person and theft of government property'*. A lawsuit was also filed by the US Justice Department in September 2019, following the publication of his book *Permanent Record*. In this case he



US Attorney General William Barr is "vehemently opposed" to a pardon



Permanent Record

senior members of the House Committee on Armed Services released a joint statement: *'Not only would it mean that Snowden cannot be held accountable for his crimes, but it would send a dangerous message to others who are contemplating espionage and the adversaries who would support them'*.

Snowden and his supporters, and there are many, said his whistle blowing was in the public interest and carried out to expose the 'Deep State' and FBI's illegal collection of bulk phone records. However, a US Congress file suggests that he downloaded over one million classified documents, many irrelevant to his argument that the country had become a "surveillance state." Indeed, his covert collection and subsequent release of NSA and other allied intelligence agency documents,

failed to submit the manuscript to intelligence agencies for review, thus *'violating non-disclosure agreements'*.

With much talk of Trump's comments circulating in defence and political theatres, the Chairman and

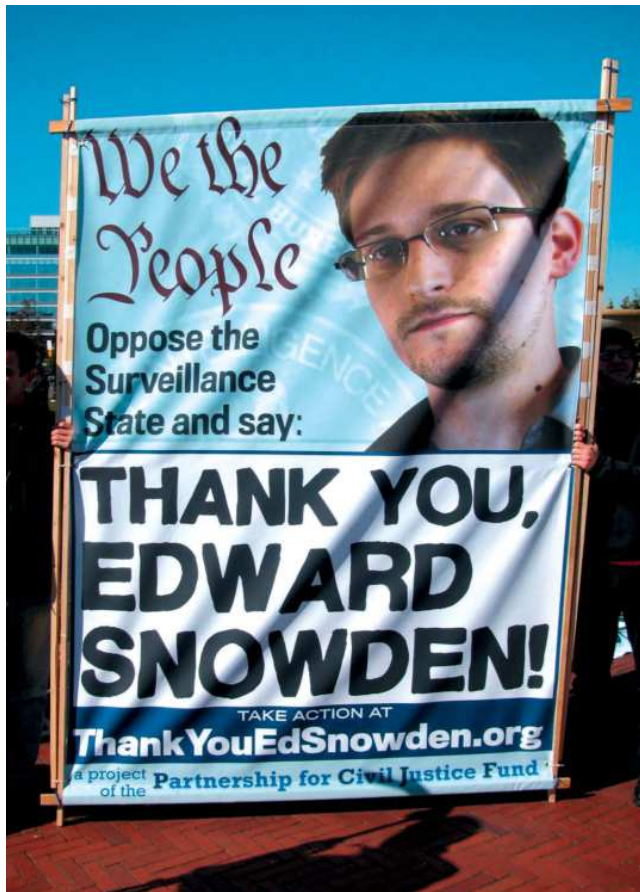


Former US Vice President Dick Cheney

operations and procedures, dwarfed his argument. And there are other incidents which many in the USIC will not forget. For example, in June 2013, while in Hong Kong, he gifted the *South China Morning Post* materials pin-pointing which computer systems the NSA was targeting in China. This undoubtedly allowed the skilled cyber groups operating under China's Ministry of State Security (MSS) to introduce counter-measures. Just as damaging, intelligence sources said the USIC was forced to recall or relocate several overseas intelligence officers and assets who might be compromised by the release of the material.



2019. Snowden speaks to delegates via a video link at The Big Challenge Festival in Trondheim, Norway



OFFICIALDOM COMMENTARY

Former Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) General Michael Flynn, was just one of many senior officials angered by the scale of Snowden's skulduggery. He believes Snowden may have also sourced other information on projects outside his sphere of work for the NSA, including defence procedures, technical data and even war



General Michael Flynn

plans. Flynn said: "Does that knowledge then get into the hands of our adversaries? Of course, in this case, Russia."

Besides concern by serving and former intelligence officials, many senior politicians view the possible pardon as setting a dangerous precedent. Former Vice President Dick Cheney tweeted: *'Edward Snowden is a traitor. He is responsible for the largest and most damaging release of classified info in US history. He handed over US secrets to Russian and Chinese intelligence putting our troops and our nation at risk. Pardoning him would be unconscionable'*.

Former NSA Director Admiral Michael Rogers, who had to deal with much of the fallout following the leaks, was asked if Snowden should be pardoned. He said: "That would be up to the President. I believe in the idea of accountability. If you are going to engage in illegal activities, like steal classified information, you should be held accountable." Rogers, however, believes Snowden should be given the opportunity to try and justify his actions.

A joint statement issued by Adam Smith (Democrat) and Mac Thornberry (Republican) read: *'It would be a serious mistake to pardon anyone who is charged under the Espionage Act, who admits to leaking sensitive information, and who has spent years since then as a guest of the Putin regime. Not only would it mean that Snowden cannot be held accountable for his crimes, but it would send a dangerous message to others who are contemplating espionage and the adversaries who would support them'*. ➤



Former NSA Director Admiral Michael Rogers



While working as a government contractor in Hawaii, Snowden rented this house with his girlfriend until 2013



Adam Smith and Mac Thornberry

The Governor of South Carolina Lindsey Graham tweeted: *'I'm confident President Trump understands the crimes committed by Snowden resulted in American forces - and those who assisted us throughout the world - being placed in greater danger. To those who suggest a pardon of Edward Snowden for his treasonous acts, you are doing a great disservice to those who suffered from his betrayal of his nation'.*

When news of the possible pardon made its way to Snowden in Moscow, he tweeted: *'The last time we heard a White House considering a pardon was 2016, when the very same Attorney General who once charged me conceded that, on balance, my work in*



Lindsey Graham

exposing the NSA's unconstitutional system of mass surveillance had been a public service'.

Snowden's Russian solicitor, Anatoly Kucherena, said the



Anatoly Kucherena

United States should not just pardon him, but also drop all charges because he has not committed any crimes. "He was acting not only in the interests of American citizens, but in the interest of humankind.

Some intelligence officials believe that Snowden's return to the United States would allow investigators and analysts to determine just who received the intelligence bounty, and equally important, if other materials not yet proven lost, were indeed sourced by the former contractor.

Many national security officials believe the true scale of Snowden's data theft has yet to be accurately determined. Some estimates place the documents removed from NSA systems at over 1.5 million. "It's all about understanding the extent of the damage which his actions brought about," a senior intelligence source told Eye Spy. "That will never be properly understood unless he returns."

- As a footnote to this report, Kucherena said Snowden has now applied to extend his residency for a further three years.

THE SPY



The US Green Beret and Loyal Son of Russia

Codename Ikar

A former US Army Green Beret Special Forces soldier has been arrested and charged for allegedly divulging military secrets to agents of Russia's GRU military intelligence service

Peter Rafael Dzibinski Debbins, 45, was detained after a complex year-long FBI investigation which uncovered information that he had conspired to deliver defence information to the Russians. The espionage began in the mid-1990s when he first visited Russia and stayed in Chelyabinsk, a city with a nearby air base. Here he met a Russian intelligence officer and discussed his participation in a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programme at the University of Minnesota. He eventually graduated and joined the US military actively serving from 1998. His Russian contact would ultimately become his handler. Despite being honourably discharged in 2005, his liaison with the GRU lasted much longer, prosecutors said. Debbins was given the codename Ikar Lesnikov.

RUSSIAN THREADS

The indictment said Debbins considered himself a *'loyal son of Russia'*, and also reveals his Russian connections. His mother

WITHIN



kar Lesnikov



Peter Rafael Dzibinski Debbins

was born in the Soviet Union; his father was an officer in the Russian military and he met his wife in the Russian city of Chelyabinsk. To conceal his personal liaisons with his handler, he was told tell his wife he was meeting a professor on campus. Another line in the legal document read: *'Debbins thought that the United States was too dominant in the world and needed to be cut down to size'*.

During his service in the Army, in the late 1990s he was attached to a chemical unit in South Korea. Here he allegedly provided his handlers information about his deployment, the unit's size, weapons and equipment.



Green Beret Special Forces troops

Debbins was later deployed to Azerbaijan and Georgia. Prosecutors claim he gifted military information and the names of his colleagues to the Russians. John Demers, Assistant Attorney for National Security said this would allow the GRU to study the men's profiles as possible targets for recruitment. He was also asked to deliver a US military field guide using a USB stick, but fearful he might be stopped by Homeland Security at an airport and his equipment examined, he chose not to.

In 2010, Debbins was granted Top Secret and Sensitive Compartmented Information (T/TS) clearances. He was contracted as a senior Russian analyst for an Army intelligence unit which falls under INSCOM (Intelligence and Security Command). This intelligence element is based at Fort Meade (NSA). If this is the case, he would have taken a polygraph test and passed successfully. One of the questions asked relates to contacts with foreign governments.

FBI COMMENT

"Mr Debbins knowingly provided information to self-proclaimed members of the GRU," said James Dawson, FBI Acting Assistant Director of the Bureau's Washington DC Field Office.



Debbins speaking at The Institute of World Politics in January 2020. His lecture was titled 'Influencing a Wired World with Politics'

Alan Kohler, FBI Assistant Director of the Counterintelligence Division added: "As a member of the US Armed Forces, the American people and his fellow service men and women should have been able to trust Debbins with secrets and information. Debbins allegedly fell very short of that and exploited his role in the military and his fellow service members to benefit one of our top adversaries for years."

MI5 AND NEW SCOTLAND YARD

One of Debbins' last roles as a defence contractor for the Pentagon was at USAF intelligence missions based at RAF Alconbury and RAF Molesworth in the UK. These posts began in 2017. In late August the US Justice Department thanked MI5 and New Scotland Yard for their help in the investigation.

For his service to Russian Intelligence, Debbins received nominal sums of money - his first payment being \$1,000. His solicitor said he had voluntarily met with investigators on eight occasions to answer questions and posed no flight risk if he was freed before his trial. A judge rejected the argument and said if found guilty Debbins faces life imprisonment, thus the incentive to leave the US was great.



Special Forces candidates and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets in a pre-mission rehearsal

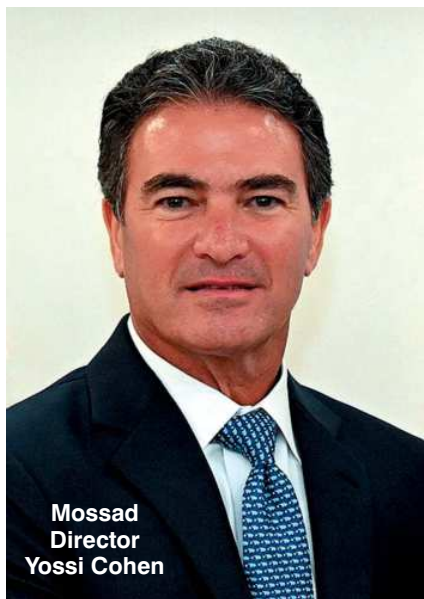
MOSSAD OR UNIT 8200?

NUCLEAR INCIDENTS AT NATANZ AND PARCHIN

Mossad Director Yossi Cohen, has agreed to extend his tenure into June 2021, amid rising tensions with Iran and reports field agents from his organisation or the secretive cyber Unit 8200, were responsible for attacks on key Iranian nuclear sites...

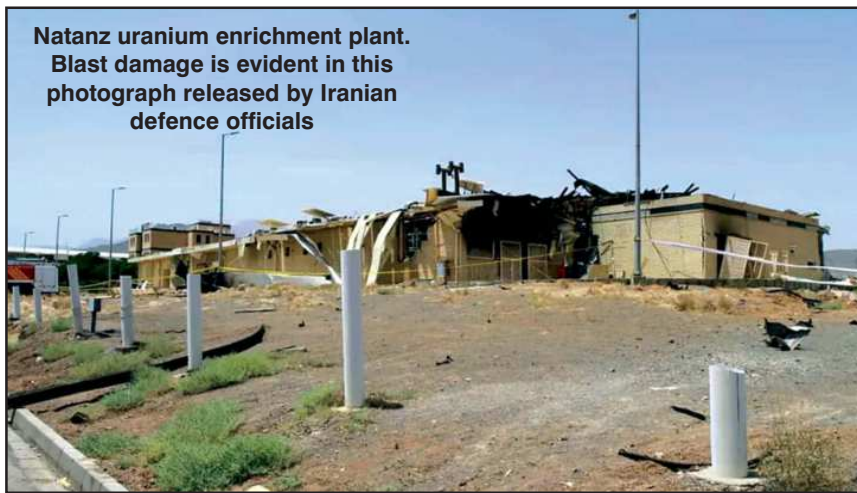
IRAN BLAMES ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE FOR EXPLOSIONS

Cohen, one of Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's closest confidants, was due to leave the organisation at the end of December after serving a recognised five year term, but an official said this has now been extended because of "security challenges facing the state of Israel," and partly by the dangers posed by the Coronavirus pandemic.



**Mossad
Director
Yossi Cohen**

**Natanz uranium enrichment plant.
Blast damage is evident in this
photograph released by Iranian
defence officials**



The decision may have also been influenced by an audacious (and alleged) Iranian MOIS (Ministry of Intelligence and Security) plan, to attack Israeli diplomatic posts and embassies in Europe and elsewhere using a proxy. According to informed Middle East sources, Mossad learned of the operation, which was already in the advanced planning stage, and in a carefully crafted counter-intelligence move, used MOIS agents to make Iran aware the plot had been exposed to the Israelis. Tehran then opted to halt planning.

Israeli officials also acknowledged that Mossad cooperated fully with those countries hosting the proposed attack sites, thus giving some credibility to the attack theory. However, they did not reveal the specific countries which hosted the targeted embassies and missions, but sources believe several were in Europe, including the Embassy of Israel in Berlin.

Hezbollah has been cited as the group selected to lead the bombing attacks. In 2012,



Embassy of Israel, Berlin, Germany

its operatives struck Israeli missions in several countries, including Georgia, India and Thailand. Other attacks thereafter have also been attributed to the group.

THE NATANZ INCIDENT

Returning to the Middle East Theatre, Cohen's agents were blamed by Iran for orchestrating an explosion and resultant fire at Iran's hugely important Natanz uranium enrichment plant, used to assemble centrifuges. Work had reportedly all but ceased there following the signing of the 2015 nuclear treaty with world powers. However, intelligence officials from both Mossad and the CIA maintain work restarted following the United States withdrawal from the agreement in 2018; a claim not denied by Tehran.

The fire, which occurred on 2 July, "only damaged an industrial shed," according to initial reports in the Iranian media. However, Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI) Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi, later

acknowledged that the explosion was significant. "More advanced centrifuge machines were intended to be built there. But this fire would possibly cause a delay in the

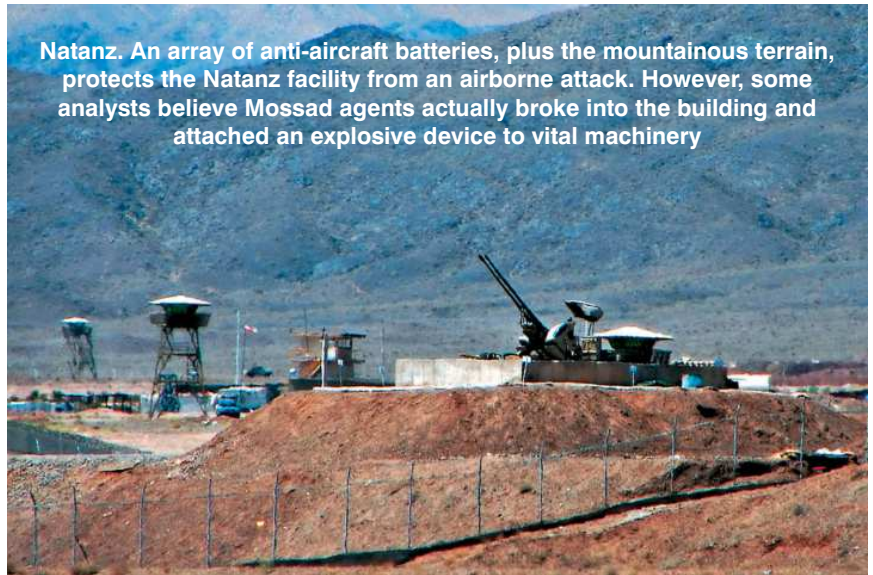


AEOI Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi

development and production of machines in the medium term."

Weapons' experts and informed intelligence sources, after analysing satellite imagery of the site, said the damage was likely caused by a "major single point explosive device," which meant agents had penetrated security and planted the bomb in a specific location to maximise damage. Analysts also agreed the operation "severely set-back Iran's ability to produce and deploy advanced centrifuges on a mass scale for years to come." ➤

Natanz. An array of anti-aircraft batteries, plus the mountainous terrain, protects the Natanz facility from an airborne attack. However, some analysts believe Mossad agents actually broke into the building and attached an explosive device to vital machinery



Satellite imagery showing the Natanz site prior to and after the explosion





IRGC head - Hossein Salami. He has instructed officials to find out the cause of the Natanz explosion - this as numerous theories are examined

The incident is being seen as part of Mossad's wider endeavour to disrupt and slow down Iran's quest for a nuclear bomb. The operation began well over a decade ago.

A few days after the Natanz incident, state-operated media house Islamic Report News Agency (IRNA), in its editorial, said it had received information from external sources that: *'The Jewish state was behind the attack'*. It further warned: *'Iran's arch enemies (Israel and the United States) against any attack on Iran's security interests'*.

This was followed by a somewhat contradictory statement from the office of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) saying the "cause of the accident had been accurately determined." There was no further elaboration.

Interestingly, the explosion at Natanz was not the only one. Several major newspapers report that a number of "mysterious incidents" at other military sites and research centres in Iran, are being investigated. One occurred on 26 June at Parchin near Tehran, a site



Israel's Defence Minister Benny Gantz and President Trump

operated jointly by the AEOI and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Ten years ago MI6 and the CIA, via the Mossad, were provided with intelligence, which revealed it, and the nearby Khojir missile facility, were two primary test centres for missile and nuclear warhead detonations.

The situation in Tehran was a little confusing. "The obvious hand behind Parchin [the attack] was the Mossad," an official from the IRGC said. But just to complicate matters, as in the Natanz case, Iran's Defence Ministry Spokesman Davoud Abdi, announced investigators had concluded it was caused by a "gas leak."

HAND OF UNIT 8200?

Other Middle East sources have also referenced a "likely kinetic cyber attack." Israel's secretive cyber intelligence Unit 8200, has been linked to the Natanz explosion. One specialist said the "likely explanation was due to an electronic attack on the computer network that controls the storage compression tanks."

HOMELAND CHEETAHS

Interestingly, BBC Persian, which has an Iranian audience of 13 million [considered a hostile service by the Iran Government], said hours before the Natanz explosion, a previously unknown group calling itself the Homeland Cheetahs, made reference to an attack on Natanz, and claimed responsibility.

The supposed group sent an email to Jiyar Gol, a bilingual international affairs correspondent for the service. He wrote on BBC Persian, that just after midnight on 30 June, he was informed of their destructive action which took place at 2.00am local time. They said they were dissidents in Iran's security apparatus and opted to strike the site as an attack would be visible above ground and could not be hidden from view and denied.

Gol was further informed that the previously unknown Homeland Cheetahs were behind numerous attacks that the Iranian Government had thus far successfully concealed from the wider world. They did not elaborate.



Parchin nuclear facility and test site was also attacked



Jiyar Gol



Unit 8200 is one of the most powerful elements of Israel's Intelligence Corps

Gol hurriedly went on-line to see if any news of the attack had been referenced. There was none, and he found no information whatsoever about the group. Yet hours later Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation announced an incident had taken place at Natanz.

And to add substance to the Homeland Cheetah's claim, satellite imagery taken at

2.06am of the buildings showed extensive damage. The Chief of Iran's Civil Defence Organisation Brigadier General Gholam Reza, responded on state television saying "any proven attack against Iran would elicit a response."

There were many who speculated the group was in a fact a front for Unit 8200, and



Brigadier General Gholam Reza

therefore imaginary. However, its actions were very real.

Israel's Defence Minister Benny Gantz said: "Not every incident that transpires in Iran necessarily has something to do with us. All those systems are complex, they have very high safety constraints and I'm not sure they [Iran] always know how to maintain them." The suggestion being it was simply an accident or equipment failure. However, he acknowledged: "Iran is aiming for nuclear weapons, we can't let it get there." ➤

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2019. Agnes Callamard addresses the US Senate over the killing of *The Washington Post* journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018

CIA STRIKE 'UNLAWFUL'

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Targeted Extrajudicial Murders, has again said the killing of Qassem Soleimani, head of the IRGC's Quds Force on 3 January 2020, was "against international law and the UN charter." In February Agnes

Callamard made similar claims saying the strike "breached international norms," thus her conclusions were not overly surprising.

Callamard's final report on the CIA-sponsored UAV strike which killed Soleimani and a number of associates near Baghdad Airport, Iraq, said the United States could not prove he presented an immediate threat to the lives of American citizens.

Officials at the CIA had green-lighted the operation after intelligence suggested he was the "overseer of imminent attacks planned on US military bases and diplomatic sites in Iraq."

Callamard, who has led similar UN investigations in over 30 countries, concluded: '*No evidence has been provided that General Soleimani was planning imminent attacks against US interests, particularly in Iraq, for*



Qassem Soleimani was killed by a missile fired by a US-operated UAV

which immediate action was necessary and would have been justified'.

The report was submitted to the UN Human Rights Council for consideration. The United States is no longer a member of the council.

Head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Secretary Ali Shamkhani, welcomed the report and said Soleimani's death was an assassination, adding the deceased Quds Force leader had played a key role in fighting terrorism.

On 29 June, Tehran Prosecutor Ali Alqaimehr announced Iran has issued an arrest warrant for President Trump and 35 military, intelligence and political figures for the death of Soleimani, he cited "murder and terrorism charges." He also revealed his government had asked Interpol for assistance.



Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Secretary Ali Shamkhani

COUNTERING IRAN SHIP ATTACKS

US AND UAE JOIN FOR KEY GULF WATERS EXERCISE

With the continuing threat to shipping in Gulf waters, US Navy and Air Force elements from US Central Command (USCENTCOM) joined with military forces from its key Middle East ally, the United Arab Emirates (Joint Aviation Command), to enhance measures to counter the menace of Iranian fast boat attacks. The three day exercise was part of several new initiatives to increase security, and utilise the adaptive features of the multi-task Military Sealift Command expeditionary mobile base, *Lewis B. Puller*.



A UAE Apache helicopter departs *Lewis B. Puller*

The vessel is a key support vessel which assists the US 5th Fleet in crisis response, airborne mine and explosives countermeasures, anti-piracy missions, maritime security and can be adapted for humanitarian roles.

US Navy multi-task Military Sealift Command expeditionary mobile base, *Lewis B. Puller*



April 2020. An armed Iranian fast boat move perilously close to a US warship. Such an action today would probably result in a military response



Dozens of aircraft, including reconnaissance and P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft, practiced tracking, confronting and engaging simulated attack vessels. UAE pilots conducted day and night missions using Chinook, Black Hawk, Apache and Bell helicopters to

hone their skills landing and taking off from *Puller*.

Coinciding with the operation, naval ships from the US, UK and Saudi Arabia, conducted over two weeks of mine hunting countermea-

asures' training in Gulf waters. The exercise involved clearing a corridor through a mock mined area.

PENTAGON DIRECTIVE

Recent directives issued by the Pentagon reveal US aircraft and ships in the Gulf, despatched to provide safe passage to traversing cargo and commercial shipping, have been instructed to confront and if necessary use force against any Iranian ships, gunboats or aircraft harassing US or Allied forces assigned to protect shipping.

In April, an incident occurred which proved the key stimulus for the new initiative; Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps ships "repeatedly conducted harassing approaches" against US Navy ships. A report said 11 IRGC vessels performed '*unsafe and unprofessional interaction with the Puller*' and at least six other ships.

UNDETERRED

Seemingly undeterred by the Pentagon instruction, on 12 August Iranian naval forces seized another ship close to vessels forming part of the Coalition Task Force Sentinel, established to provide safe passage to shipping.

USCENTCOM has released a video showing two Iranian vessels and a Sikorsky SH-3 Sea King helicopter intercepting a Liberian-flagged oil tanker, the Motor Tanker (MT) *Wila* near the Strait of Hormuz. The ship was enroute to the east coast UAE port of Khor Fakkan. ➔



**US CENTCOM
Commander General
Kenneth McKenzie Jr. (left)**

Iranian Special Forces troops board the MT *Wila*





Photographs released by US CENTCOM show the boarding of MT Wila. Coalition forces on this occasion opted to wait...



The grainy footage showed armed Special Forces troops fast-roping onto the ship from the helicopter. Additional troops then boarded from the Iranian vessels. No explanation for the intercept was given by Tehran and Iranian forces departed the ship a few hours later.

Chief Pentagon Spokesman and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, Jonathan Hoffman, said Iran was a destabilising force in the region, and listed various incidents including the MT Wila. "The boarding of a commercial vessel in interna-



Jonathan Hoffman

tional waters constitutes a blatant violation of international law that undermines freedom of navigation and the free flow of commerce." He called on Iran to cease such actions.

The footage was taken by a ship operating as part of the protective Coalition Task Force Sentinel, established to provide safe passage for shipping.

Last year saw numerous attacks on oil tankers by fast boats whose crews attached limpet mines disabling ships. Some were then forced to enter Iranian waters for inspection.

ESPIONAGE FILES

• MI6 • MOSSAD • CIA • BND • MOIS

'RECRUITERS AND AGENTS'

A British-Iranian Tehran-based solicitor has been jailed for ten years, after a closed court found him guilty of espionage.

A Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) official alleged



Gholan Hossein Esmaili

Shahram Shirkhani, who also teaches at Islamic Azad University, passed classified materials on topics such as defence ministry contracts and insight into Iran's Central Bank to MI6. He also allegedly tried to recruit agents for the Service.

Iran Government Spokesman Gholan Hossein Esmaili, held a virtual press conference to discuss the case and that of another alleged spy who also received a 10-year sentence. This involved Austrian-Iranian national Masoud Mosaheb, 73, co-secretary of the Iran-Austrian Friendship Society. He was convicted of espionage on behalf of Israel's Mossad and Germany's BND intelligence services.

Arrested in January 2019, Mosaheb was accused of passing documents to the organisations pertaining to



Masoud Mosaheb

Iran's nuclear, military, medical and nanotechnology fields.

Austria has requested Mosaheb be released, but Iran, which does not recognise dual nationality, refused. Britain has advised all its dual nationality citizens against travel to Iran.

IRAN EXECUTES 'CIA SPY'

An alleged CIA spy arrested last year has been executed following a court trial. Reza Asgari, one of around 15 men accused of passing secrets to the CIA, was accused of "selling vital intelligence" to a CIA contact pertaining to missile technology.



Asgari had worked at the Defence Ministry's Aerospace Division, before retiring in 2016. Gholan Hossein Esmaili said: "After retiring he chose to sell information in his possession on our missiles, for which he received large sums of money from the CIA. He was identified, tried and executed."

Another alleged CIA spy, Jalal Hajizavar, has admitted being paid by Langley, after various items and 'spy' equipment were found at his apartment.

QASEM SOLEIMANI

The execution of another alleged CIA and Mossad informant, who was sentenced to death for providing information to the Agency, has also taken place. Prosecutors said Mahmoud Mousavi Majd, helped CIA planners in the covert mission



Qasem Soleimani

to eliminate Quds Force leader Qasem Soleimani in January. The charge is puzzling for Majd was arrested in 2018 - months prior to the CIA kill operation being enabled. "Majd passed information on



Mahmoud Mousavi Majd

Soleimani's movements which gave US forces a clue to his whereabouts," said Esmaili. He is also accused of passing intelligence to the Mossad.

In 2019, MOIS, said it had successfully dismantled a CIA spy network. A spokesman said that around 20 foreign spies had been identified and arrested in the last 12

months - some reportedly already executed.

QUDS FORCE SPY ARRESTED

German security services have arrested an Iranian Quds Force spy, according to a spokesman of the country's domestic intelligence service - BND.

In a report released by the agency, an official wrote: 'In 2019, the Federal Criminal Police carried out an executive measure against a person in Hesse, who was suspected of deploying intelligence activities in Germany on behalf of the Quds Force. The investigation is ongoing'.



Quds Force emblem

The report follows quickly on the heels of another German Intelligence assessment on Iran's quest for a nuclear bomb. The country was referenced alongside North Korea, Syria and Pakistan as 'still pursuing nuclear weapons technology'.

The BND also revealed an investigation which began in 2018, against 10 suspected Quds Force agents is still on-going.

THE 'CIA' CONTRACTORS

ALLEGED LANGLEY-SPONSORED OPERATIVES CAUGHT IN VENEZUELA

A former US Marine and alleged CIA operative has been detained in Venezuela, and accused of surveilling oil refineries in the north-west state of Falcon. The "American spy," according to police, was caught with "specialised weapons and a large sum of money." The weapons included a grenade launcher, machine gun and explosives. Twenty-four hours earlier, Minister of Petroleum Tareck el-Aissami announced a plot to bomb the El Palito refinery in Carabobo had been foiled. It's unclear if the two events are being connected.

Attorney General Tarek Saab, said, "Mathew John Heath will be charged with terrorism." He also revealed seven Venezuelan nationals had been arrested in connection with the incident, including a serving member of the armed forces. "All the men will be charged with treason, terrorism and illicit trafficking of weapons," Saab added.

Heath is alleged to have worked as a communications officer at a CIA station in Iraq. This intelligence is said to have been provided for by Iran.



Attorney General Tarek Saab

A number of attacks on oil refineries have taken place in recent months, all blamed on Washington.

OPERATION GIDEON

The arrests comes amidst rising tensions between the two countries and shortly after two other former Marines, Luke Denman and Airan Berry were jailed for 20-years for their alleged part in a coup attempt against President Nicolas Maduro. In this case the failed action, codenamed Operation Gideon, involved 80 rebel fighters. The US in turn has accused Venezuela's intelligence service of conspiring with drug cartels to flood North America with narcotics.



2020. Juan Guaido with President Trump



President Nicolas Maduro and Minister of Petroleum Tareck el-Aissami

Maduro claimed Washington has been behind a number of other failed coup attempts allegedly organised by opposition politician Juan Guaido, who the US does support. He also believes the CIA has offered a "bounty" for his head.

Venezuela is reliant on its oil industry which has suffered economically in the past few years, and sanctions imposed by the United States have also had a serious affect. The country is heavily reliant on imports from Iran.

As to the validation of Maduro's latest accusation involving the 'CIA' man, he offered no proof but said more details including video and photographs would be released shortly. No statement has been issued by officials in Washington.



Luke Denman and Airan Berry

THE RUSSIA REPORT

'a growth industry of enablers... who are wittingly or unwittingly de facto agents of the Russian state'



Government Response to
the Intelligence and
Security Committee of
Parliament Report
'Russia'

Presented to Parliament
by the Prime Minister
by Command of Her Majesty
JULY 2020

BLIND INTELLIGENCE EYE?

Britain Underestimated Intelligence Prowess of Moscow's 'Interfering Spies'

The long-awaited 'Russia Report', an investigation by the nine-person Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC), which sought to uncover the extent of Russian intelligence and political interference into the UK, has been released. It follows a similar probe in the United States, which despite claims

interference in the US General Election was "negligible," senior intelligence officials privately believe were widespread, complex and all sanctioned by the highest echelons in the Kremlin. One intelligence man central to the investigation, then FBI Director Robert Mueller, called the interference "sweeping and systematic." Twenty six Russians were indicted and three organisations named.

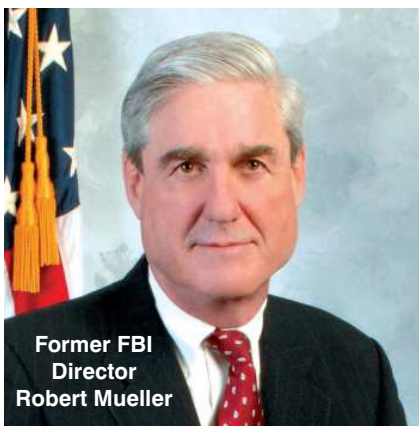
The UK investigation, which began shortly after the attempted assassination of MI6 agent and former GRU intelligence officer Sergei Skripal in 2018, was completed and delivered to Prime Minister Boris Johnson last November, but for reasons not fully understood, has only been published now.

Eye Spy was informed that several sections were redacted because of intelligence concerns - many were linked to counter-intelligence efforts deployed against Russian Intelligence meddling and subversion, not just in the UK, but also its allies elsewhere.



Similarly, other comments thought too sensitive were changed, though the conclusions remains.

The report is primarily based on huge amounts of secret intelligence provided by all three primary UK intelligence services - MI6, MI5 and GCHQ. However, there are references



Former FBI
Director
Robert Mueller



Former leader of Britain's Labour Party Jeremy Corbyn

to other bodies, including Defence Intelligence (DI), Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism (OSCT), National Security Secretariat (NSS) and the Joint Intelligence Organisation (JIO). Collectively, they are called the UK Intelligence Community (UKIC). Some of the intelligence not published, was described as "highly important," and because of fears Russia could use the material to threaten the UK. Nevertheless, the ISC report remains a powerful document which reveals Moscow's probable hand in British affairs and democracy.

SUBJECT FOCUS

Topics examined by the ISC included authentic fears the UK vote to leave the European Community and the 2019 General Election, had been influenced by all manner of covert operations: cyber attacks, disinformation and cleverly crafted propaganda. Much of the latter was output by state media houses, some of which have since been penalised or high-

lighted for further action. The ISC also judged credible, intelligence that Moscow had tried to interfere in the Scottish independence vote.

"The UK has long been singled out as a top tier intelligence target by Russia, just behind the US and NATO," said a senior intelligence officer speaking on the condition of anonymity.

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab seemed to concur. "Russian actors, almost certainly sought to interfere in the election through online amplification of stolen documents relating to US-UK trade talks." Some of those documents were reportedly referenced by the Left-Wing opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Just weeks after Johnson was given the report last year, ISC Chairman Dominic Grieve candidly said he "wouldn't dream of revealing the Report's findings." A reference many believed supportive of the fact that Russian

Intelligence had indeed been active in interfering with crucial subjects, and the UKIC slow to counter.

THE LONDON LAUNDROMAT

Another interesting point was reference to significant financial donations made by leading Russian figures to political parties, a number who were named in the media. Some have close relations with British political figures, whilst others were past associates of Russia's President Putin. In a powerful rebuke, the ISC note: *'Russian influence in the UK is the new normal. Successive Governments have welcomed the oligarchs and their money with open arms, providing them with a means of recycling illicit finance through the 'London Laundromat', and connections at the highest levels with access to UK companies and political figures.'*

'This has led to a growth industry of 'enablers' including lawyers, accountants, and estate agents who are - wittingly or unwittingly de facto agents of the Russian state'



Intelligence and Security Committee Chairman Dominic Grieve

ISC member Stewart Hosie said, "the UK took its eye off the ball because of its focus on counter-terrorism." He added Britain has "badly underestimated the response required to the Russian threat," and "actively avoided looking for evidence that Russia had interfered."



Stewart Hosie

A decade ago President Putin addressed Russian intelligence officials and openly said he was “recharging the batteries of the intelligence agencies to intensify operations around the world...”



CHASING SPIES

Britain's relationship with Russia began to implode in 2006, following the assassination of MI6 agent and FSB officer Alexander Litvinenko. He was killed after Russian spies secreted Polonium-210 into his tea in a London hotel. Since then, several influential Russian political, business, security figures and oligarchs have died in very suspicious circumstances in the UK and elsewhere. Another addition almost happened in August, when a leading political opponent of President Putin, Alexei Navalny, was reportedly poisoned. (See Page 48) Sections of the ISC report include the Kremlin's willingness to



Alexei Navalny

pursue its enemies abroad, as in the case of Litvinenko and Skripal. The ISC said Britain was playing 'catch up and must take



UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab with US Secretary of Defense Dr Mark Esper - both recognise that a secret Russian programme to influence political agendas in both countries is very real



Konstantin Kosachev

immediate action'. A Downing Street official said the Government was “fully aware of the significant and enduring threat” posed by Russia.

Some media and intelligence commentators said that the report shows British Intelligence chose simply to “watch from the sidelines.” The *Guardian* journeyed back in time and replicated some of the original wording on the founding of MI5 and MI6 in 1909. It highlighted MI5's Latin motto - 'Regnum Defende' - 'Defence of the Realm'. Noting that a century ago it was tasked with countering foreign espionage and activities. The newspaper's Martin Kettle said that is “exactly what today's agencies and politicians failed to do.”

Another senior source said that whilst we were informed the Government had not seen any evidence of interference, it is meaningless if no-one had bothered to search for it in the first place. A Government spokesman said: “We have seen no evidence of successful interference in the EU referendum.” He also said UK Intelligence made regular assessments of the Russian threat.

In Moscow, Konstantin Kosachev, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Russia Federation Council, submitted a written response: 'The charges are once again unfounded, unsubstantiated, unconvincing'. Speaking to Russia's TASS, Kosachev said: “It seems it is now state policy to attack Russia, but it is very dangerous for the UK.”

The 50-page ISC report summarised saying ministers had in effect turned a blind eye to a number of allegations of Russian state sponsored activities. It deemed credible reports that Britain continues to be a prime target for Russian disinformation, but couldn't answer the central question of whether or not the Kremlin had tried to influence the Brexit referendum or General Election.



One significant event to arise from publication of the ISC report, is that Downing Street will give British Intelligence and security agencies additional resources and legislation to counter foreign interference and operations on UK territory. This includes introducing a new US-type law demanding that

overseas operatives (not diplomats) working on behalf of a foreign government must register. Recently retired MI5 Director-General Sir Andrew Parker provided guidance on this crucial anomaly to the 'Russian Report'. He said an undercover operator could be working for a Russian spy agency but that little could be

done until they are uncovered actually securing secret information or act against the interests of the UK. Such individuals can perform tasks beyond that deemed sensible by diplomats and are of course referred to as 'Illegals' in the Russian spy theatre. If caught, they have no diplomatic immunity.

Prime Minister Johnson said: "The government is bringing forward legislation, not only a new Espionage Act, not only new laws to protect against theft of our intellectual property, but also laws to counter individuals in Russia or elsewhere who transgress human rights."



**Former MI5
Director-
General
Sir Andrew
Parker**

RUSSIAN EYES INSIDE NATO

FRENCH ARMY OFFICER ARRESTED FOR PASSING SECRETS TO GRU



A Change of Command Ceremony at Allied Joint Force Command Naples (JFC)

French Armed Forces Minister Florence Parly, confirmed that a Lieutenant Colonel in the French Army has been arrested and is under investigation for "serious security breaches." The officer, serving with NATO in Italy, is facing preliminary treason charges for sharing highly sensitive intelligence with Russian Intelligence. In plain language - espionage. The Russian intelligence service was not named, but sources say he was seen in the company of a known GRU (military intelligence) officer. Parly said the French military has taken "necessary protective measures" as a result.

The unnamed officer has been accused of passing "ultra-sensitive information to Russian secret services."

The treason investigation was opened in late July after the Defense Ministry alerted the Paris prosecutor's office to the suspect's activity. The soldier was arrested in France by counter-intelligence officers of the DGSI as he prepared to return to Italy after holidaying. He was remanded in prison in Paris.

In preliminary charges he is accused of: *'Compromising national defense secrets, collecting and sharing intelligence with a foreign power that threatens the nation's fundamental interests'*. Other charges were also filed, according to the Defence Ministry.

Enquiries from French media to NATO, resulted in the following response. "The organisation does not comment on intelligence issues,"



Armed Forces Minister Florence Parly

advising judicial process is underway. Russian Embassy officials in Paris also declined to comment.

Eye Spy understands the alleged spy, is in his 50s, and based at the important Allied Joint Force Command Naples (JFC) in Italy. The officer has distant family ties to Russia and is a fluent speaker of the Russian language.

Parly also commented on recent rogue satellite activity performed by Russia. "France is putting major investment," into military activities in space - this after an incident in which a Russian satellite moved close to a French satellite in an apparent effort to eavesdrop on secure military communications. (See page 71 - The Inspector)

EXTREME PREJUDICE



Putin Critic Alexei Navalny Poisoned with Novichok Nerve Agent

NATO-aligned nations ready to respond collectively as Russia rejects claims that its agents were responsible for new assassination attempt

Russian Alexei Navalny, 44, a leading anti-corruption campaigner, long-time opposition activist, and a most vocal critic of President Vladimir Putin, has become the latest target in another covert poison plot. On 2 September, a little more than a week after he was flown to Germany for specialist treatment, Chancellor Angela Merkel said military scientists discovered he had been poisoned with Novichok. The same nerve agent was used by



EU Foreign Affairs Minister Josef Borrell

GRU operatives in Salisbury, England 2018, in an attempt to assassinate former GRU officer and MI6 agent Sergei Skripal.

Merkel told journalists: "Someone tried to silence him, and on behalf of the whole German Government, I condemn this in the strongest terms."

In a statement issued on behalf of all European Union countries, EU Minister for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josef Borrell said: "The use of chemical weapons under any circumstances is completely unacceptable and a breach of international law." He added "the assassination attempt should be thoroughly investigated by the Russian Government."



Chancellor Angela Merkel

Eye Spy was told British Intelligence provided assistance to the military specialists treating Navalny. This in the form of data. It is expected a statement on the exact Novichok poison will be released, once the data has been cross-referenced with that sourced from the Skripal case.

NATO

NATO countries were provided with compelling data and evidence. Representatives of each

"The Navalny incident was completely reprehensible. The use of a military-grade nerve agent makes it even more urgent the Russians carry out a full and proper investigation... and the perpetrators held accountable"



Bogashevo Airport



Navalny drinks tea while waiting for his flight to depart Bogashevo Airport which serves the city of Tomsk. It was initially suspected the beverage had been laced with poison. Scientists remain undecided how he came into contact with the nerve agent

nation have already met or spoken, and in future weeks will decide on an appropriate response.

NATO Secretary-General Jans Stoltenberg said: "The incident was completely reprehensible. The use of a military-grade nerve agent makes it even more urgent the Russians carry out a full investigation." He called for a transparent investigation and those who were responsible to be "held accountable." Following the Skripal attack, over 150 Russian diplomats and known intelligence officers were expelled from diplomatic missions across the world.

Numerous world leaders have now called on President Putin to explain what happened. However, the Kremlin has rejected claims it authorised the sanction and some officials



Sergei Skripal

said the poisoning must have taken place in Germany.

One former CIA Russian specialist told Eye Spy that Navalny was selected for 'Extreme Prejudice', a dark intelligence instruction drawn from the Dictionary of Spies which in plain language means 'terminate'. "Intelligence officials do not like the word 'assassination', but if a person or persons are perceived as a direct threat to national security, an instruction can be delivered that they are subjected to extreme prejudice... elimination."

BACKGROUND AND TIMELINE

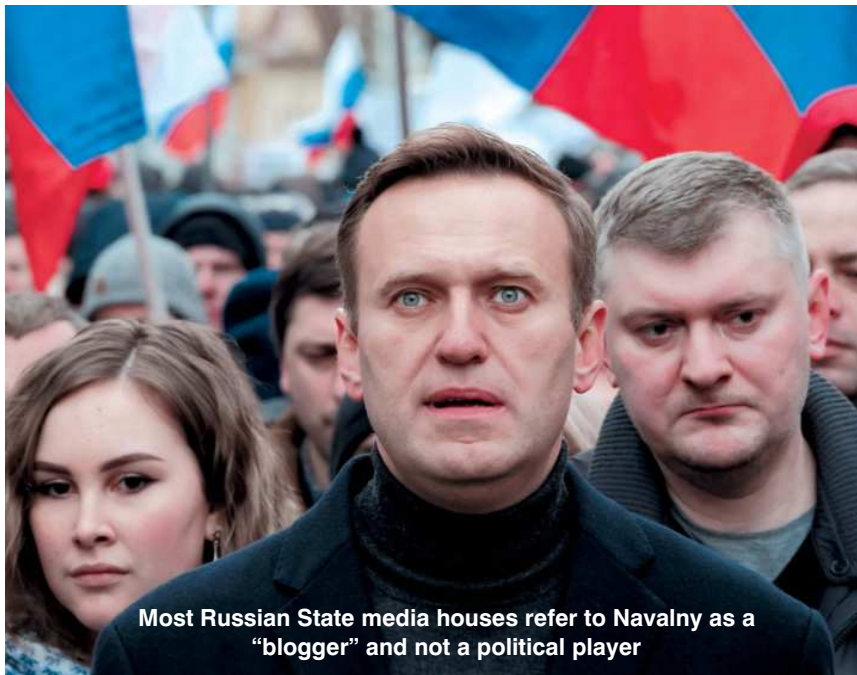
Navalny, who headed the Foundation for Fighting Corruption* and was described in a *Wall Street Times* editorial as 'the man Putin fears most', was placed in an induced coma ➤



NATO Secretary-General Jans Stoltenberg



Navalny is arrested during a 2017 street protest



Most Russian State media houses refer to Navalny as a “blogger” and not a political player

in a Berlin hospital from Novichok poisoning. On 7 September doctors said his condition had improved and he was now responding to “verbal stimuli.”

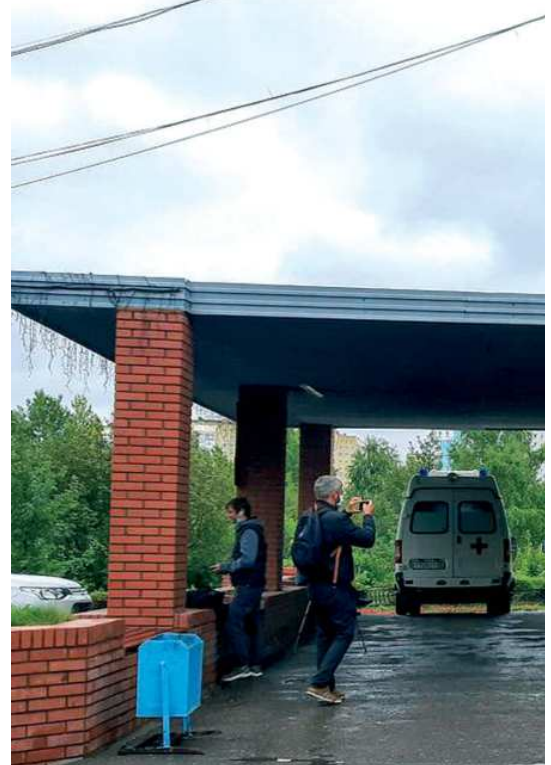
Navalny fell ill on 20 August, on a flight from the Siberian city of Tomsk to Moscow, after drinking tea at an airport cafe. The aeroplane made an emergency landing in Omsk, near Kazakhstan, where an ambulance waited to take him to the Emergency City Clinical Hospital No.1. But Navalny’s condition worsened, and he fell into a coma before he arrived at the facility. A video was then released showing Navalny on the aircraft at the precise time he was overcome and a photograph of him drinking tea in the cafe.

At the hospital a standoff ensued between Navalny’s family and associates and doctors overseeing his care. A statement from the medical team treating him suggested his condition was a “metabolic disorder leading to a low blood sugar count.”

Chief Doctor Alexander Murakhovsky said: “It had been quite an effort to save Alexei Navalny’s life.” As for growing speculation that he had been targeted by assassins using poison, Deputy Chief Doctor, Anatoly Kalinichenko, said: “Poisons or traces of their presence in the body have not been identified. The diagnosis of poisoning remains somewhere in the back of our minds, but we do not believe that the patient suffered poisoning.”



Anti-corruption campaigner Alexei Navalny has been held responsible for many protests against the political system in Russia. On one occasion he called President Putin’s party “crooks and thieves”



President of the European Council Charles Michel with President Putin. Michel reportedly contacted Putin and asked that he agree to the transfer of Navalny to Germany

Navalny’s wife, Yulia Navalnaya, dismissed the statement and alleged the doctors were being controlled by the Kremlin in an attempt to cover up the poisoning attack instead of treating him properly. She quickly decided to make contact with President Putin and asked that he could be treated abroad. President of the European Council Charles Michel also interjected and called Putin expressing concern.

UNDERWORLD

Days before the Novichok statement, Yulia, who was barred from seeing her husband in



Omsk Emergency City Clinical Hospital No.1. receives Navalny



Navalny supporters are detained for attending an unauthorised protest

the Russian hospital, suspected foul play by a rogue element of Russia's security services. Three years ago a toxic dye was thrown into Navalny's face by Kremlin loyalists. He was also treated in Europe for that attack.

In 2018, he was banned from participating in the Presidential Election because he had a conviction for embezzlement, which barred him from running. Navalny denied all the charges and accused the Kremlin of being behind the accusations as a "reprisal for his criticism."

In July 2019, Navalny was sentenced to 30-days in prison after calling for unauthorised

protests. Whilst in jail, he fell ill, doctors said he had suffered an acute allergic reaction, diagnosing him with "contact dermatitis." However, his personal doctor suggested he might have been exposed to a "toxic agent" and Navalny himself told reporters he thought he might have been poisoned.

BERLIN FLIGHT

Whilst in the hospital in Omsk, Vladimir Milov, a close political associate of Navalny, said: "The [Russian] medics are being totally commanded by the FSB and hardly release anything. We of course cannot trust this hospital and we demand for Alexei to be given to us, so that we could have him treated in an independent hospital whose doctors we trust."

A medical aircraft was then chartered by Berlin-based humanitarian group - Cinema for Peace Foundation - carrying German physicians. A few days later the team arrived in



Vladimir Milov

Omsk; however, Russian medics initially stopped the transfer claiming Navalny was not stable enough to fly. However, they eventually allowed their German colleagues to examine him and flight plans resumed. A short time after arriving in Germany, Navalny was taken to the Charité in Berlin, one of Europe's biggest university hospitals.

Navalny's team believe the transfer was deliberately delayed in the hope that this would prevent or hamper identification of the poison by German physicians.

On 24 August, physicians at the Charité said that he had been poisoned with a "cholinesterase inhibitor." However, the exact substance at this time remained unknown. Navalny was treated with the same antidote in Berlin as used on Skripal - atropine. And once this was revealed, his long-time associate and campaign strategist, Leonid Volkov, drew comparisons to the two cases. "Remember, the world's most famous cholinesterase inhibitor is called Novichok," he said.

As for who was behind the operation, Volkov said: "An attack of such level and coordination could not have been carried out without the authorisation of Mr Putin. As a consequence



Omsk Emergency City Clinical Hospital No.1. Chief Doctor Alexander Murakhovsky, addresses journalists about Navalny's health

Continued on Page 78



Eye Spy returns to the Dictionary of Spies, and sources more legendary, unusual and little known words and phrases, as well as their origins, used by those who work in the intelligence world...



BACK-STOPPED

A Government communique or instruction (including verbal) authorised at the highest levels to halt an intelligence, military or diplomatic operation or action - be it at the point of implementation or already in progress.

The instruction is most infuriating to planners of intelligence operations, some undoubtedly

involving derring-do or those that have taken months to formulate. In many cases this is only temporary while those at the highest echelons of power seek more information, guidance or examine the wider implications an act might have. Human rights is also a factor that is increasingly considered, though not in all countries and dependent on circumstances.

Back-stopped is inextricably linked to the United States military term 'Stand down'

which was used just after World War One, according to military historians.

CONTROL

U usually the head of an intelligence office or even an entire organisation. Control is also frequently used to refer to the leader of an intelligence team engaged in an operation. Similarly, it may be assigned to a person or liaison of an external body, including a diplomatic office, overseeing or responsible for an intelligence agency.



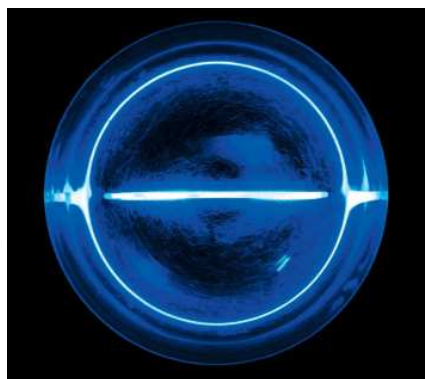
John Hurt at the 2011 London premiere of *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*

Some agencies opt to use the word Command.

In spylore, the title has also found its way into many fictional movies, perhaps most famously in the film adaptation of John Le Carré's *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*. In this case MI6's 'C' or Control was played by John Hurt. In the real world, 'C' of course is Chief.

FLATLINED

Used extensively in many environments including hospitals where the heart or brain show no electrical activity. And of course, in more recent times, government officials around the world have commented that their objective is to see a "flatlining" of new cases of Coronavirus. However, in the intelligence world its meaning is usually associated to an operation that has stalled, cannot be progressed, or support is no longer guaranteed. Similarly, it can be applied to an adversary action with similar protocols.



The word was first used at Langley, CIA headquarters in the early 1960s, when the Agency, with the backing of President John F.



President John F. Kennedy

Kennedy, plotted the overthrow of Cuba's leader Fidel Castro (Operation Mongoose) and the ending of Communist rule.

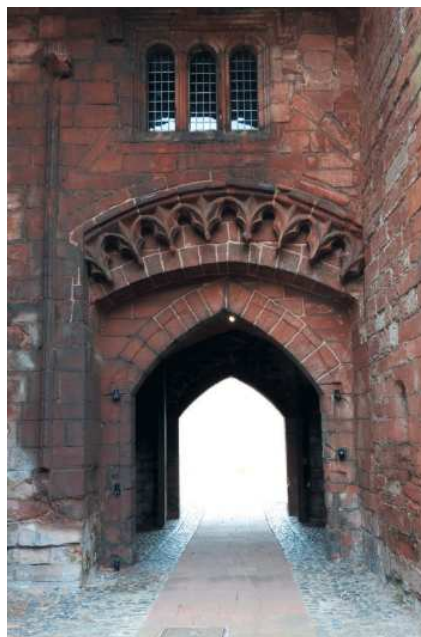
Kennedy's support for the endeavour gradually declined - which worried senior CIA officials engaged with the operation. This was despite the CIA insisting there was much room for "plausible deniability." Planners acknowledged that his support had flatlined.

GATEWAY

Applicable to the intelligence and military world, a Gateway is one of the most important and early 'building blocks' of an intelligence endeavour. The creation and implementation of Gateways allows planners to enable an operation and plot a route towards an objective. Gateways can present themselves in numerous ways, and their complexity and creativity are governed by a wide range of circumstances.

For seekers of intelligence, a Gateway could present itself when a person agrees to assist a particular endeavour, or indeed, an opportunity arises, sometimes unexpectedly. Their implementation could include securing the assistance or cooperation of a foreign government - allowing access to a target area - for example. Another variant is third party assistance to form a back-channel with an adversary where no formal communication exists.

By no means are Gateways singular, and in difficult situations or objectives, the implementation of one could be followed by others. (See also Pathfinder)



JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT



The final moments before an operation is engaged, usually after weeks, or perhaps months of careful planning. Just Before Midnight it is also used to signify the approaching closure or end game of an operation.



Richard Bissell Jr.

Some intelligence sources believe its origins lie in the story of the CIA U2 spy plane. In 1952, Richard Bissell Jr., CIA Deputy Director for Plans, who was responsible for covert projects, received approval from President Eisenhower for a dangerous U2 flight from Wiesbaden, Germany. The primary target area was the Soviet naval shipyard in Leningrad. Much depended on weather conditions over the area, but Just Before Midnight Bissell picked up the phone and telephoned controllers in Germany and sanctioned the overflight.

Since then, the hour of midnight has become synonymous with deadlines and the green-lighting or last minute rejection of operations.

KEYS TO THE SAFE

In the context of Intelligence, the phrase is an expression used by both keepers and seekers of secrets.

The challenges are immense for those tasked with protecting national security and a nation's most treasured secrets. A security breach in



almost any area of an intelligence organisation is serious, but even more so if an adversary has been given access or has somehow managed to gain insight into what's known as Treasure. Protecting the Keys to the Safe is a monumental task and of course, multi-faceted, because of the numerous elements (directorates, employees etc..) and security pitfalls within an intelligence agency.

It's safe to say they represent the holy grail of the intelligence world. With insight into the work of an adversary, a Service can provide more guidance and considered advice to Government and military planners.

Those engaged in espionage (against any target) will scheme and plan in a plethora of ways to fulfill their objective. Having a contact, source or better still, an well-informed official within an establishment selected for intelligence penetration, is beneficial. That person can often advise and provide guidance allowing safe passage through a maze of security measures. One can assume therefore, that such individuals can help secure, or at the very least, reveal where the Keys to the Safe lie.

The phrase is also used by those engaged in cyber security - agencies such as GCHQ and



NSA, who besides acting for government, also provide guidance and protection for hundreds of key businesses and organisations. However, unlike physical agency penetration, a cyber adversary (hacker) may be many thousands of miles away, safe in the knowledge that as they seek ways to engage programmes and networks, their chance of capture is virtually nil.

OUT OF FRAME

A phrase drawn from the investigation of an individual target. However, it can be applied more widely to more than one person, group, government or even country.

In general terms, if a person is no longer suspected of involvement or under suspicion for a certain action, they are Out of Frame. However, intelligence agencies also use the wording to announce the target has disappeared or is lost. This usually triggers more suspicion and the widening of an investigation.

The use of such wording is applicable to many intelligence events. For example, the passing of intelligence to an adversary, a terrorist act, the illegal movement of weapons etc. A list of suspects (including traitors) and nations is created based on evidence and incoming intelligence. Thereafter analysts and investigators will carefully remove those least suspected. One by one, they too are designated Out of Frame.



PATHFINDER



A description usually afforded to an experienced intelligence officer (not necessarily of senior rank), who is given the task of ensuring an ongoing operation can progress smoothly, even when faced with mounting or difficult obstacles. Pathfinders are not assigned to all operations, but usually those whereby an endeavour has stalled or is likely to be exposed. Officers will seek out ways to best circumnavigate obstacles and plot a safe route for participants. The role has been likened to the creators of Gateways, but they are quite different in reality.

The name almost certainly originates with WWII Pathfinder units despatched ahead of military forces, often to establish radio beacons as guides for aircraft carrying airborne troops. The US operated a number of Pathfinder units until 2016, when the last company was inactivated by the 101st Airborne Division.

SELLING A LIE

Government officials, especially those linked to the intelligence world, do not like words and phrases such as disinformation, misinformation, propaganda, and in more recent times fake news. All are seen as divisive and open to criticism if an act associated with any are exposed or suspected.

However, there are those who work in official areas who are charged with creating operations, arrangements, situations, headlines and even international agreements, that often require the shield of deception.

In many cases, those who work in this highly complicated area use trusted third parties, many attached or working for media houses - print, television and radio. This of course also brings in to play journalists in the Fourth Estate. Manipulation or use of media as a platform to impart carefully created copy has been performed for well over a century.



And more recently of course, the use of Internet platforms such as Twitter and Facebook, has allowed flawed and bogus commentary to be imparted on a scale thought impossible just a few years ago,

In offices and locations beyond the reach of an adversary, opponent, unfriendly media, the public and watching eyes, they are charged with Selling a Lie.

STERILE CORRIDOR

Most primary intelligence agencies have departments whose work is inter-connected. Each have liaisons and regular meetings are held between senior officials, especially if engaged on a task which requires input from more than one directorate. There are instances, however, when it is necessary to shield an office or an operation. A case example might be protecting a source, or suspicion of a traitor, or the possibility that critical intelligence could be leaked by involvement of too many parties.

This is when an instruction from the highest level will be given to create a Sterile Corridor. This means that a directorate, unit, office or even an individual can work in the knowledge that there is an element of containment, and therefore lessen the possibility that information about the operation will be compromised.



Should information leak, this also affords internal security officers more chance to identify the culprit[s].

TRIGGER EVENT

Not to be confused with the surveillance term 'trigger', whereby an officer (or team) is deployed to announce a target has been identified or on the move.

A Trigger Event in intelligence terms can be anything from an incident generating conflict or tension, to a carefully manufactured scheme initiated to divert attention away from another occurrence. It can also be used in more general terms, especially by analysts, who may be tasked to discover the origins of a particular incident or event, be it man-made, natural or even coincidence.

There are also occasions when multiple Trigger Events combine. A good example of this is Britain's July 2020 decision to stop utilising Huawei's prowess in its 5G network. For nearly two years US Intelligence advised their counterparts in the UK over multiple concerns, but Downing Street were unmoved.

During this period all manner of reports emerged about China's growing espionage operations, especially targeting UK allies, including the United States, Canada and Australia. Then the COVID-19 outbreak, which was quickly followed by Beijing's implementation of tough new security laws in Hong Kong. This was a breach of an agreement signed by China and the UK in 1997, when the former



British colony was handed back to China. British Intelligence then advised ministers of the apparent dangers of using Huawei technology, but the final straw was a report suggesting China had targeted key individuals who could "influence UK policy makers." These were collective Trigger Events.

A more simple Trigger Event, is the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. In this case it resulted in the United States declaring war on Japan and Germany.

VARIABLE



When a source, agent or even an intelligence officer, is considered unconvincing, unstable, incompetent or unreliable, they are described as Variable. The term which dates back pre-WWII, and probably originated with the FBI, is drawn from weather reporting. In this case the weather for a particular region being described as "variable" or "uncertain."

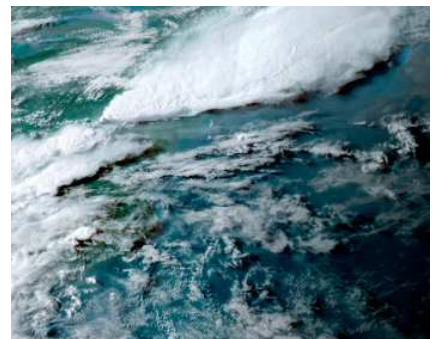
The description usually means information from such a person and their actions are monitored more closely.

WEATHER REPORT

A strange but oft used Cold War communication to enquire about the status of an operation or occasionally an agent.

Fearful of telephone bugs and general intercepts, agents and handlers would use all manner of odd messages to impart information, including obscure words and phrases - known only to the two parties.

Overseas Controllers of Operations (see also Control), or those finding it necessary to make contact, often used diplomatic posts to convey a request or establish if an operation was progressing successfully. In this case a blase comment asking about the weather was conveyed. The recipient would respond accordingly. If the operation (task and/or participants) was still on course and safe, the weather was "fine and sunny." And if a possible destabilising situation had occurred or was likely, the weather was described as "changeable," or "could be better." If the situation was dire, a reference to "bad weather" or similar was imparted.



THE WIZARDS OF FEAR

TALIBAN BOUNTY PROGRAMME

CIA has 'Medium Confidence' GRU Kill for Cash Programme is Authentic

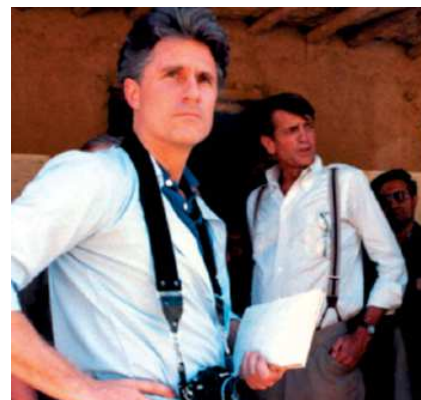
It's been a topic of conversation and controversy in the corridors and meeting rooms of several US intelligence agencies - Russia's military intelligence service (GRU) has paid bounties to the Taliban in exchange for the targeting and killing of US and Coalition forces. So sensitive is the subject that few inside the CIA and Pentagon have raised the matter for fear of destabilising critical peace talks with the Taliban. In recent months, it has also emerged that another 'rogue' nation has allegedly restarted its 'kill for cash' operation - Iran. A decade or so ago, British Intelligence discovered Iran was paying the Taliban \$1,000 for every Coalition soldier killed.

BACKGROUND

As early as 2016, the Pentagon warned of increasing covert Russia-Taliban links. General John Nicholson, then head of US forces in Afghanistan said: "The public legitimacy that Russia lends to the Taliban is not based on fact, but it is used as a way to essentially undermine the Afghan Government and the NATO effort and bolster the belligerents."

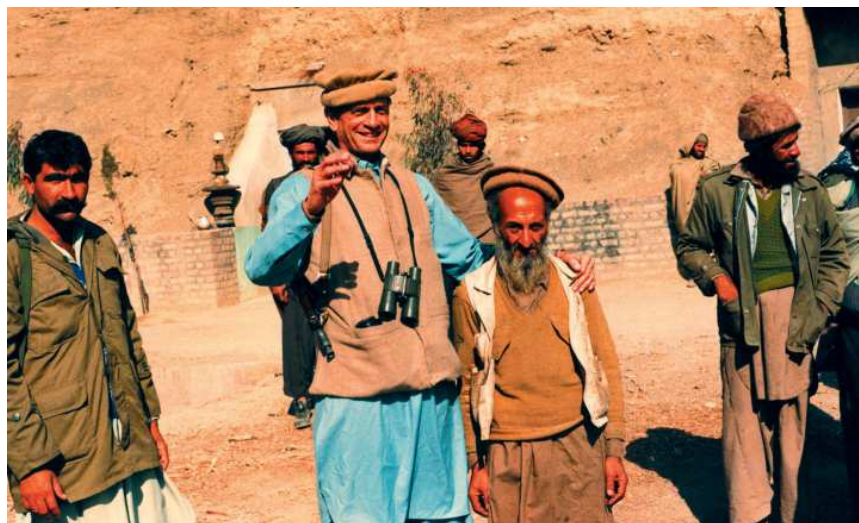
Also relevant, Moscow has never forgiven the United States for its backing of the Mujahideen in the long and brutal Soviet-Afghan War, which ran for a decade, ultimately ending with the Soviets withdrawing in 1989. Two years later the Kabul Government, once backed by Russia, collapsed.

In the latter part of the war, much of the weaponry used by the Mujahideen came from the United States. Routed through secure channels, the operation was led by the CIA's Special Activities Division (SAD). The stimulus for this covert endeavour began with US Congressman Charlie Wilson after he visited a refugee camp on the Afghan-Pakistan border. Seeing the conditions and learning of Soviet atrocities, he began liaising with the CIA to secure finance for weapons. The operation was made famous in George Crile's 2003 book - *Charlie Wilson's War: The Extraordinary Story of the Largest Covert Operation in*

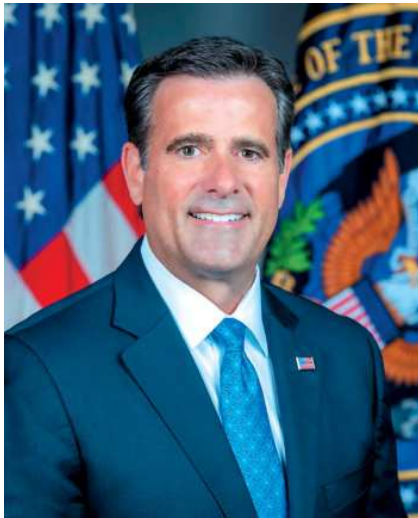


Investigative author George Crile III (let) and Charlie Wilson

History, which was adapted for the silver screen in 2007. Wilson of course was famously portrayed by actor Tom Hanks.



Charlie Wilson pictured with Mujahideen fighters in Afghanistan



**Director of National Intelligence
John Ratcliffe**

THE BOUNTY PROGRAMME

When reports of the 'Bounty Programme', first emerged, they were played down by many in the diplomatic corps in Washington. A White House spokesman said President Trump was not informed and appeared to dismiss media stories which alleged the operation was run by the GRU's infamous Unit 29155. Its operatives, known as the 'Wizards of Fear' in intelligence circles, have engaged in numerous dark operations. These include the attempted assassination of MI6 agent Sergei Skripal in the UK in March 2018, and an attempted coup in Montenegro in 2016.

As for reports that many in the United States Intelligence Community (USIC) believe the Bounty Programme is authentic, a government official said: "There is dissension in the intelligence community regarding the validity of the claims."

MEDIUM CONFIDENCE

A CIA assessment of the programme was included in a July document produced by the National Intelligence Council (NIC) which

reports directly to the Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe (ODNI). A number of other US intelligence services were also asked to contribute and add opinion. The CIA and National Counterterrorism Center (NCC) reportedly had 'Medium Confidence' - meaning that it was probable a Russian-Taliban 'kill for cash' agreement was indeed authentic - but not 100% proven. The NSA was not as supportive of the intelligence, stating it did not have the same level of confidence. Similarly, the US



US Defense Secretary Mark Esper

US troops in Afghanistan have been described as "political pawns," while peace talks continue



Taliban Command has declined to comment on the Bounty Programme. Sources inside the group have said 'fringe elements' have participated

Department of Defense has not given its backing to many of the reports suggesting the programme is real.

US Defense Secretary Mark Esper said that whilst the threats were taken seriously, the intelligence has yet to be proven credible.

But with a looming election and the likelihood more details will emerge, some leading political and intelligence figures are beginning to comment. For example, US Secretary of State and former Director CIA Mike Pompeo said: "If the Russians are offering money to kill Americans, or for that matter other Westerners, there will be an enormous price to pay." ➤



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has discussed the subject and warned if true, "there will be a price to pay"

A USAF HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter at Bagram Air Base. Two deadly attacks at the key facility have been linked to the Bounty Programme by CIA analysts

“Intelligence is distributed along the spectrum of uncertainty...”

Former US National Security Advisor John Bolton

He also confirmed that the subject has been discussed with President Trump and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Another senior Washington figure, former National Security Advisor John Bolton, said he too briefed President Trump about the programme as early as March 2019. Some insiders also believe the matter was included on more than one occasion in the President's Daily Brief (PDB). All of this had led to criticism of the Trump administration and questions why he did not raise the subject with President Putin directly. One reason perhaps is that the intelligence had been dismissed by President Trump, who said it was neither verified nor credible. In a tweet he

described it as *‘all made up fake news media hoax started to slander me & the Republican party’*.

One White House official insisted the reason he didn't ask Putin, is because he wasn't told. This statement seems strange following Trump's tweet.

Amid the confusion and inconsistencies, US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien said: “The President's career CIA briefer decided not to brief him (Trump) because it was unverified intelligence. She made that call and I think she was right.” That's not what most people in the intelligence world believe, including John Bolton. (See Intel Inside)

Despite divided opinion, many intelligence officials believe at the very least the President should have ordered an investigation into Unit 29155's alleged involvement.

CONTACT MEN AND EVIDENCE

According to intelligence sources, Unit 29155 used a number of ‘middlemen’ to contact the commanders of fringe Taliban groups and make offers of cash. Some believe it's also possible they provided additional information on US troop activity, strengths, vulnerabilities

and locations. One such person named by the media is Rhmatullah Azizi, a drug smuggler who travelled regularly between Russia and Afghanistan. The CIA learned, that dependent on the type of action and number of fatalities incurred, Taliban-linked groups could be rewarded anything upto \$100,000 for each strike.

In a January 2020 counter-operation against Azizi, actioned by Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security (NDS - the country's primary intelligence agency) and backed by the CIA and US Special Forces, half-a-million dollars in cash was found at his house in Kabul. The CIA believed this was “good evidence” of the existence of bounty money, rather than the fortunes of his drug running. One Taliban official, asked if the money was linked to Russia or Iran simply said, “everyone needs money.” However, he did say that most



US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien



LEFT: Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev (right), a former KGB officer who previously headed the Federal Security Service (FSB), pictured with former US National Security Advisor John Bolton. Both men have commented on the alleged Unit 29155 Bounty Programme



PRESIDENTIAL DAILY BRIEF

Whilst intelligence on the Bounty Programme was contained in Presidential Daily Brief volumes, an experienced CIA briefer thought it best not to reference the material to President Trump because it could not be verified

INTEL INSIDE

Former US National Security Advisor John Bolton was asked about the quality of intelligence and White House claims it was not authentic and/or verifiable. He provided this fascinating insight:

“Intelligence is distributed along the spectrum of uncertainty. And this intelligence (Bounty Programme), by the administration’s own admission, was deemed credible enough to give to our allies. So the notion that you only give the real completely 100% verified intelligence to the President would mean you give him almost nothing. And that’s just not the way it works.”

operations linked to the programme, occurred at Bagram Airfield Base, the largest US base in Afghanistan. In April 2019, a suicide bomber drove an explosives’ laden vehicle into a military convoy killing three US Marines.

US investigators then focussed on another deadly attack described as “highly sophisticated and organised” at the base in December 2019. Two civilians were killed and 70 others injured. It later transpired a number of US servicemen were also hurt. This information was initially withheld because the CIA-brokered peace talks with the Taliban were at a critical stage.

The CIA quickly learned the Haqqani terrorist group, led by senior Taliban leader Sirajuddin Haqqani, carried out the attack. Haqqani, who has a \$10 million bounty on his head, has overseen numerous attacks on Coalition ➤



Afghanistan’s National Directorate of Security Director Ahmad Zia Saraj

operations occur in the north of the country which supports CIA intelligence.

Eye Spy understands that CIA and US DOD personnel briefed NATO on the subject - something which an official from NATO confirmed on the grounds of anonymity. “The Germans have a major presence in the north and this briefing was very much focussed on the increased threat to these units by local groups paid by the Russians,” he said.

Other evidence secured by Langley includes details of money transfers from a known account controlled by the GRU to the Taliban; and the travel histories of men linked to the programme who reportedly received cash payments and instructions.

IRANIAN BLOOD MONEY

Despite the Department of Defense having reservations about the ‘Bounty Programme’, Pentagon officials are examining data since 2016 related to actual attacks on US and Coalition troops in Afghanistan. An average of around eight occur every month, but there was a significant rise in 2019, following alleged Unit 29155 intervention. Two Taliban



NDS fighter. The military intelligence agency and CIA discovered \$500,000 in cash at a house used by an alleged GRU-Taliban intermediary used to pay rogue Taliban groups



**Haqqani target
- former Afghan
President
Hamid Karzai**

forces, and was a central figure in the attempted 2008 assassination of Afghan President Hamid Karzai. Reports soon emerged that “multiple bounties” had been paid to the group. Suspicion for the ‘blood money’ of course fell on Russia. However, classified papers identify the paymasters as being employees of Iran’s intelligence service - Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS).

Just weeks later of course, in January 2020, the CIA engaged in an operation in Iraq which resulted in the death of Iran Quds Force leader General Qasem Soleimani. Some intelligence sources believe the strike was a revenge



Sirajuddin Haqqani

A US State Department spokesman acknowledged Iranian involvement in the December Bagram attack, noting that “Tehran supports some elements of the Taliban.” He also warned that it would be a “mistake for any faction to get entangled in Iran’s dirty work.”

mission enabled because of the growing relationship between Iran and the Haqqani Network. The CIA attack was condemned by the Taliban who described Soleimani as a “great warrior.”



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Ambassador Zalmay Khalizad. According to a NATO official, intelligence on the Bounty Programme was considered sufficiently reliable for the CIA and DOD to brief the organisation

RUSSIA RESPONSE

Senior Russian military, intelligence and political figures, have all denied the Bounty Programme exists. Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev, Russian Envoy to Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov, and Frants Klinseviv, a member of the powerful Federation Council Defence and Security Committee, have all accused the media of spreading fake news.

In a televised address, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov poured scorn on the US intelligence assessments: “There has been a hype in the United States over speculation on alleged ties between Russia and the Taliban and our push on them to fight US servicemen or even a reward for their heads.” He said that the intelligence was false and deliberately leaked to the media to hurt President Trump in the 2020 General Election.



**Russian Envoy to Afghanistan
Zamir Kabulov**

A spokesman for Lavrov also denounced the reports and said on-going stories circulating in the US media, “demonstrate the low intellectual abilities of US intelligence propagandists.”

SUMMARY

As to why Moscow and Tehran should embark upon such tactics, analysts suggest the reasons are three-fold. First to hasten the US military withdrawal from the country; second, weaken the Afghanistan Government and third, create a landscape which allows Russia and Iran to secure more influence with new and emerging power brokers.

Other intelligence watchers believe there are some former KGB people who will never forget, nor forgive the CIA who played a significant role in the removal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan in 1989...

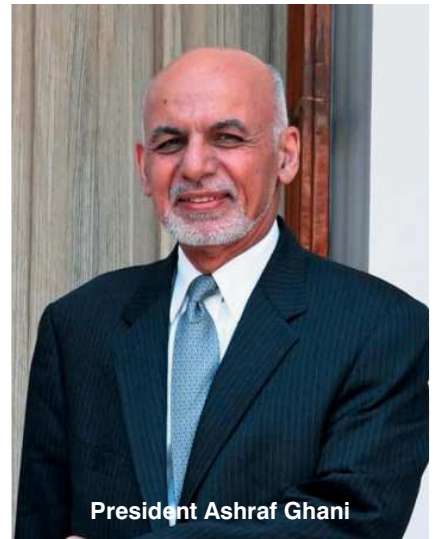


A Soviet military convoy departs Afghanistan in 1989

THE AGREEMENT

TALIBAN-AFGHANISTAN RECONCILIATION TALKS

First peace talks between Afghan Government and Taliban begin in Qatar



President Ashraf Ghani

On 12 September, after repeated delays, the Afghan Government and Taliban finally came to the table to try and find a formula of a lasting co-existence, this after years of conflict which has left hundreds of thousands of people dead.

Poignantly, the historic talks began just one-day after 9/11 commemorations were held across the United States. Most intelligence officials agree the al-Qaida atrocity, which resulted in nearly 3,000 civilian deaths, only heightened tensions in an already unstable Afghanistan - this after US forces entered the country in search of the perpetrators of the

worst terrorist attack in history. The country was still in turmoil after years of occupancy by Soviet forces, internal disputes and fighting amongst various factions.

At the outset of the Qatar talks, Abdullah Abdullah, Chairman of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation and leader of the delegation from Kabul, said: "We have come here with the good will and good intention to stop the 40-years of bloodshed and achieve a country-wide and lasting peace. The current conflict has no winner through war and military means, but there will be no loser if this crisis is resolved through submission to the will of the people."

The direct negotiations became possible after the United States signed a deal with the Taliban in February, brokered by months of secret work by the CIA and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. This began a phased withdrawal of remaining US troops in Afghanistan and pressured the Afghan Government to free 5,000 Taliban prisoners.

While US and Qatari officials helped start proceedings, which cover numerous subjects, negotiations will be directly between Taliban and Afghan officials.

The United States and other countries, including Germany, will be present to help the process.

The Taliban have persistently refused to negotiate directly with or recognise the Government in Kabul and referred to Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani as an "American puppet." And as a reminder to those who believe the talks will be 100% successful, Taliban leader Mullah Baradar Akhund said "much patience will be needed as we move forward."



Above left: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meets with Abdullah Abdullah, Chairman of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation and the Taliban delegation (above right) in Doha, Qatar, as talks began to broker a lasting peace

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HOUSE OF SPIES



**CHINA
FOCUS
PART
TWO**

US and China Spies

THE 'LEGAL' MSS

Intelligence suggests
China's diplomatic
outposts and missions
in the United States
are running a nation-
wide network of spies

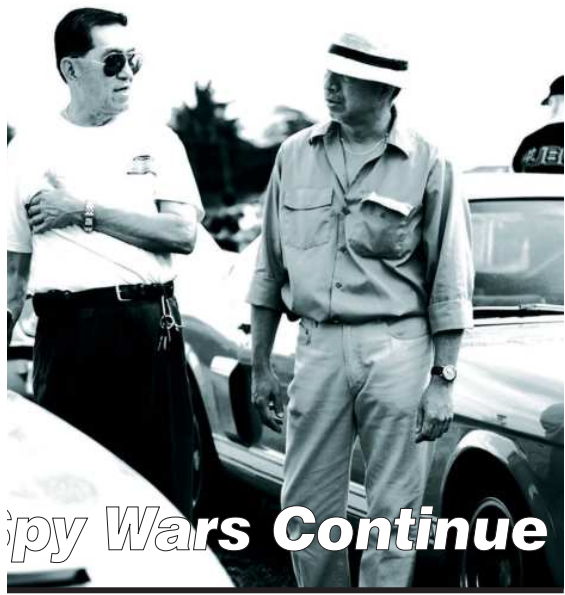
Amidst rising tensions with China on numerous issues, the US Government ordered the closure of China's Consulate in Houston, Texas. The move was actioned after senior officials based at the mission, were accused of direct involvement in the collection of intelligence. More specifically, guiding operatives elsewhere in the country to source "specific information" on a variety of subjects, some deemed "sensitive and security based." In a retaliatory move, China ordered the closure of the US Consulate in Chengdu.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the decision was made in response to "China's continuous theft of intellectual property."

HOUSE OF SPIES

US Intelligence believes the Houston building represents just a "microcosm" of a spy

OF SPIES



py Wars Continue

SS SPY NETWORK



network believed to operate from at least 25 other sites. A Department of Justice (DOJ) official said: "Consulates have been giving individuals in that network guidance on how to evade and obstruct our investigation. And you can infer from that the ability to task a network of associates nationwide."

Another official said the mission was a hub of activity that went beyond what the United States was prepared to accept, calling the site a "base of operations used by the [Chinese] intelligence services."

The DOJ referenced an increase in intelligence collection from such sites, but noted the Houston Consulate was "one of the worst offenders," - this an indication the mission has been under surveillance for some time.



The United States Consulate in Chengdu was instructed to close its mission

A US intelligence officer was embedded with Justice officers when the announcement was made. He said the situation was very complex and so large that it negated the option simply to detain individuals. Instead the focus is on identifying the network and how it is used to communicate instructions to operatives around the country, including many Ministry of State Security (MSS) operatives. A number are already working in contract companies, high end technology firms and key places of study and research.

SPY CASES SURGE

A collective intelligence estimate, using statistics and case files provided by a multitude of US agencies, notes a 1,300% increase in economic espionage in just the last decade. This does not include wider espionage; the US Intelligence Community believes a wealth of secrets have been lost to Chinese Intelligence on subjects such as computing and technology. Of equal concern, many projects (hard and software) have



Consul General Jim Mullinax heads the US Consulate in Chengdu

appeared in China which reveal cloning of sensitive US endeavours. These include an array of military projects - ground, air, ➤



China's Consulate in Houston, Texas





Terry Branstead

seaborne and space. US Intelligence has connected some 60% of all spy cases to Chinese Intelligence.

Other statistics revealed by the FBI were equally as damning. A Bureau officer said the FBI has “about 2,000 active counter-intelligence investigations tied to China.” A new case emerges approximately every 10 hours.

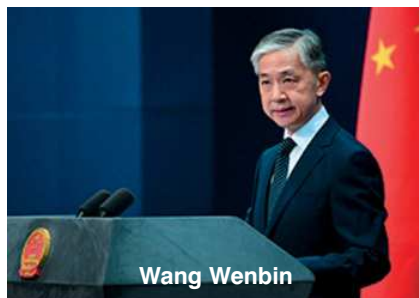
No comment was made by China in response to the allegations, instead the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) advised the US Ambassador to China Terry Branstead, that it was “withdrawing consent for the establish-

ment and operation of the US Consulate General in Chengdu.” This outpost is headed by Consul General Jim Mullinax. MFA Spokesman and Deputy Director of the Foreign Information Department of China, Wang Wenbin, said personnel at the mission were engaged in “activities inconsistent with their identities,” a candid reference to intelligence officers using diplomatic cover. “They had interfered in China’s internal affairs and harmed China’s national security interests,” he said. In respect of the Houston move, Wenbin said this was based on a “hodgepodge of anti-Chinese lies.”

In July, FBI Director Christopher Wray, speaking at the Hudson Institute in Washington DC, said: “Chinese espionage poses the greatest threat to the US economy and by extension, to national security.”

SPY ARREST AND CHARGES

In other moves linked to the USIC crackdown on China’s intelligence collection, an MSS



Wang Wenbin



Jun Wei Yeo, A.k.a. Dickson Yeo

Singaporean operative has pleaded guilty to working as a spy in the United States on behalf of China. Jun Wei Yeo, A.k.a. Dickson Yeo, 39, used his political cover as a front to collecting intelligence on a wide variety on subjects - much of it not in the public domain. He was guided by Beijing to create a bogus consulting web site as part of his cover. Here he soon received over 400 resumes from interested parties - around 90% were submitted by US military and government employees. These were then forwarded to his handlers for consideration as possible targets for recruitment.

Yeo admitted scouting for US nationals (including military) holding high-level security clearance, much of which was conducted on

COVID-19 CYBER SPIES

FARAWAY AGENTS CONTROLLED BY THE MSS

The US Justice Department has charged two Chinese nationals for securing “hundreds of millions of dollars worth of trade secrets.”

Li Xiaoyu and Don Jiazhi, described as “electrical students and cyber hackers,” by the FBI, also attempted to breach security at US companies engaged in the search for a vaccine to COVID-19. Both men have been operational since 2009, and worked with the Guangdong State Security Department of the Ministry of State Security (MSS). Here they were controlled by an MSS intelligence officer.

Besides targeting US companies, the indictment alleges the men also infiltrated high-end technology and biotech companies in Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Holland, Australia, Spain, Sweden, Belgium and Lithuania.

FBI Deputy Director David Bowditch said: “These hackers, directed by Chinese intelligence



Li Xiaoyu and Don Jiazhi



FBI Deputy Director David Bowditch and FBI Seattle Special Agent in Charge Raymond Duda, discuss the charges against Li Xiaoyu and Don Jiazhi. A wanted poster of the alleged spies can also be seen

services, have targeted and continue to target companies and laboratories in countries around the world. China steals intellectual property and

research which bolsters its economy, and then they use that illicit gain as a weapon to silence any country that would challenge their illegal actions.”



FBI Director Christopher Wray addresses the Hudson Institute

LinkedIn. Here he sought contacts with persons having access to sensitive subjects. The FBI allege he held meetings with his handler on numerous occasions in China to receive instructions. During one of those liaisons, he was asked to secure information on the US Department of Commerce, artificial intelligence and the China-United States trade war. Yeo was arrested by the FBI in 2019 after flying back to the USA from China - this after he was tasked with turning a US Army officer into a "permanent conduit of information."

Following the charges and investigative notes presented to him, Yeo signed a confession document. The US Justice Department said Yeo was active between 2015 and 2019.

Another developing spy case concerns Chinese researcher Juan Tang, 37. She was amongst four scientists detained in California.



These photographs of Juan Tang betrayed her secret military background



PLAAF Military Medical University

In her case, Bureau investigators discovered imagery of Tang dressed in a military uniform and materials linking her to China's People's Liberation Army (PLA). Court documents reveal she was a researcher at China's Air Force Military Medical University.

Tang had departed her job as a Visiting Researcher at the Department of Radiation Oncology, University of California in June. Her position was sponsored by the Chinese Government.

Justice officials also accused China's San Francisco Consulate of harbouring a known fugitive - Tang had attempted to find sanctuary at the mission.

Three other Chinese nationals studying in the United States face similar charges to Tang; Xin Wang, Chen Song and Kaikai Zhao all worked at places of research and all are accused of having direct ties to the Chinese military.

QUID PRO QUO

HOSTAGE DIPLOMACY

Canadians Charged with Espionage

Tensions between China, the United States and Canada grew, as Beijing indicted two Canadian nationals on charges of espionage. The cases of Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor are being inextricably linked to the arrest of Meng Wanzhou, a senior financial executive of the Chinese technology giant Huawei, at the request of the United States. The US allege Meng deceived four banks into making transactions to help Huawei evade American sanctions against Iran. Meng has denied the charges. The Chinese action was described as "quid pro quo," by one official.

Kovrig, a former diplomat who worked for the International Crisis Group, and Spavor, a business consultant, writer and entrepreneur who promoted cultural trips to North Korea, are accused of "gathering state



secrets and intelligence for foreign countries and illegally providing state secrets for foreign countries," a Chinese official said.

Not wanting to inflame the situation further, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a considered response: "We are of course, disappointed with the decision and the step taken by the Chinese in the case of the two Michaels. We offer all our support and sympathies to the families of Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor, who are obviously living a difficult moment today, as they have been for well over a year with the arbitrary detention of two Canadian citizens. We have continued to express our disappointment with the Chinese decision... and detention of these two Canadians. We will continue to advocate for their release and return to Canada." ➤



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau



Michael Spavor

COURTESY: www.freemichaelspavor.com



Michael Kovrig

When asked if he would release Meng in return for the Canadians, Trudeau said “no.”

HOSTAGE DIPLOMACY

China has defended its decision, despite few in the intelligence world believing the men are in any way linked to intelligence collection. “The criminal facts are clear and the evidence is verified and sufficient,” said Zhao Lijian, Deputy Director and Spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry at a news conference in Beijing. He was challenged by a journalist who said the move was tantamount to “hostage diplomacy,” a reference to the detention of Meng Wanzhou. Zhao responded: “You ask a question brimming with malice,” he said. “You better ask the Canadian



Zhao Lijian

government what hostage diplomacy is.”

Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, François-Philippe Champagne, said consular access to the



Meng Wanzhou is the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei

men was last allowed in January, and that he was “deeply concerned.” Champagne called for the men’s immediate release. His request was echoed by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who said the “charges are politically motivated and completely groundless.”

David Mulroney, former Canadian Ambassador to China, said: “China has been staging its own fake judicial process in sync with the real process in Vancouver. The irony at the heart of this is the Meng case will take a long time because she has a top-drawer legal team of Canadian and American lawyers that most of us can only dream of having. Meanwhile, our two guys are in a place with the lights on 24-hours-a-day, and no consular access because of COVID-19.” He added, “China is not a normal partner.”

Another former Canadian Ambassador to China, Saint-Jacques, is familiar with Beijing’s misuse of the espionage act. He served in 2014 when Canadians, Kevin and Julia Garratt, were arrested for stealing military secrets and spying. “We have to recover our voice to be critical,” said Saint-Jacques. “The

only language China understands is one of firmness.”

Julia Garratt spent six months in jail, while Kevin was imprisoned for two years.

As for Meng, the eldest daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, her detention sparked protests as Canada enabled procedures to extradite her to the United States. Seen as a hero by many in China, officials in Beijing believe the incident is just part of a wider campaign by Washington against China. With the removal and ban of Huawei technology, arrests of numerous Chinese nationals for espionage, the threatened ban on visiting Chinese students (also linked to espionage), military tensions in the South China Seas and accusations of a cover-up over COVID-19, relations between the US and China have reached a critical moment. Senior US intelligence and military officials believe the situation could spark a far more serious incident.

For the record, Kovrig and Spavor were arrested just days after Meng was detained at Vancouver Airport in December 2018.



Kevin and Julia Garratt

FBI STING



20-Year-Old CCTV Footage Betrays MSS Spy

Former CIA Officer Gifted China Langley's Tradecraft Secrets

A former CIA officer and contract linguist for the FBI, has been charged with espionage. Alexander Yuk Ching Ma, 67, was arrested on 14 August for allegedly passing classified information to Chinese intelligence operatives. An 85-year-old relative was also implicated in the conspiracy but not charged due to existing medical problems. However, it has transpired that just like Ma, the operative once worked for Langley and held a position allowing him access to Top Secret materials.

Ma was born in Hong Kong but moved to the United States in 1968 where he became a naturalised American citizen. He joined the CIA in 1982 and spent seven years in service



Alexander Yuk Ching Ma

before returning to Shanghai, China. Court documents state that in 2001, he returned to the United States and settled in Hawaii.

Prosecutors said he then spent three days in Hong Kong meeting with five operatives of China's Ministry of State Security. During the liaisons, he and his associate are alleged to have sold classified information about Langley operations, assets and tradecraft methods; these included concealment techniques and use of 'cover and legend'. It has since transpired, that parts of the meeting, held in a hotel room, were captured on video, including clips showing Ma receiving \$50,000 in cash.

TARGET - THE FBI

However, after the meeting Ma returned to Hawaii with instructions to find employment with the FBI; the objective being to try and gain access to more secret materials. And he was successful - beating an FBI polygraph test

- he was hired as a contract linguist at the Bureau's Honolulu Field Office in 2004.

It is alleged that for the next six years he stole, copied and photographed all manner of classified and secret documents - these being delivered to his MSS handlers during frequent trips to China. One particular batch of documents included details of research into guided missile and weapons system technology. FBI officers said he would often return from China with expensive gifts, such as golf clubs and thousands of dollars.

The case against Ma follows a major investigative probe and FBI sting operation. Key to the case is the 2001 film showing Ma receiving monies. From whence and how the CIA and FBI secured this film is unclear. However, in 2019 a sting and undercover operation was enabled.

A Bureau operative posed as a Chinese intelligence officer and met Ma. At the meeting he showed him the film explaining that he



Ma's frequent trips to China raised suspicion amongst his associates in the FBI

FBI Field Office, Hawaii



wanted to know the identity of the other agents. Ma was convinced he was in the company of a loyal MSS officer. At a further meeting he accepted \$2,000 for his cooperation and told the undercover FBI man that he “wanted to see the motherland succeed,” and that he was keen to engage again once the COVID-19 pandemic had subsided.

COMMENTARY

One of the key investigators who headed the spy probe was Eli Miranda, FBI Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau’s Hawaii Field Office. He described the case as “very complicated,”



Eli Miranda



MSS spies - Jerry Chun Shing Lee and Kevin Mallory were jailed in 2019

and praised the counter-intelligence officers engaged in the investigation.

Alan Kohler Jr., Assistant Director of the FBI’s Counter-intelligence Division said: “This serious act of espionage is another example in a long line of illicit activities that the People’s Republic of China is conducting against the United States.”

Assistant Attorney General for National Security John Demers added: “The trail of Chinese Espionage is long and sadly, strewn with former American intelligence officers who betrayed their colleagues, country and its liberal values to support an authoritarian Communist regime. The betrayal is never worth it. To the Chinese intelligence services,

these individuals are expendable. To us, they are sad but urgent reminders of the need to stay vigilant.”

Denied bail because of fears he would try and escape from the country, if convicted Ma faces life imprisonment. The actual charge against Ma is ‘*Conspiracy to communicate national defence information to aid a foreign government*’.

Ma’s arrest is the latest in a number of successful counter-espionage operations against Chinese Intelligence. In May 2019, Kevin Mallory, a former CIA officer, was sentenced to 20-years in prison for espionage. In November 2019, Jerry Chun Shing Lee received a similar sentence.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

DANISH INTELLIGENCE CHIEF SUSPENDED

Danish Defence Intelligence Service (DDIS) Director Lars Findsen, has been suspended after it was revealed his agency had “broken laws and misled the intelligence watchdog for years.” A statement released by officials said, “Findsen has been relieved from duty for the time being.” Two other employees have also been suspended.

An investigation into the DDIS was launched after whistleblowers handed over information to the country’s Intelligence Oversight Committee that analysts say support the allegations. The “unethical” probes have taken place over the last six years and mainly involved Danish nationals.

According to Danish media houses, the DDIS is also accused

of failing to investigate allegations of espionage within the armed services.

It is unclear if members of the public involved in the surveillance and investigations will ever be told if they were targeted and what information has been passed on.

Minister of Defence Trine Bramsen said an investigation will be launched into the case. “It is



Trine Bramsen



DDIS Director Lars Findsen - suspended

absolutely vital that we can have confidence that our intelligence services are acting within their powers,” she said, adding the matter will be looked into with “the utmost seriousness.”

However, the operational role of the DDIS in securing foreign and military intelligence will not be affected. “It is important for me to emphasise that the fight against the threats to Denmark must not stop while the investigation is carried out,” she said.

Interestingly, Bramsen also advised that talks are underway to examine the possibility of establishing a “whistleblower hotline.”

Findsen has led the DDIS since 2015. He was the former Director of Denmark’s domestic intelligence service - PET (2002-2007).

The DDIS has appointed an interim chief in the person of Svend Larsen, Director of Central and West Zealand Police.

HONG KONG

BEGINNING OF THE END

Media Tycoon
Arrested Under Tough
New Security Laws



L leading Hong Kong businessman Lai Chee-Ying, better known in the media world as Jimmy Lai, was arrested and his newspaper offices raided by security officers, following uncorroborated allegations he was secretly “colluding with agents from foreign organisations.”

Lai, 71, has been vocal in his opposition of tough new security laws imposed in Hong Kong by the Chinese Government. Lai, who also holds British citizenship, was hailed as a “beacon” by pro-democracy activists, but China’s state controlled media house *Global Times*, described him as “a riot supporter who has instigated hatred, spread rumours and smeared authorities in Hong Kong for years.”

In Beijing itself, a Government spokesman said he was the leader of the “gang of four” who flouted security laws and incited riots. Intelligence sources said the decision to target Lai, owner and founder of Next Digital (formerly Next Media) was taken last year



Hong Kong Chief Secretary Carrie Lam

after he met with US Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Washington DC. The men discussed the growing threat to Hong Kong’s autonomy. And in June this year, following the passing of the New Security Law, Lai further inflamed China when he declared the decision “spells the death knell for Hong Kong.”

The operation to detain Lai involved 200 police officers who placed him in handcuffs and marched him through the offices of the *Apple Daily* newsroom. The newspaper, the most widely read in the former British territory, has

been a fervent backer of the pro-democracy movement. A further seven staffers were also arrested and charged with the same offences as Lai - ‘endangering national security’. The UK and United Nations also criticised his arrest.



Jimmy Lai

Various media houses around the world described his detention as “outrageous,” and have offered support. Mike Pompeo said Lai’s arrest was “proof the Chinese government had eviscerated Hong Kong’s freedoms.”

Britain and the United States have been critical of the security clampdown in Hong Kong, and have imposed sanctions on various officials, including the territory’s Chief Secretary Carrie Lam. China responded in similar fashion.

A joint letter from the Foreign Ministers of the ‘Five Eyes’ intelligence collective - United States, Britain, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, was sent to Beijing and included a sharp rebuke for China’s decision to postpone elections and ban pro-democracy candidates from participating.

Armed officers confront demonstrators opposed to Beijing’s new laws



11 SEPTEMBER 2001 19th ANNIVERSARY

America Remembers A Fateful Day



11 September 2020. Pentagon Force Protection Agency officers at the flag unfurling ceremony

For the past 18 years, thousands have gathered at the site of the former World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan, New York City, to honour the near 3,000 civilians who perished in the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks. This year's memorial was very different.

The COVID-19 pandemic, changed how the city reflected on that infamous day 19-years ago.

Families of 9/11 victims gathered at the site, but for the first time, the programme did not include a live reading of the victims' names, a recording was played instead. Attendees were asked to wear masks and practice social distancing to protect themselves from potential COVID-19 infection.

THE SIX BELLS

Bells tolled at six observed moments of silence marking the



Tribute in Light



Aftermath of the World Trade Center attack

timeline of the attacks: **8.46am** - hijacked American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center; **9.02am** - hijacked United Airlines Flight 175 struck the Center's South Tower; **9.37am** - hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon; **9.59am** - the South Tower collapsed; **10.02am** - hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 crashes to the ground in Shanksville, Pennsylvania; and **10.29am** - the North Tower collapses.

Shortly after sunset on 11 September 2020, the Tribute in Light returned to the New York City skyline. Twin beams of light, created by floodlights placed near the World Trade Center site, marked the absence of the city's famous towers.

9/11 memorial organisers had initially chosen to cancel this year's Tribute in Light display, due to safety issues, but the decision was reversed after a public outcry and the tribute took place.



Left: 11 September 2020. President Trump and First Lady Melania Trump at the Flight 93 memorial site in Shanksville. Above: A National Park Ranger salutes the family of a relative who died on Flight 93 in Shanksville

Unidentified Launch from Russian Satellite Criticised

THE INSPECTOR

SPACE WEAPONS RACE

Travelling around 300 miles above the Earth, Russia's military satellite Kosmos 2543 fired an unidentified projectile at high speed (400mph) into orbit on 15 July. US Space Command (USSC), which monitored the launch, believe it is connected to an emerging programme intended to give Moscow a key advantage in the use of weaponry in space. US and UK officials said the object did not appear to strike anything, but the incident was consistent with the testing of "new anti-satellite procedures."

After disclosing details of the launch, a USSC Spokesman said: "US Space Command has evidence that Russia conducted a non-destructive test of a space-based anti-satellite weapon. The test is another example that the threats to the US and allied space systems are real, serious and increasing."

Air Vice Marshal Harvey Smyth, head of the UK's Space Directorate agreed: "We are concerned by the manner in which Russia tested one of its satellites by launching a projectile with all the characteristics of a



Air Vice Marshal Harvey Smyth

weapon. Actions of this kind threaten the peaceful use of space and risk causing debris that could pose a threat to satellite and space systems which the world depends upon."



The United States and its allies use a worldwide network of stations to monitor nearly all space satellites and anomalies



28 March 2018. Military satellite Kosmos 2542 is carried into space by Soyuz 2-1V

THE CARRIER

Eye Spy reported on the emergence of Kosmos 2543, which itself was placed into orbit by Kosmos 2542, earlier this year.* Shortly after, it was involved in a near encounter with America's National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) spy satellite USA 245, which carries secret optical reconnaissance equipment. There were authentic fears then that the Russian satellite was an attack platform, and the launching of a new projectile appears to have confirmed those suspicions.

Russia's Ministry of Defence claims Kosmos 2543, is an 'inspector satellite' and part of a system designed to approach other orbiting satellites and monitor their condition. The release of the unidentified object was just another sub-launch, and described as a "small space vehicle."

This does not explain the manoeuvre which brought both Kosmos 2542 and 2543 into

A-235 PL-19 Nudol mobile launcher





General John Raymond

close proximity to USA 245 months ago, and most experts believe the new launch is a missile test run.

General John Raymond, head of USSC was dismissive of Russia's explanation: "This is further evidence of Russia's continuing efforts to develop and test space-based weapons, and consistent with the Kremlin's published military doctrine to employ weapons that hold US and allied space assets at risk."

A SINISTER DEVELOPMENT

Brian Weeden, Director of Programme Planning and Technical Advisor for the Secure World Foundation, tweeted: *'That's a projectile being fired, not a satellite deployment'*. And numerous space experts agreed, calling the incident "sinister" and realisation that some countries are developing systems which could seriously impact the current and future space programmes of many nations.

Whilst the new space activity has been largely condemned by senior figures, in the past decade the United States, Russia, China and India, have all engaged in anti-satellite programmes. All state they are defensive measures. In one satellite strike by China in 2007, 3,000 pieces of space debris was created.

Nevertheless, actual examples of the destruction of satellites are few. Most remain Top Secret but involve the downing of malfunctioning satellites using missiles launched from Earth and guided to their target by other satellites. Details of one satellite attack programme that did find its way into wider media was Russia's A-235 PL-19 Nudol surface-to-space anti-ballistic missile and anti-satellite weapon. Operational since 2015 and described as a "space and satellite endeavour," Nudol launches from static and mobile land-platforms. Other programmes are being tested, including the destruction of



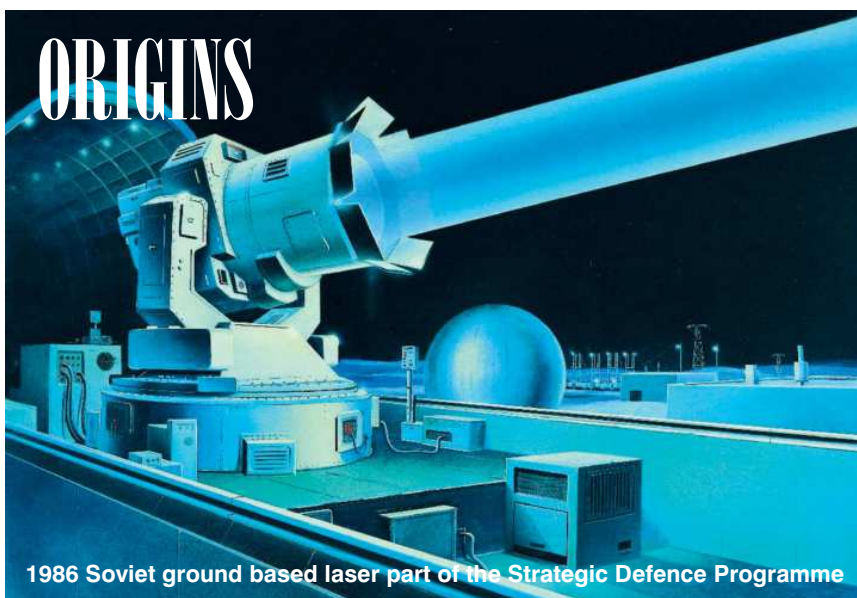
Future Space Vision: A space-based laser strikes a target on planet Earth

satellites using lasers. As early as 1986, Russia engaged in laser technology which even then, could disrupt selected targets.

Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed the US and UK criticism, "Russia supports full demilitarisation of space and not basing any types of weapons in space."

Many in the intelligence community now acknowledge that the race for space dominance in this highly technical and critical field will continue apace.

*See Eye Spy 127



1986 Soviet ground based laser part of the Strategic Defence Programme



Overseeing much of the military and scientific work of those engaged with space technology is the Russian Aerospace Forces (VKF). Established in 2015, the organisation is headed by Colonel General Sergei Surovikin

MI9, Escape, Evasion

Eye Spy Associate Editor and intelligence historian Helen Fry has uncovered new and remarkable information which throws new light on Britain's WWII intelligence organisation - MI9

By Helen Fry



A Major Player in WWII Espionage

MI9 is best known for the daring exploits of escape and evasion by soldiers and airmen in the Second World War. New research uncovered in declassified files by Eye Spy Associate Editor and historian Dr Helen Fry now adds to the superb histories of MI9 written after the war by Airey Neave, Michael Foot and Jimmy Langley. It reveals just how important MI9 was for the wider clandestine operations of the war and even places MI9 as a major intelligence-gathering organisation in its own right. Its operations were stretched from Western Europe to the Balkans, Greece, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and the Far East.



Stalag Luft III. Polish memorial stone marking the end of the secret tunnel 'Harry'. The inscription reads: 'To the Allied airmen, prisoners of Stalag Luft III, participants in the Great Escape'



Airey Neave

Formed by special charter on 23 December 1939, it was a branch of the British Secret Service responsible for securing intelligence from prisoners-of-war (POW), enemy or Allied trapped behind enemy lines or in POW camps. Stories like Airey Neave's escape from the infamous Colditz Castle in Germany - which the Germans believed it impossible - have become legendary. Historical examples of other famous escapes, like prisoners tunnelling out of Stalag Luft III near Sagan, or using a wooden vault as cover, have been immortalised in big screen films like *The Great Escape* and *The Wooden Horse*.

Underpinning MI9's existence was a philosophy of 'escape-mindedness', a term first coined by its chief, Brigadier Norman Crockatt. Crockatt knew that techniques in escape and evasion might not come naturally to personnel in the moments immediately after capture and disorientation. Therefore prior to going into action, personnel were trained by MI9 in aspects of escape and evasion techniques.

The organisation's role was broad and included the collection and distribution of information to British and Allied prisoners in POW camps via clandestine means, such

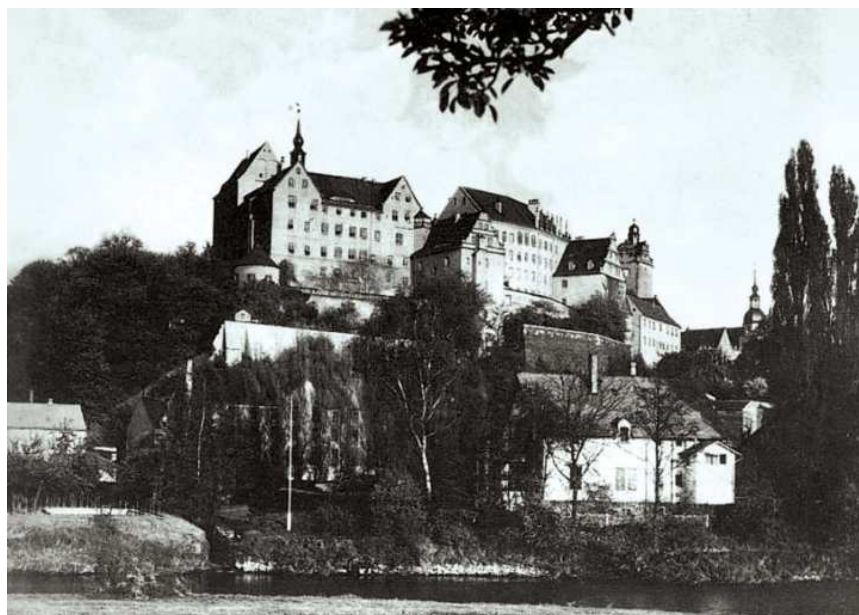


Michael Richard Daniel Foot - WWII British intelligence officer with the Special Air Service (SAS) and Special Operations Executive (SOE) operative. He also worked with the French Resistance



as coded messages and smuggling escape and evasion devices into the camps. MI9's officer

Christopher Clayton Hutton (above) designed many of the ingenious gadgets in which silk maps and miniature compasses could be hidden. The MI9 gadgets were an extraordinary success story. Between 1942 and 1945, MI9 organised the manufacture and issue of 1.3 million round brass compasses; 1.6 million maps concealed in purses and pouches, and over 7,000 flying boots that converted into civilian shoes for personnel on the run. The rapid production of devices in such large quantities was essential to successful escape, evasion and survival.

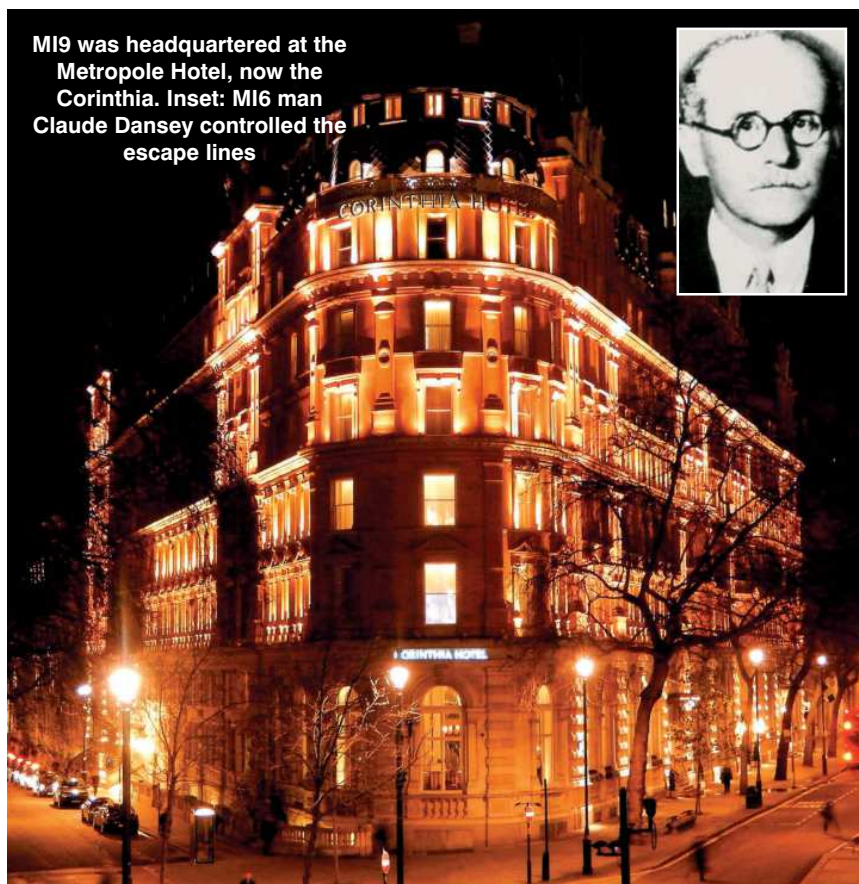


April 1945. Photograph of Colditz Castle taken by a US soldier

Prime Minister Winston Churchill, himself a POW and escaper in the Boer War, understood the difficulties which prisoners had to bear. He sent a rallying message to British POWs to boost their morale: "In this great struggle in which we are engaged, my thoughts are often with you who have had the misfortune to fall into the hands of the Nazi. Your lot is a hard one... never has the country been so completely united in its determination to exterminate Nazidom."

If there is a strong theme which emerges in MI9's history, it is the commitment and courage of thousands of helpers - women and men - who led the escape lines, and acted as couriers and guides across the terrains of Europe. They were prepared to work in secret, for an unnamed organisation in Britain whose name they did not discover until after the war. All were united in their efforts to free Europe from Nazi occupation. Through simple and ordinary acts of resistance, they made a

MI9 was headquartered at the Metropole Hotel, now the Corinthia. Inset: MI6 man Claude Dansey controlled the escape lines



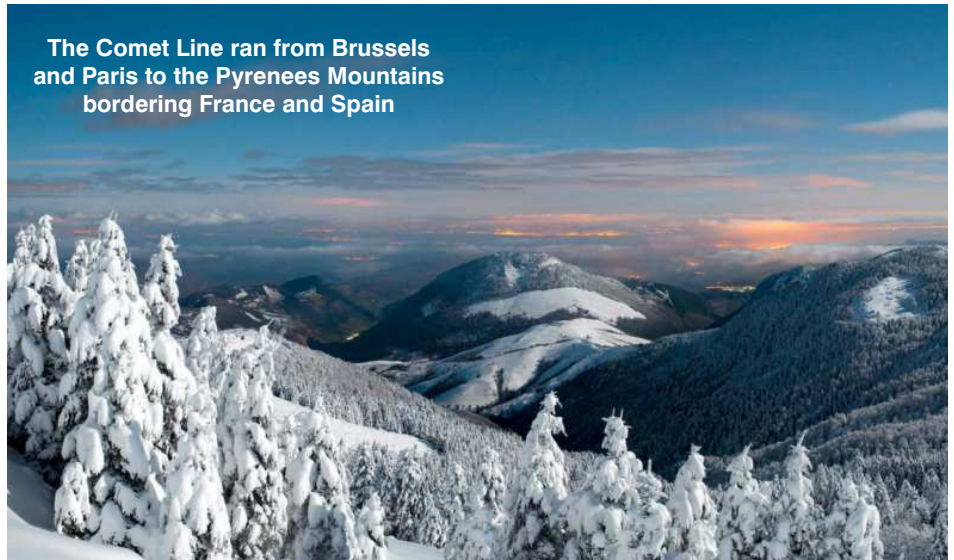


Christiaan Lindemans

crucial contribution to saving Allied airmen and soldiers, often at great personal risk and with severe consequences if betrayed. The risks increased if asked to smuggle intelligence to MI9's agents or over the border from behind enemy lines. Although the escape lines were controlled by MI6's man Claude Dansey, the daily coordination was delegated by Dansey to Jimmy Langley and Airey Neave. But as they later admitted, the real risks were taken in occupied Europe, the Middle and Far East. Rogue operators like Harold Cole and Christiaan Lindemans ('King Kong') sabotaged the escape lines for their personal gain, often for money, which led to helpers and guides being betrayed, tortured and sent to concentration camps or shot by the Gestapo.

EXTRAORDINARY SACRIFICE OPERATORS AND REFLECTIONS

An inspirational part of MI9's legacy are the new stories which have emerged about the women and men who displayed extraordinary acts of bravery. All trusted the mysterious organisation that they worked for and believed that victory over the Nazis was possible by their acts of bravery and resistance. They were the helpers -



The Comet Line ran from Brussels and Paris to the Pyrenees Mountains bordering France and Spain

thousands of them defied the Nazis to save the lives of airmen and soldiers. I was inspired by one of the few surviving female helpers - Elsie Maréchal, now in her late 90s. I interviewed Elsie a few miles south of Brussels, Belgium, our meeting was transformational for me and I was moved by her story. In what became known as the 'Maréchal Affair', Elsie and her whole family were betrayed in 1942 with devastating consequences..

Her spirit of defiance against the Nazis was still evident today as I asked her why she risked her life at the age of only 16 to shelter Allied airmen whilst working for the Comet Line resistance organisation. She replied: "Under German occupation things became worse each day. Trains were leaving every day from Brussels to Germany, packed with food and supplies. Our nation was being robbed of



Dedée - Andrée de Jongh - head of the Comet Line

food and coal. We had a shortage of food. I saw the posters and the Germans every day. I saw all the Jews with yellow stars - children taken from my school class to Auschwitz. We thought 'out with the Nazis!'"

As the Comet Line temporarily went down after a series of betrayals, Elsie spent three years in Nazi prisons and concentration camps and suffered brutal interrogation and torture. Through all this she never wavered in her support for the Allies. Today, she remains humble about her wartime contribution but still displays the same fighting spirit as she did over 70-years ago. The Comet Line, which ran from Brussels to Paris and down to the Pyrenees, was led by two other inspirational Belgian women: Dedée (Andrée de Jongh) and Elvire de Greef. Dedée trekked hundreds of miles from Brussels to the Pyrenees with her 'parcels' [as the airmen and evaders were



Head of the Comet Line Andrée de Jongh, lived in this house in Brussels, Belgium



Comet Line de Greef family home from where the organisation ran operations helping POWs escape via the Pyrenees Mountains

called]. Although young, she led the Comet Line until her arrest in 1943. Dedée also survived concentration camps. Elvire de Greef operated for MI9 with her family on the French side of the Pyrenees. She has been the unspoken heroine and leader in the south of France, instrumental in running Comet Line operations along the Pyrenees from 1940 until the end of the war. She arranged the shelter of escapers and evaders in safehouses in the region until they could be smuggled into Spain. Defiant in danger, she blackmailed officials to avoid arrest and organised for other members of the escape line to be broken out of prison. As the Comet Line went down, she continued to rescue airmen and smuggle vital intelligence, with other members of her family, to the Allies.

Another brave woman was a young 21-year-old Italian aristocrat, Renata Faccincani della



COURTESY: VANESSA CLEWES

Renata Faccincani della Torre

France and risked her life on numerous occasions, spending time in Nazi prisons. Although seriously ill in hospital in 1942, she discharged herself to be able to save the 'Cockleshell Heroes' - two survivors of the famous command raid on Nazi ships in the occupied French port of Bordeaux known as Operation Frankton. Still wanted by the Nazis, she was arrested in 1943 and suffered terrible torture in prisons and concentration camps. Her spirit unbroken, she was described as a "most colourful agent."

These women, and thousands of male helpers and guides, all played their part in numerous escape lines that included the Pat Line, the Rome Escape Organisation, the Shelburne Line and other sea evacuations. Many did not survive their endeavours and paid the ultimate price with their lives.

COMMENTS - MI9 - THE LEGACY

Traditionally MI9 has been seen as an organisation that ran escape lines and agents,



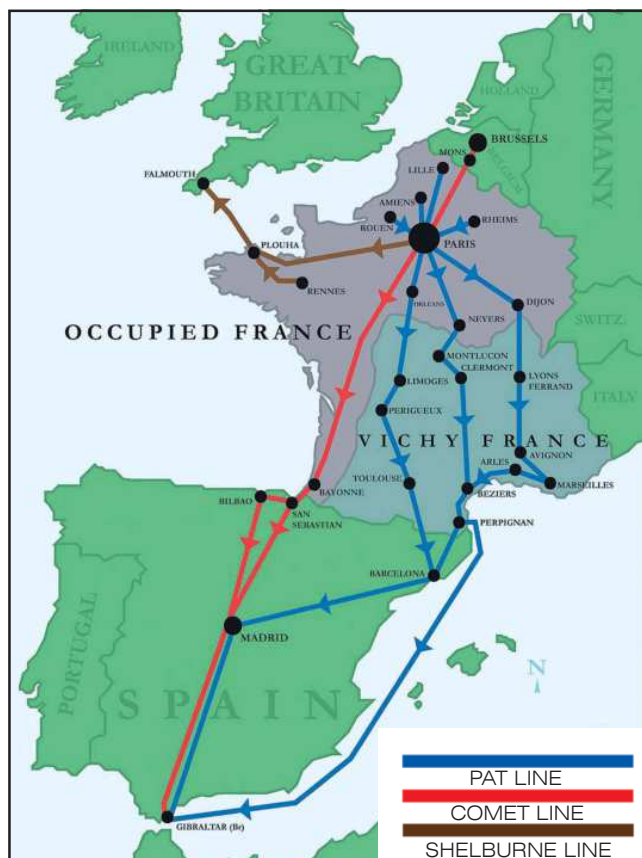
Commemorative plaque on the Villa Voisin, home of Elvire de Greef in Anglet, southwest France. It was a major staging post of the Comet Line

Torre. From the family home in Milan she ran a clandestine intelligence station for the Allies. She was instrumental in an escape line from Northern Italy into Switzerland with the help of the Italian resistance. As an expert skier, Torre accompanied escapers over treacherous mountain routes. And in spite of a period in Milan Prison, she managed to escape to continue her work.

There was also Mary Lindell, a British woman married to French aristocrat Count Marie Joseph de Milleville. She ran the MI6 network Noah's Ark - her agents all named after animals. With a steely and tenacious spirit Lindell aided many escapers and evaders in



Operation Frankton commemorative monument in Saint-Georges-de-Didonne, southwest France



and this was indeed true and a large part of its work. However, it is now clear from Helen Fry's new research that MI9 was also engaged in intelligence and counter-espionage work - some of that along lines traditionally thought of as the domain of MI6. MI9 ran its own agents, but was also carrying out espionage and surveillance on German agents and spies. Fry's work leads to a new understanding of the relationship between MI6 and MI9.

MI9's intelligence-gathering was vast and also included debriefing returning airmen, soldiers, agents and members of the escape lines who had to be exfiltrated back to Britain. They all provided a vast amount of information from enemy territory that could be used in future training and printed MI9 bulletins. Amongst examples of intelligence gathered was that of a military nature on enemy defences, ports and sea defences, Axis fighting units, and general life and circumstances behind enemy lines. There had been no precedent for escape work



Allied airmen await repatriation



Albert Guerisse - head of the Pat Line

combined with intelligence in the First World War. The official declassified history of MI9 in the National Archives states that 'Clandestine escape work as a specialist form of intelligence was an entirely new development'.

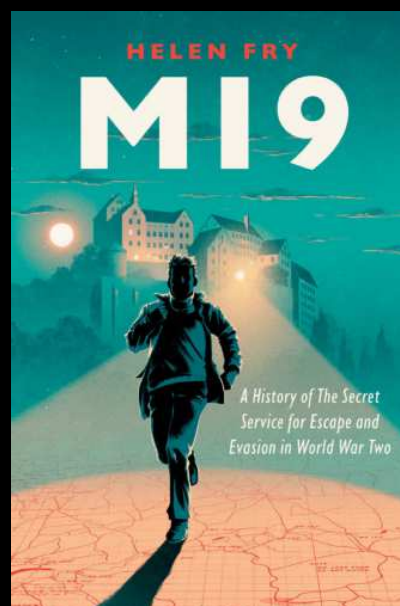
The history of MI9 was as much about those who made up this highly secret branch of military intelligence as the daily workings and structure of the organisation itself. Its success was largely due to the diversity of people who came together quite by chance in wartime and who would probably never have crossed paths in peacetime.

From its small beginnings in 1939, MI9 evolved into a highly efficient branch of military intelligence. The true success of the escape lines would only be realised at the end of the war when it became known that, in spite of the dangers and difficulties of German occupation, around 35,000 Allied soldiers and airmen made it back to Allied Lines because of MI9.

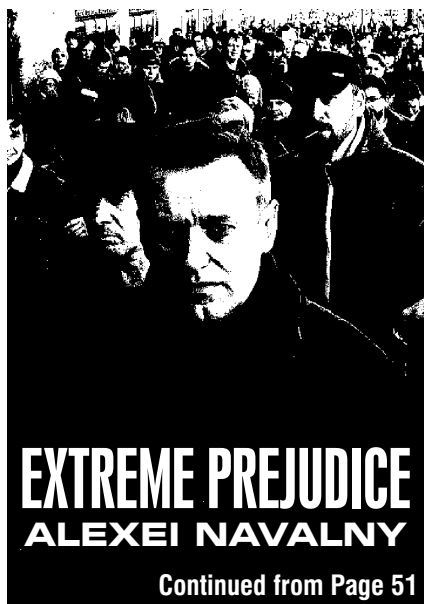
MI9's legacy deserves recognition as an intelligence organisation and should be placed alongside the wider intelligence world of WWII. Fry's research clearly supports this.

NOW AVAILABLE

MI9: A HISTORY OF THE SECRET SERVICE FOR ESCAPE AND EVASION IN WORLD WAR TWO



DR HELEN FRY



EXTREME PREJUDICE ALEXEI NAVALNY

Continued from Page 51

of this I hope no world leader will ever shake his hand again”

The findings only heightened suspicion that Navalny was the victim of a deliberate attempt to assassinate him; his supporters again accusing President Putin of “authorising a political hit.”

ALTERNATIVE THEORY

Scientist Vladimir Uglev, 73, creator of the nerve agent Novichok, believes it possible the assassins could have entered Navalny’s hotel room in Tomsk and “sprinkled poison on his underwear or socks.” Once in contact with the skin it would have been absorbed. However, just days before the Novichok discovery, Uglev said he did not think Novichok was used, “more people around him would have fallen ill,” he said. He also doubted doctors would ever be able to identify the poison.



Leonid Volkov

Uglev said that in the Russian hospital, Navalny’s clothing would have been removed and washed, thus destroying vital evidence.

Chemical and biological weapons counter-terrorism specialist Hamish de Bretton Gordon, also believes that the Novichok transfer was by touch - not by drinking the toxin in tea. He thinks a dose the size that overcame Navalny, if placed in a drink, would have killed him.

As for his recovery, Gordon says he should make a reasonable recovery, noting he is 44 and 25-years younger than Sergei Skripal - who survived.

In Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Navalny’s prognosis was not promising: “The outcome of the disease remains uncertain and long-term effects, especially in the area of the nervous system, cannot be ruled out at this point in time.” As for the poison theory, Peskov added: “We can’t take such accusations seriously. They absolutely cannot be true. They’re more like ‘empty noise’, so we don’t intend to take them seriously.”

Former Putin aide and Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, Vyacheslav



Alexei Navalny and his wife Yulia Navalnaya

Volodin, has ordered a committee to investigate whether foreign forces were behind the poisoning, “to fuel further tensions inside Russia.” Volodin also referenced involvement of “foreign intelligence agencies,” without naming any. “It is a planned action against Russia in order to impose new sanctions and slow the development of our country,” he said.



Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, Vyacheslav Volodin and President Putin. Volodin believes a foreign power was behind the attack



Vladimir Uglev, the creator of Novichok initially doubted the poison used on Navalny was Novichok. However, 48-hours later, military toxicologists and doctors at the Charité in Berlin (left), said they were “100 per-cent confident the poison was from the Novichok family of nerve agents”

It was a theory dismissed by many in the intelligence world, and by Navalny’s team.

FALSE FLAG OPERATION?

Belarus leader Alexander Lukashenko declared that the entire episode was a “falsification” and a carefully created ruse which was intended to stop any possible interference in Belarus by Russia. His country is currently ravaged by political unrest following claims he rigged recent elections. In the last few weeks, there has much speculation in Western intelligence agencies of Russian intervention, this after Putin told embattled Lukashenko he was ready to help.

As for the evidence, Lukashenko said that a number of telephone calls between officials in Berlin and Warsaw, Poland, had been intercepted proving the poisoning was a hoax. The country’s primary intelligence agency, the State Security Committee, which still uses ‘KGB’ as an acronym, had recorded the

conversations. “They did it, in order to discourage Putin sticking his nose into Belarus’s affairs,” he said.

The recordings and transcripts, Lukashenko said, would be sent to the FSB in Moscow.

THE RUSSIAN LIST

Over the last two decades, there have been a number of murders and attacks on high-profile critics and opponents of President Putin. These include politicians, business persons, legal officials, intelligence officers and journalists. And Eye Spy has long reported on the existence of the ‘Russian List’, the elimination of Putin opponents. One early victim was journalist Anna Politkovskaya in 2004. She claimed she was poisoned on an internal Russia flight after drinking a cup of tea, but survived. However, on 7 October 2006, she was shot dead by an unknown gunman after entering a lift in her block of flats in Moscow. The Kremlin has always denied



Anna Politkovskaya

involvement, but sceptics note the day of her death - President Putin’s birthday.

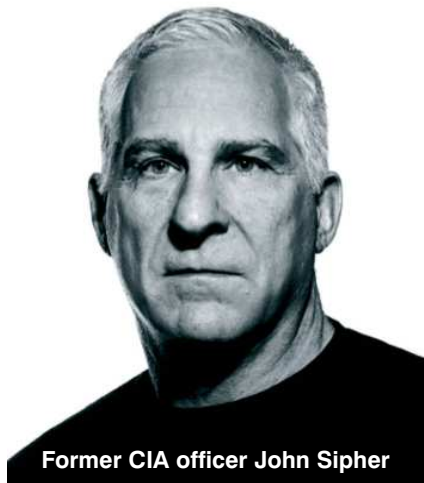
Twenty-eight-year career CIA officer John Sipher, who ran Langley’s Russia Desk, ➤



KGB headquarters, Minsk, Belarus



Alexander Lukashenko and President Putin at the 2020 Moscow Victory Day Parade



Former CIA officer John Sipher

said: "Killing or intimidating 'enemies of the people' has been a staple of Kremlin policy for over 100-years. Putin has continued this tactic of killing his enemies at home and abroad, and has created a system where those who wish to earn the Kremlin's support need to do his bidding. Whether or not Putin personally ordered the poisoning... he is behind any, and all efforts to maintain control through intimidation and murder."

Another former CIA officer and Field Station Chief in Moscow, Steven Hall, A.k.a. Stephen



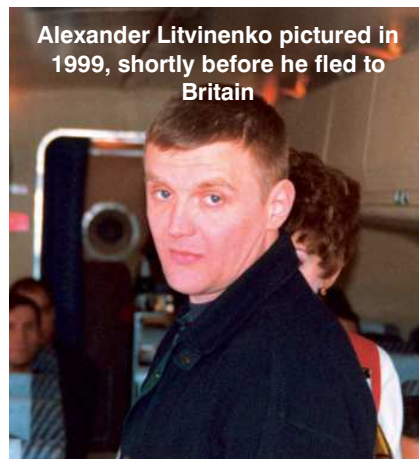
Steven Hall

Holmes, also believes the "hand of Moscow" was behind the attack. "There is no doubt whatsoever than an operation to poison Navalny was approved at the highest levels of Russia's Government and the intelligence services," he said. "This is something that the Russian intelligence agencies have been doing for decades... if not longer."

Many incidents of poisoning and assassination have been attributed to secret units of the GRU and FSB. In 2004, Victor Yushchenko ran for the Presidency of Ukraine against a Putin ally. He then fell ill and his face suddenly became blotchy and the left side was paralysed. He claimed he had been deliberately poisoned, a suggestion dismissed by the Kremlin. Doctors discovered dioxin a chemical found in Agent Orange. The herbicide had been secreted into his food while dining out



Victor Yushchenko



Alexander Litvinenko pictured in 1999, shortly before he fled to Britain

with the Director of Ukraine's intelligence service. His appearance in the following weeks changed dramatically.

Other incidents are well documented, including the use of Polonium-210 to poison former FSB officer and MI6 agent, Alexander Litvinenko in London, 2006. He drank tea with former associates laced with the isotope. And more recently, the Skripal attack in Salisbury.

Litvinenko's widow, Maria, commented on the Navalny incident. "It was obvious he would not be stopped [political activities]. Maybe they decided upon a new tactic, not just to shut him up by arresting him, but by stopping him with poison."

More recent cases involving suspected poisoning include those of opposition activists Vladimir Kara-Murza and Pyotr Verzilov. These occurred in 2015, 2017 and 2018.



Boris Nemtsov



Left: 2006. Police guard the entrance to the Millennium Hotel in London, following the poison attack on Alexander Litvinenko. Toxicologists discovered traces of Polonium-210 in a teapot in the hotel's restaurant where the MI6 agent had met with two Russian intelligence officers and drank tea

ALEXEI NAVALNY - AGENT FREEDOM

His Imaginary Work for MI6 and CIA

Four years ago in what was perceived as a State-sponsored propaganda story, Russia news media channel Rossiya 1, carried a story claiming that Alexei Navalny, was a “long-time MI6 agent.” Presenter Dmitry Kiselyov said the story was “sensational” and that some of Navalny’s actions had been criminal.

Rossiya 1 suggested that in the period 2006-2008, UK hedge fund manager Bill



Bill Browder

Browder* approached Navalny on behalf of MI6 to work for the Service.

Navalny thereafter supposedly received a “handsome payment” via a human rights group - the Moscow Helsinki Group (MHG). MHG chief rubbished the story and said his group had never paid Navalny money.

Rossiya 1 reporter Yevgeny Popov then began to quote alleged correspondence between Navalny and Browder and several MI6 and CIA documents, which the channel had secured. These were shown on screen alongside Russian translations. Navalny was Agent Freedom and Browder Agent Solomon.

Intelligence analysts soon analysed the papers and discovered they were littered with mistakes often made by Russians using the English language. “They are 100% bogus,” Eye Spy was told

when we enquired with a relevant Russian intelligence expert.

“This was a clever, but ill-prepared propaganda story with one objective only - to damage Navalny as a political player.”

Navalny himself on viewing the documentary dismissed the material and accusations calling them “deliberate slander,” and that he would seek legal redress.

And it wasn’t the only occasion the Kremlin’s hand was evident in an obvious bogus story to connect Putin’s primary political opponent to Western Intelligence and tarnish his reputation.

Navalny made a number of allegations against the family of Russian Prosecutor-General Yuri Chaika. Within a short space of time, the charges were being presented as part of a wider conspiracy con-



Alexei Navalny

trolled by the CIA in an operation codenamed Quake.

*Browder played a lead role in the creation of the US Magnitsky Act when sanctions were imposed of a number of Russians linked to the death of Sergei Magnitsky in 2009 whilst in custody. Magnitsky had at the time been working for Browder’s Hermitage Capital.



Navalny is taken to hospital in Omsk

‘Conventional’ assassination methods have also been attributed to the rogue Russian intelligence elements charged with eliminating opponents around the world. One notable case is that of Boris Nemtsov in 2015, who was shot dead whilst walking in sight of the Kremlin. He too was a Putin opponent. In the trial that followed of a number of suspects charged with his murder, one man was sentenced to 20-years in prison. Nemtsov’s supporters believe he was a “patsy” and the real controllers remain free.

Following his partial recovery, officials in Germany and France have agreed to offer him

asylum should he wish not return to Russia. “We are obviously ready to give Navalny and his loved ones all the assistance they need in terms of health, asylum and protection,” said French President Emmanuel Macron. Chancellor Angela Merkel said. “what goes for France also goes for Germany.”

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: “It was outrageous that a chemical weapon was used against Navalny. We have seen first-hand the consequences of Novichok in the UK.” British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, called for a “full and transparent investigation,” and wished Navalny a swift recovery.

US President Trump remained fairly quiet on the incident. A White House spokesperson said the poisoning was “completely reprehensible,” and the United States “will work with the international community to hold those in Russia accountable.” A more considered response came from National Security Council (NSC) Spokesman John Ulyot, however, this was made through Twitter: ‘The United States



NSC Spokesman John Ulyot

is deeply troubled by the results [medical conclusions] released today. Alexei Navalny’s poisoning is completely reprehensible. Russia has used the chemical nerve agent Novichok in the past. We will work with allies and the international community to hold those in Russia accountable, wherever the evidence leads, and restrict funds for their malign activities. The Russian people have a right to express their views peacefully without fear of retribution



2011. Nord Stream opening ceremony

of any kind, and certainly not with chemical agents’.

US Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan, said if poison is the source of Navalny’s illness, this would represent a “crucial moment for Russia.” Deputy US Secretary of State Stephen Biegun, who arrived in the country to hold talks on various issues, including the turmoil in neighbouring Belarus said: “The Russian people deserve to see that anybody who would have been involved in a matter like that is held accountable. If Navalny has been poisoned, this is very significant for the United States.”

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said an official Russian investigation should begin immediately and those responsible for the poisoning to be held account. “They should be brought to justice,” Merkel said. Pressure is now being brought on Merkel to cancel the near-completed Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which would provide Germany directly with gas from Russia.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said: “The poisoning is the latest example of Russian aggression after the 2008 war with Georgia, the seizure of the Crimean Peninsula in 2014, the invasion of eastern Ukraine, the shooting down of a Malaysian Airline flight and the 2018 poisoning of the Skripals.”

Canada’s Minister for Foreign Affairs Francois-Philippe Champagne said: “Canada is deeply troubled... we strongly condemn this outrageous attack. Russian authorities must explain what happened. The use of chemical weapons is abhorrent and unacceptable.”

Few intelligence chiefs have publicly commented on the case, instead waiting for reports from their respective investigators. However, that’s not the case in Russia. SVR (Foreign Intelligence Service) Director Sergei Naryshkin, said his organisation could “not rule out the hand of Western intelligence agencies who had orchestrated the poisoning to

stir up trouble.” He then added, “there was no Russian involvement.”

*Foundation for Fighting Corruption, investigates government corruption and illegal activities by senior officials. It was forced to close just weeks before Navalny fell ill. Sources say this was due to a financially damaging lawsuit enabled by Yevgeny Prigozhin, a leading businessman with links to the Kremlin.



SVR Director Sergei Naryshkin

LAST WORD

BERLIN: On 14 September Navalny released a photo of himself and family from his hospital bed. He believes the Novichok transfer was made

via a water drinking bottle in his hotel room in Tomsk. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is now examining samples, the results will be released shortly.



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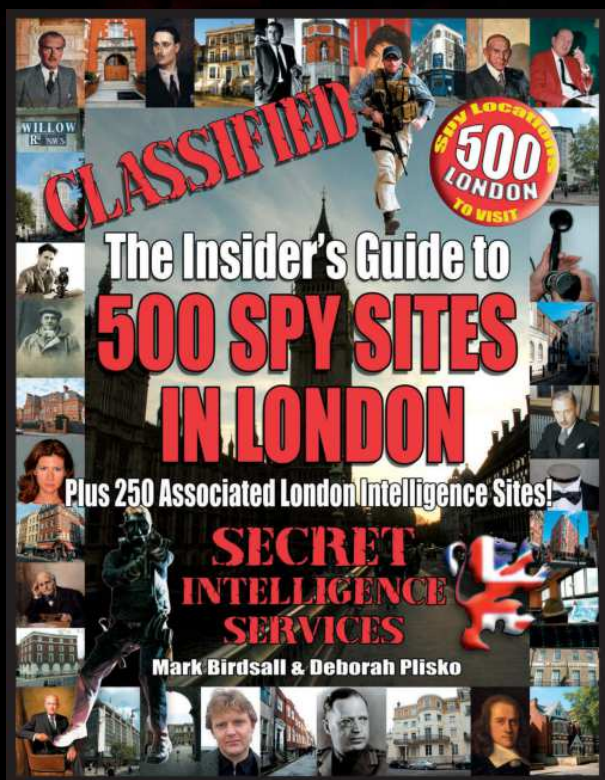
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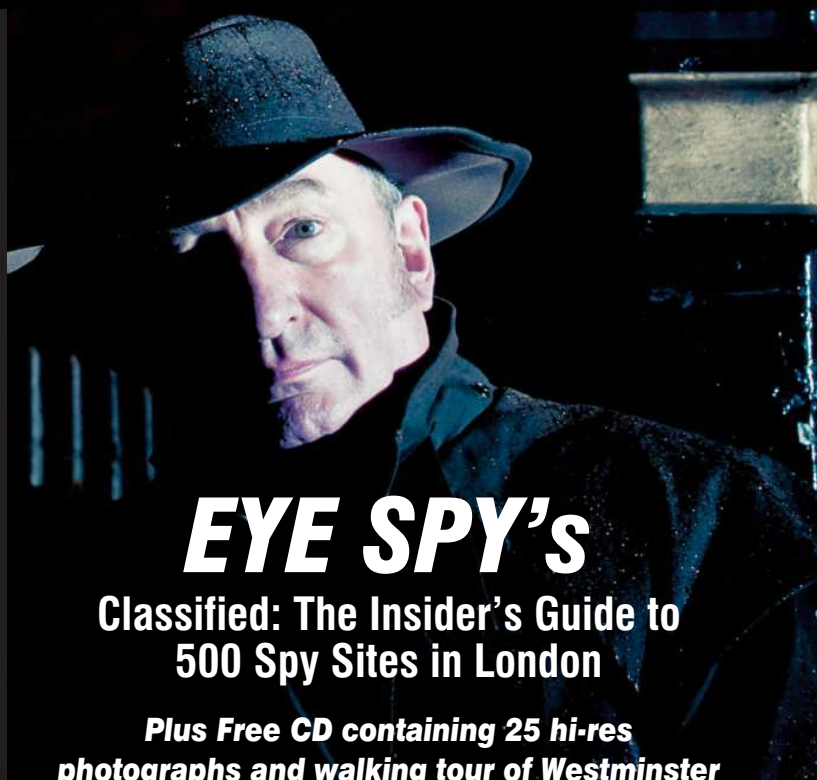
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