# Iraq, Lies, Cover-Ups, & Consequences

As Revealed by Former Government Agents



Saga of Unprecedented Serial Lying, Unprecedented Cover-Ups, And Unprecedented Consequences

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Subverting America: A Trojan Horse Legacy Lawyers and Judges—American Trojan Horses

Terrorism Against America: External and "Internal" Terrorists

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## Iraq, Lies, Cover-ups, & Consequences

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### INTRODUCTION

This book presents detailed and often documented information on vast areas of corruption in the three branches of government that made the tragedies of 9/11 possible, many prior tragedies, and by the continuing and worsening cover-ups, the tragedies yet to occur.

Much of the information in this book, and the other books written by former federal agent Rodney Stich, is based upon his actual discovery, including as a key government agent, and what was discovered or participated in by a great number of other insiders who were in contact with Stich over the years. These insiders include agents from government offices such as the CIA, FBI, DEA, Customs, from former drug smugglers—carrying out assignments for government agents—and former Mafia figures who were also in collusion with government agents.

Unbelievable as these events may sound, they are based upon years of insider knowledge and upon government records. For those who choose to remain in denial about the harm being inflicted upon the people and the country, it may be best to think of the contents as a work of fiction, and allow the tragedies to continue.

This book addresses certain areas of corruption discovered by the author and his group of other former and present government agents. Years of discovery by the author and his group of other former and present government agents, including those from the CIA, FBI, DEA, Customs, Secret Service, reveal a pattern of corruption by people in key government positions. This escalating pattern of corruption continues to inflict great harm upon the United States, its institutions, and its people in a form that resembles a Trojan horse attack. This misconduct has been made possible by the unprecedented media cover-up and media disinformation.

The author, a former federal aviation safety agent and for many years an activist against corruption in government, has acquired a number of insider sources who have provided that are almost without precedence. All of this valuable information will be lost, or made useless, if enough readers do not read and then show some form of courage and responsibility in helping to fight this scourge that brings such great tragedies to people.

The horrendous harm upon America that occurred on September 11, 2001, was simply the latest in a long line of aviation tragedies arising from documented corruption in the government's aviation safety offices. For those who want more details of a history of such fraud-related aviation tragedies, read the author's' latest print edition (or e-format edition) of *Unfriendly Skies*.

It is hoped that at least a small percentage of adults will have sufficient outrage, courage, and sense of duty, to help fight the threat to America and what it originally stood for. Also, to generate support to help those who have been victimized, such as people falsely imprisoned on sham charges, such as is endemic in the arrogant and corrupt war on drugs.

Most of the tragedies described in these pages were preventable, and could have been prevented if any of the government officials occupying a position of responsibility had acted. Or, if even a small but vocal segment of the public has acted.

More details will be found in the other books written by Rodney Stich: *Defrauding America*, *Drugging America*, *Unfriendly Skies*, *Terrorism Against America*, *Lawyers and Judges*, and *Disavow*.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rodney Stich has a long history of insider activities that provided him the training and the opportunity to discover vast areas of misconduct in government offices. These experiences have put him into close contact with dozens of other former and present government agents and other insiders who also discovered corruption in government. Their several hundred years of combined experience and exposure to corrupt activities in government is revealed in the books that Rodney Stich has written. The purpose of these books has been to inform those people who want to be informed, and reveal to them the hardcore misconduct that is inflicting great harm upon national security and the lives of countless numbers of people. Further, to motivate enough people to show long-overdue outrage, to show courage, and to show long-over due patriotic reaction.

### **Aviation Background Started Before the Pearl Harbor Attack**

The author's background in aviation started while he was in the U.S. Navy prior to the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. He had joined the Navy at the age of 17 and eventually became a Naval aviator, receiving his Navy wings first as a Naval Aviation Pilot (enlisted pilot) and then as a Naval aviator (commissioned officer).

He became an instructor in advanced PBY training at Jacksonville, Florida and then trained as a Patrol Plane Commander in the Navy PB4Y-1 (Liberator) and PB4Y-2 (Privateer). Stich was the youngest Navy Patrol Plane Commander during World War II. Stich received his wings at the Pensacola Naval Air Station at approximately the same time that George Bush senior received his Navy wings at Corpus Christi.

### **Worldwide Commercial Airline Experience**

After World War II, Stich flew for the airlines in domestic and international operations. He was checked out as captain on virtually every type of plane flown by U.S. airlines, including the double-deck Boeing Stratocruiser, Lockheed Super Constellation, DC-4, DC-3, Martin 202, Convair 340, Curtis C-46, Lockheed Electra, DC-8, and Convair 880.

He was one of the first pilots licensed by Japan, holding Japanese pilot license number 170. He was also one of the first captains for Japan Airlines, during which time his copilots were former Japanese military pilots from World War II.

The Saturday Evening Post had written a series of three articles in 1950 about the pilots at his primary airline, Transocean Airlines. The articles were titled, "The Daring Young Men Of Transocean Airlines." [The author, Ernie Gann, was a pilot for the same airline.]

In those days, flying overseas, especially in the Middle East, were pioneering experiences, encountering situations that no airline pilot today encounters. In one instance, in 1953, he found himself at the center of a revolution in Iran, which he later learned was engineered by the CIA. He flew Muslim pilgrims to Mecca and Medina on the Hajj during the Muslim holy period. He may have been the only pilot to take pilgrims to Medina, where he landed in the desert outside of the holy city. He resided in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Beirut, Tehran, and Abadan. He visited Palestine refugee camps, and associated with the residents who were, in those days, friendly to Americans.

He had his share of inflight emergencies, including engine failures, engine fires, sudden closing of virtually all airports at his destination, serious icing problems on the North Atlantic, sudden shortage of fuel when the head winds over long over-water flights became more adverse than forecast.

### **Aviation Safety Agent for Federal Government**

Eventually he left airline flying and became a federal aviation safety agent for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). He was responsible for conducting flight checks of airline pilots, evaluating their competency, issuing government ratings, evaluating safety matters and preparing reports on safety problems and recommending corrective actions.

# Assignment To Halt Worst Series of Air Disasters in U.S. History

Eventually, the federal government gave him the assignment to correct the conditions causing the worst series of airline crashes in the nation's history. It was here that he discovered the deadly politics of air safety and corruption in government offices. To circumvent the blocks preventing the federal government from carrying out its aviation safety responsibilities, Stich exercised legal remedies in ways that had never before been done. He acted as an independent counsel, conducting hearings to obtain testimony and additional evidence that showed the deep-seated corruption in the government's aviation safety offices that enabled many preventable aviation tragedies to occur.

The events of September 11, 2001, would be one-day's consequences of these serious matters. Forty years of fatal hijackings, easily prevented if the FAA had carried out its aviation safety responsibilities, are scandals that no government agency or media will address.

Unable to correct the deep-seated corruption, Stich left government services and then engaged in other activities seeking to publicize and force corrective actions. Like a magnet, these activities caused other former and present government agents and insiders to provide him with additional information and evidence of corruption in government offices far beyond the aviation field. These were agents from the CIA, DEA, DIA, FBI, Customs, Secret Service, drug smugglers, and organized crime

figures.

### **Trojan Horse Corruption and David Versus Goliath Battles**

The magnitude of the corrupt and Trojan-horse-like criminal and subversive activities, and the harm resulting from them, caused Stich to spend the remainder of his life fighting the escalating corruption in the three branches of government. He engaged in years of escalating David versus Goliath battles to protect national interests and halt the harm being inflicted upon the people. No other government agent, or whistle-blower, revealing hardcore corruption in government offices, had suffered greater personal and financial harm from efforts taken to silence him.

### Over 3,000 Radio and Television Appearances

He has appeared as guest and expert on over 3,000 radio and television shows since 1978, throughout the United States and in Canada, Mexico, and Europe. He published numerous books, including multiple editions of *Unfriendly Skies, Defrauding America, Drugging America, Terrorism Against America, and Lawyers and Judges—America's Trojan Horses*.

In addition, Stich was a successful entrepreneur, having acquired and developed over \$10 million in real estate properties.

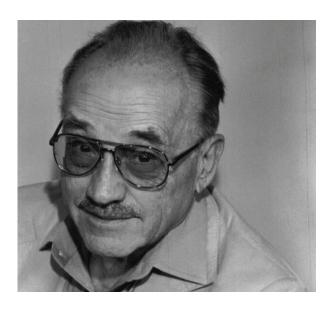
The detailed information in these books reveals a pattern of deepseated corruption in the three branches of government that played key roles in the success of the terrorists on September 11, 2001, and is responsible for many areas of human tragedies, including the sham imprisonment of tens of thousands of men and women. That corruption is another form of terrorism that continues to inflict far more harm upon America and its people in a Trojan horse fashion.

The information he provides in these books can be the most valuable tool to fight the escalating destruction of the United States, its values, its institutions, and its people.

Fighting the vast deep-seated corruption in government offices by himself, Stich has paid a heavy personal and financial price for seeking to protect important national interests.

For more information put "Rodney Stich" into Internet search engines such as www.google.com. For more information about his various books, go to

www.defraudingamerica.com and www.unfriendlyskies.com.



Former federal agent and author, Rodney Stich

# Iraq, Lies, Cover-ups, & Consequences

Rodney Stich

### **Blowback Effects of U.S. Covert Activities**

overt activities throughout the world by the CIA and White House politicians have inflicted great harm upon people in foreign countries, subverted foreign governments, some of them elected, and experienced blowback consequences that eventually inflicted harm upon U.S. interests.

My first direct contact with covert U.S. interests in the Middle East occurred in July 1953 while I was in Iran. I was an airline captain flying Muslim pilgrims from throughout the Middle East to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, residing in different locations. These included Beirut, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Jedda, Tehran, and Abadan.

My stay in Iran was devoid of any contacts with Americans or English. Iran's leader, Mossadegh, had nationalized the oil industry and banished the English, and the Americans went also. About six crewmembers were staying at this hotel in Abadan, Iran, and on this particular morning as we sat in the hotel lobby we suddenly saw a flurry of excitement at the hotel business desk. Everyone was listening intently to the radio, which we could not understand. Mossadegh's picture had hung on the wall behind the hotel desk, and periodically this would be replaced with a picture of the Shah of Iran, who had been removed from power when Mossadegh was made the leader of Iran. This picture replacement changed a couple of times.

As we sat there somewhat bewildered, a Dutch national entered the lobby and told us we should leave, for our safety, and he would have an armed vehicle take us to our aircraft. It probably didn't take us more than ten minutes to be packed and ready to leave.

It wasn't until a much later time that I learned this revolution was engineered by the CIA, at the orders of White House politicians, and that it generated hatred for the United States in Iran.

The revolution was a success, if you care to call it that, and the CIA's puppet, the Shah, was in power until 1979, when the Shaw was overthrown in a bloody revolution. The Shah, to maintain power, had a ruthless control over the people of Iran.

### Seizure of 52 American Hostages in Tehran

In 1979, Iranian students invaded the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, and seized 52 Americans as hostages. Diplomatic efforts to gain their release failed, and for 444 days they were held hostage. This occurred during the presidency of Jimmy Carter, who felt helpless to do anything about it.

### **Botched Rescue Effort**

There was one military operation that sought to rescue the hostages. And it ended in dismal failure. During a rendezvous in the Iranian desert area, at night, two of the rescue helicopters crashed into each other, dooming the operation.

### **History of U.S. Subverting Foreign Governments**

White House politicians and the CIA have subverted foreign governments for decades. These covert activities—funded by the American public—included assassinations, arming, and training in torture and mass murders. Often the regimes installed by the CIA included repressive despots, murderers, human rights abusers. In the U.S. School of the Americas these inhuman practices have been taught for years.

Although U.S. instituted regime changes may sound like clean surgical actions, they included mass murders, assassinations, imprisonment, torture, with thousands of people paying the price for conduct brought about by U.S. politicians and the CIA.

An example of the horror arising from these subversive activities includes the tens of thousands of murders in the Phoenix Program when the United States invaded Vietnam on the pretext of promoting democracy. Estimates of the number of people killed in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia by the United States span from three to five million people, which included the brutal Phoenix program. In Laos, peripheral to the invasion of Vietnam, it has been reported that over two million tons of explosives were placed into this small country, killing thousands of inocent people.

Included in the long list of nations adversely affected by U.S. covert actions is Afghanistan. In the 1970s, defying the advice of people in the know, U.S. leaders provided training, money, and sophisticated weapons to rebels in Afghanistan who opposed the modernization actions of the new ruler, who had ties to the Soviet Union.

### **Catastrophic Consequences from Covert US Actions**

This U.S. intervention destabilized and threatened the government, causing it to request the Soviet Union to send troops to defend against the rebels. In response, the United States greatly increased the funding,

arming, and training of the rebels. The United States called them "freedom fighters." That is, until they used their newly acquired skills against U.S. interests; then the U.S. called them terrorists. These "freedom fighters" included Osama bin Laden and the group later called al-Qaeda.

### **Deadly Blowback Consequences**

The outcome or blowback effect of meddling in Afghanistan included destroying the country, arming and training thousands of what the U.S. now calls "terrorists, and serious unrest throughout the Middle East.

Afghanistan was a monarchy under King Zahir Shah from 1933. The prime minister was a member of the Shah's family, Prince Muhammad Daoud Khan. Afghanistan, under these leaders, had close ties to the Soviet Union, including training the Afghan army and air force. Afghanistan had first requested the United States to provide this help, but when the U.S. refused, the request was made to the Soviets, who accommodated the Afghans. The Soviets built highways and other projects, and helped the country to flourish, including providing greater freedom to the people, especially women.

Fearing the Soviets were gaining a foothold in the region, the CIA and White House politicians started funding and arming Islamic rebels and terrorists who sought to overthrow the progressive secular government. One of my long-time sources, Gunther Russbacher, described his role in getting funds and arms to the rebels.

King Zahir Shah had brought about a constitution in 1964 that installed numerous social reforms, greater rights for women, and a parliamentary democracy, along with multiple political parties. These progressive reforms alienated the fundamentalist Muslim parties, which resulted in attacks upon the central government and its progressive agenda.

Complicated by a famine and drought that caused the starvation of many Afghans, a military coup occurred in 1973 while the King was traveling out of the country. The coup proclaimed a Republic that ended the monarchy, installing as foreign minister Muhammad Daoud, who had previously functioned as foreign minister from 1953 to 1963.

Another military coup occurred in 1978, which resulted in Daoud being killed. That coup resulted in the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) coming into power, which the United States felt to be Communist. The president was Nur Muhammad Taraki, who named Hafizullah Amin to be on his staff. (Some Middle East authorities felt that Amin was a CIA asset, and a member of the Pathans nationalist.)

It is believed that fundamentalist Shi'ite Muslims in Iran and Pakistan assisted the CIA funding and arming of rebels undermining the Afghan government. In response to this threat, Taraki, in early 1979, urged Moscow to send in troops to help defend military installations and the

Baghram Airport against the rebellion by the fundamentalist Muslims. The Soviets entered Afghanistan in December 1979.

### White House Order Destabilizing Afghanistan

During this same period, in mid-1979, National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski urged Carter to order covert aid to the rebels, which had already started several years earlier. Primarily because of the missiles supplied to the rebels, with heavy loss of Soviet aircraft, the Soviets withdrew their forces in 1989.

Some years later, Brzezinski stated during an interview with a French interviewer that:

The secret reality is that on July 3, 1979, President Carter signed the first directive for clandestine aid to the enemies of the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul. On that day, I wrote a note to the President in which I explained to him that in my opinion, this aid would result in military intervention by the Soviets. We didn't push the Russians to intervene, but we consciously increased the probability that they would do so. The secret operation was an excellent idea. Its effect was to draw the Russians into the Afghan trap. You want me to regret that?

Brzezinski stated that when the Soviets went into Afghanistan he had written to President Carter that "now we can give the USSR its own Vietnam war." The consequences were the destruction of Afghanistan and the development of a vast terrorist network that grew into massive international terrorist organizations that are considered today the greatest threat to the United States. An excellent textbook example of "blowback" consequences.

The United States was already the enemy of the Shi'ite Muslims in Iran when it embarked on funding, training, and arming Muslims known to have a hatred for the United States, which included Osama bin Laden. The CIA and White House politicians funded, trained, and armed Muslim terrorists. As one CIA operative said, "We took the means to wage war, put them in the hands of people who could do so, for purposes for which we agreed."

When Brzezinski was asked<sup>2</sup> whether he regretted arming the Muslim groups that fueled the growth of Muslim terrorists, he responded: "Which was more important in world history? The Taliban or the fall of the Soviet empire? A few over-excited Islamists or the liberation of Central Europe and the end of the Cold War?"

The "over-excited Islamists" developed into the greatest threat to the United States and the stability of the Middle East.

Unholy Wars, John K. Cooley.
 Interview with reporter Vincent Javert detailed in the French Le Nouvel Observateur issue, January 15-21, 1998.

### Warlords Took Over After the Soviets and U.S. Left

After the Soviets withdrew their military forces, the warlords took over, and after bringing down the government, the warlords fought among themselves, creating even more devastation throughout the country. Finally, with the help of Pakistan—and the United States—a group known as the Taliban took over in 1996.

### Afghanistan, Once a Land of Orchards, Became a Wasteland

At one time, before the United States sent in CIA operatives to destabilize the Afghan government, the country exported large quantities of fruit and vegetables. The years of fighting caused destruction of these orchards, to be replaced with drugs and as an offshoot, providing a heaven for groups such as al Qaeda. Stripped of its orchards, Afghanistan then became a primary source of opium for the world. This halted in 1996 after the Taliban took control of the country and banned growing poppies from which opium was prepared. While that was a plus for the Taliban, the negatives arising from the Taliban far out shadowed the positives: Embracing the Taliban

Ironically, after the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in 1996, many Taliban leaders were courted by the United States. Key Taliban officials traveled to Washington and Houston, where they were entertained by oil company executives, including Unocal. Washington politicians said nothing about the brutal treatment of its own people by the Taliban. Unocal offered to pay the Taliban for permission to build an oil and gas pipeline through Afghanistan from former Soviet Union countries.

### Training "Freedom Fighters"—or—"Terrorists"

An article in the Scotland *Sunday Mail* (September 16, 2001) described how the "freedom fighters" were trained in Great Britain with U.S. funds:

The fanatical guerrillas protecting Osama bin Laden were secretly trained in remote hills in Scotland. The Muhahedin fighters were excellent soldiers committed to their cause. The main thing they lacked was tactical knowledge and battle planning, so we worked constantly on that. They were taught how to attack airfields. The main achievement was to turn them from a disorganized mob into a fighting unit.

The officers went on to command senior positions in the Taliban regime, helping shelter bin Laden, the prime suspect for last week's terrorist atrocities in the US. Warlords were trained by crack British troops in some of Scotland's most rugged and remote mountain ranges. The secret initiative came as Britain and the US secretly supported Afghan guerrillas in their war with the Soviet Union.

Much of bin Laden's wealth came from CIA cash aimed at winning the war and installing a sympathetic government in Afghanistan.

The year after training in Scotland, the Muhahedin—using sophisticated weaponry secretly bankrolled by the CIA—killed 2343 Soviet troops. Locally led bands of the religious warriors waged jihad—or holy war—against the invaders. The balance of power in Afghanistan decisively turned towards the Muhahedin to the delight of then US President, Ronald Reagan. Today, President Bush is weighing up the cost of taking on the SAS-trained killers.

### White House Reaction to 9/11 Hijackings

The Bush administration reacted to the 9/11 hijackings, demanding that the Taliban government expel al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden, who had been allowed to stay in remote areas of the country. The Taliban government refused, demanding evidence that Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda were associated with the 9/11 hijackings, which the United States could not produce at that time.

### **Bombing their "Freedom Fighters"**

The Bush administration then started massive bombings of Afghanistan from high-flying bombers that dropped huge bombs, many of which killed hundreds of innocent people living in primitive conditions. The massive bombings of Afghanistan, one of the poorest nations on earth, required the United States to bomb mud hovels, which periodically killed wedding parties, children, and refugees. Lacking any meaningful targets, U.S. military pilots were forced to bomb mud shacks, killing entire families. In response to the killing of thousands of innocent people, President Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld responded, "War is not pretty." Virtually none of the people involved with the 9/11 and other terrorist attacks upon U.S. interests were killed by these mass bombings.

### **Blowback Effects Included Massive Opium Production**

Opium production in Afghanistan started after the CIA-initiated wars caused destruction of the orchards and farmland. As an airline captain in the early 1950s flying in that area, I was able to see the peaceful use of Afghan land. After the Taliban took over in 1996, opium production plummeted due to the ban on such production. But after the United States bombed the Taliban government out of existence, opium production resumed and Afghanistan became a leading source of opium.

### Usual White House Line: Bringing Freedom to Afghanistan

While dropping bombs on Afghanistan after 9/11, the Bush White House promised Afghans freedom and democracy, knowing that the tribal and warlord culture prevented these changes being implemented.

## British Media View of U.S. Actions in Afghanistan War on Terror: the Other Victims

An article in the London *Mirror* (October 28, 2001) stated:

WAR ON TERROR: THE OTHER VICTIMS: The irresponsibility of this conflict is breathtaking. It is not about terrorism. As Blair and Bush stoop to the level of the criminal outrage in New York, British forces are little more than mercenaries for the hidden agenda of U.S. imperial ambitions

In the 1980s, defying the advice of people in the know, the U.S. leaders provided training, money, and sophisticated weapons to people in Afghanistan that had a known hatred for the United States. This was part of the paranoia about the Soviet Union, upon the form of government that some people wanted, communism, to fight the Soviet Union. This U.S. intervention destroyed the fabric of Afghanistan, led to massive destabilization, and when the Soviets pulled out of Afghanistan in 1989, the United States also left. The country was now in shambles thanks to the U.S. intervention, and left behind were massive quantities of weapons, including surface-to-air missiles, and a people who knew virtually nothing other than to kill. Eventually they became the al-Qaida and the extension of terrorist attack, for which the United States trained them

As predicted, and as occurred in Afghanistan when the Afghanistan leader requested the Soviet Union to send troops to fight the U.S. supported rebels, people flocked into Iraq for the sole purpose of killing Americans.

### Repeatedly Trapped Into Corners

In October 2002, the United States started bombing Afghanistan, killing thousands of innocent Afghans. The targets were al Qaeda personnel who were believed responsible for the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

### Bush's Bankrupt Actions in Afghanistan

After the catastrophic attacks of September 11, blamed on the al Qaeda group training in Afghanistan, the smart move would have been to first provide the Afghan government, the Taliban, with evidence that the 9-11 attack was by the al Qaeda group in remote areas of the country. Then, if they were not given up to the United States, then insert a military force in that country seeking the terrorist group.

Instead, the United States carpet-bombed the country, knowingly killing hundreds of innocent men, women, and children. By invading Iraq, diverting attention and rebuilding from Afghanistan, Afghanistan is once again the world's leading supplier of opium and heroin,

the warlords are taking control, and the Taliban reemerged. At the end of 2003, Afghanistan was a shambles and returning to the pre-September 11 state.

### U.S. Inability to Penetrate Middle East Terrorist Groups

An article in London's *Mirror* (October 29, 2001) by its chief foreign correspondent, John Pilger, appeared after the United States started bombing Afghanistan, stating:

The war against terrorism is a fraud. After three weeks' bombing, not a single terrorist implicated in the attacks on America has been caught or killed in Afghanistan. Instead one of the poorest most stricken nations has been terrorised by the most powerful to the point where American pilots have run out of dubious "military" targets and are now destroying mud houses, hospitals, Red Cross warehouse, ands lorries carrying refugees. Unlike the relentless pictures from New York we are seeing almost nothing of this. Tony Blair has yet to tell us what the violent death of children, seven in one family, has to do with Osama bin Laden.

And why are cluster bombs being used? The British public should know about these bombs, which the RAF also uses. They spray hundreds of bomblets that have only one purpose; to kill and maim people. Those that do not explode lie on the ground like landmines waiting for people to step on them. If ever a weapon was designed specifically for acts of terrorism this is it.

I have seen the victims of American cluster weapons in other countries such as the Laotian toddler who picked one up and had her right leg and face blown off. Be assured this is now happening in Afghanistan in your name.

None of those directly involved in the September 11 atrocity was Afghani. Most were Saudis who apparently did their planning and training in Germany and the United States. The camps which the Taliban allowed bin Laden to use were emptied weeks ago. Moreover the Taliban itself is a creation of the Americans and the British. In the 1980s the tribal army that produced them was funded by the CIA and trained by the SAS to fight the Russians.

The hypocrisy does not stop there. When the Taliban took Kabul in 1996 Washington said nothing. Why? Because Taliban leaders were soon on their way to Houston Texas to be entertained by executives of the oil company Unocal.

With secret US government approval the company offered them a generous cut of the profits of the oil and gas pumped through a pipeline that the Americans wanted to build from Soviet central Asia through Afghanistan.

A US diplomat said: "The Taliban will probably develop like the Saudis did." He explained that Afghanistan would become an American oil colony there would be huge profits for the West, no democracy and the legal persecution of women. "We can live with that "he said.

Although the deal fell through, it remains an urgent priority of the administration of George W. Bush, which is steeped in the oil industry. Bush's concealed agenda is to exploit the oil and gas reserves in the Caspian basin the greatest source of untapped fossil fuel on earth and enough according to one estimate to meet America's voracious energy needs for a generation. Only if the pipeline runs through Afghanistan can the Americans hope to control it.

So not surprisingly US Secretary of State Colin Powell is now referring to "moderate" Taliban who will join an American-sponsored "loose federation" to run Afghanistan. The "war on terrorism" is a cover for this: a means of achieving American strategic aims that lie behind the flag-waving facade of great power.

The Royal Marines who will do the real dirty work will be little more than mercenaries for Washington's imperial ambitions not to mention the extraordinary pretensions of Blair himself. Having made Britain a target for terrorism with his bellicose "shoulder to shoulder" with Bush nonsense he is now prepared to send troops to a battlefield where the goals are so uncertain that even the Chief of the Defence Staff says the conflict "could last 50 years". The irresponsibility of this is breathtaking; the pressure on Pakistan alone could ignite an unprecedented crisis across the Indian sub-continent. Having reported many wars I am always struck by the absurdity of effete politicians eager to wave farewell to young soldiers but who themselves would not say boo to a Taliban goose.

In the days of gunboats our imperial leaders covered their violence in the "morality" of their actions. Blair is no different. Like them his selective moralizing omits the most basic truth. Nothing justified the killing of innocent people in America on September 11 and nothing justifies the killing of innocent people anywhere else.

By killing innocents in Afghanistan Blair and Bush stoop to the level of the criminal outrage in New York. Once you cluster bomb, "mistakes" and "blunders" are a pretence. Murder is murder regardless of whether you crash a plane into a building or order and collude with it from the Oval Office and Downing Street.

If Blair was really opposed to all forms of terrorism he would get Britain out of the arms trade. On the day of the twin towers attack an "arms fair" selling weapons of terror (like cluster bombs and missiles) to assorted tyrants and human rights abusers opened in London's Docklands with the full backing of the Blair government. Britain's biggest arms customer is the medieval Saudi regime, which beheads heretics and spawned the religious fanaticism of the Taliban.

If he really wanted to demonstrate "the moral fibre of Britain" Blair would do everything in his power to lift the threat of violence in those parts of the world where there is great and justifiable grievance and anger. He would do more than make gestures; he would demand that Israel ends its illegal occupation of Palestine and withdraw to its borders prior to the 1967 war as ordered by the Security Council of which Britain is a permanent member.

He would call for an end to the genocidal blockade which the UN—in reality America and Britain—has imposed on the suffering people of Iraq for more than a decade causing the deaths of half a million children under the age of five.

That's more deaths of infants every month than the number killed in the World Trade Center.

There are signs that Washington is about to extend its current "war" to Iraq; yet unknown to most of us almost every day, RAF and American aircraft already bomb Iraq. There are no headlines. There is nothing on the TV news. This terror is the longest-running Anglo-American bombing campaign since World War Two.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the US and Britain faced a "dilemma" in Iraq because "few targets remain". "We're down to the last outhouse "said a US official. That was two years ago and they're still bombing. The cost to the British taxpayer? £ 800 million so far.

According to an internal UN report covering a five-month period, 41 per cent of the casualties are civilians. In northern Iraq I met a woman whose husband and four children were among the deaths listed in the report. He was a shepherd who was tending his sheep with his elderly father and his children when two planes attacked them each making a sweep. It was an open valley; there were no military targets nearby.

"I want to see the pilot who did this." said the widow at the graveside of her entire family. For them there was no service in St Paul's Cathedral with the Queen in attendance; no rock concert with Paul McCartney.

### Middle East Expert Described the Terrorists as a CIA Creation

One of many articles on the Middle East written by Doctor Zayar of Quetta, Pakistan, entitled, "Afghanistan, bin Laden and the hypocrisy of American imperialism," described the history of Afghanistan and the role played by the United States. The September 26, 2001, article stated:

The Stalinist regime installed by left wing army officers in 1978 carried out a series of reforms, including land reform and progressive measures in relation to women and education, in an attempt to drag Afghanistan into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This was a mortal threat, not only to the interests of the Afghan landowners, usurers and mullahs, but to the reactionary monarchy of Saudi Arabia and other neighboring states. For this reason, and for its proximity to Moscow (which had, in fact, played no role in the 1978 revolution), US imperialism was implacably opposed to the new regime in Kabul, which, albeit in a distorted way, stood for revolution. That is why US imperialism deliberately armed, financed and incited a coalition of the most barbarous reaction against the Afghan revolution.

The CIA and its allies mobilised vast amounts of money and weapons to back the Afghan counter-revolution. In the Middle East, the Muslim brotherhood, the Saudi-based World Muslim League, together with Saudi Intelligence Chief, Prince Turki al Faisal, combined to raise huge amounts of funds for the jihad. They become central to the recruitment and training of mujaheedin from across the Muslim world. The ISI and Jamat-e-Islami of Pakistan set up reception committees to welcome those desperate middle class layers of the youth who had volunteered for the Jihad.

The ISI—under the guidance of their master, the CIA—had long wanted prince Turki al Faisal, the head of Saudi Intelligence, to lead the Saudi part of the operation in order to demonstrate to the counter-revolutionaries (the "mujaheedin") the commitment of the Saudi royal family to Islam and Jihad, against the "atheistic communist" Kabul regime.

The Taliban were the creation of Pakistan military and intelligence establishment, with the active support of the CIA. None of this would have been possible without the most active participation of Islamabad—and Washington. It is estimated that the Taliban has received about ten billion dollars from America, which continued to finance them until quite recently.

Until 1997, the Americans were silent spectators on human rights issue in Afghanistan. American imperialism was apparently deaf and blind at the time when Taliban was slaughtering women and children in Mazar-e-Sharif, and when they carried out massive ethnic cleansing in Bamyan. When the Taliban began their horrific repression against women in Kabul, Herat and Kandahar, when they closed schools, hospitals, prohibited music and games, American

imperialism not only remained silent but continued to support the Kabul regime.

From the very beginning, America supported the Taliban, in pursuit of their own naked self interest. As usual, business interests were involved. US big business is very interested in building a gas and oil pipeline from the Central Asian states through Afghanistan. This conditioned America's attitude to the Taliban regime. UNO-CAL, the giant American multinational, arrived at a pact with the Taliban. When the Taliban failed to capture the whole of Afghanistan—specifically the northern region—and failed to defeat the Northern Alliance, the pipeline project went deeper and deeper into crisis. "Deaf and blind" American imperialism suddenly became aware of the repression against the masses.

In order to show their "solidarity" with the oppressed and malnourished Afghan masses, Washington launched a brutal air strike, launching its cruise missiles against Afghanistan and using its tool the "United Nations" to impose sanctions on the country. These sanctions have no effect on the Taliban but hit the poorest sections of the population, who are struggling just to stay alive. These attacks and sanctions have merely served to strengthen the Taliban, just like the infamous blockage of Iraq, which has caused the deaths of over one million Iraqis, and which has completely failed to overthrow Saddam Hussein.

### Osama bin Laden

Osama bin Laden played a key role in the war on the Islamic counter-revolutionaries against the Stalinist regime in Kabul, and he received the enthusiastic support of America's CIA. The ex-CIA director William Casey commented on this support for bin Laden in his writings. But many a dog has turned around and bitten his master. After the Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan, bin Laden turned his attention to America instead, organizing the bombing of US embassies in East Africa.

Overnight the CIA's heroic and courageous "freedom fighter" in Afghanistan suddenly become the "enemy of civilization." What has happened between these formerly close allies, and what sort of differences have emerged between them? When he was involved in overthrowing the pro-Moscow regime of Afghanistan bin Laden was the pampered favorite of the American ruling class and the trusty confident of the Saudi royal family. Now all of a sudden he has become a criminal and biggest terrorist in the world! It is a fact that he is a criminal and a reactionary terrorist. But this is not a recent development: it was the case from the very beginning when he

launched his murderous war against the worker and peasant masses of Afghanistan—with the full support of America.

What enraged the Americans was the fact that, after the end of the cold war, these counter-revolutionaries gangsters and bandits had slipped out of their control. It was not that fundamentalism had changed. It was the same rabid dog as before—but it had slipped the leash! The differences with the Americans came to the surface in 1991, when US imperialism attacked Iraq and some of these Islamic fundamentalists, particularly bin Laden's Al-Qaeda organization, opposed the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia. The same fundamentalist fanatics who fought against the Soviet troops as "foreigners in a Muslim country" (Afghanistan), now turned against the USA, using the same logic.

The presence of American troops on Arabian soil accelerated the polarization among the fundamentalists. The mercenary leaderships of the fundamentalist groups, controlled by the CIA, were passive on the question of the presence of American troops, and thus rapidly lost the support of their rank and file. As a result, more extreme fundamentalist tendencies emerged which escaped from the control of the Americans and their lackey states in the Muslim world.

Washington had sown the winds and reaped a whirlwind. Using the funds and weapons given to them by the Americans and Saudis. The more wealthy and better organized fundamentalist militant groups like Al Qaeda set up base camps in various Islamic countries such as Algeria, Sudan, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Tajikistan and Kashmir.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1998, at a meeting in the Khost camp (built by the CIA) the International Islamic Front issued a manifesto, announcing a Jihad (holy war) against the USA. The declaration stated that for more than seven years the USA had been occupying the land of Islam in the Arabian Peninsula. The meeting issued a fatwa (sacred decree), which stated that to kill Americans was the duty of all Moslems. The bombing of US embassies in Africa was part of the Jihad launched by the above-mentioned forces

### The Counter-terrorist Myth

A July/August 2001 article in *The Atlantic* by former CIA operative Reuel Marc Gerecht explained why Osama bin Laden had little to fear from American intelligence:

The United States has spent billions of dollars on counterterrorism since the U.S. embassy bombings in Tanzania and Kenya, in August of 1998. Tens of millions have been spent on covert operations specifically targeting Usama bin Laden and his terrorist organization, al-Qa'ida. Senior U.S. officials boldly claim-even after the suicide attack last October on the USS Cole, in the port of Aden, that the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are clandestinely "picking apart" bin Ladin's organization "limb by limb."

But having worked for the CIA for nearly nine years on Middle Eastern matters (I left the Directorate of Operations because of frustration with the Agency's many problems), I would argue that America's counter-terrorism program in the Middle East and its environs is a myth.

Peshawar, the capital of Pakistan's Northwest Frontier, is on the cultural periphery of the Middle East. It is just down the Grand Trunk Road from the legendary Khyber Pass, the gateway to Afghanistan. Peshawar is where bin Ladin cut his teeth in the Islamic jihad, when, in the mid-1980s, he became the financier and logistics man for the Maktab al-Khidamat, The Office of Services, an overt organization trying to recruit and aid Muslim, chiefly Arab, volunteers for the war against the Soviets in Afghanistan.

The friendships and associations made in The Office of Services gave birth to the clandestine al-Qa'ida, The Base, whose explicit aim is to wage a jihad against the West, especially the United States. According to Afghan contacts and Pakistani officials, bin Ladin's men regularly move through Peshawar and use it as a hub for phone, fax, and modem communication with the outside world. Members of the embassy-bombing teams in Africa probably planned to flee back to Pakistan.

Once there they would likely have made their way into bin Ladin's open arms through al-Qa'ida's numerous friends in Peshawar. Every tribe and region of Afghanistan is represented in this city, which is dominated by the Pathans, the pre-eminent tribe in the Northwest Frontier and southern Afghanistan. Peshawar is also a power base of the Taliban, Afghanistan's fundamentalist rulers.

Knowing the city's ins and outs would be indispensable to any U.S. effort to capture or kill bin Ladin and his closest associates. Intelligence collection on al-Qa'ida can't be of much real value unless the agent network covers Peshawar.

During a recent visit, at sunset, when the city's cloistered alleys go black except for an occasional flashing neon sign, I would walk through Afghan neighborhoods. Even in the darkness I had a case officer's worst sensation-eyes following me everywhere. To escape the crowds I would pop into carpet, copper, and jewelry shops and every cybercafé I could find. These were poorly lit one or two-room walk-

ups where young men surfed Western porn. No matter where I went, the feeling never left me. I couldn't see how the CIA as it is today had any chance of running a successful counter-terrorist operation against bin Ladin in Peshawar, the Dodge City of Central Asia.

Westerners cannot visit the cinder-block, mud-brick side of the Muslim world-whence bin Ladin's foot soldiers mostly come-without announcing who they are. No case officer stationed in Pakistan can penetrate either the Afghan communities in Peshawar or the Northwest Frontier's numerous religious schools, which feed manpower and ideas to bin Ladin and the Taliban, and seriously expect to gather useful information about radical Islamic terrorism-let alone recruit foreign agents.

Even a Muslim CIA officer with native-language abilities (and the Agency, according to several active-duty case officers, has very few operatives from Middle Eastern backgrounds) could do little more in this environment than a blond, blue-eyed all-American. Case officers cannot long escape the embassies and consulates in which they serve. A U.S. official overseas, photographed and registered with the local intelligence and security services, can't travel much, particularly in a police-rich country like Pakistan, without the "host" services' knowing about it. An officer who tries to go native, pretending to be a true-believing radical Muslim searching for brothers in the cause, will make a fool of himself quickly.

In Pakistan, where the government's Inter-Services Intelligence Agency and the ruling army are competent and tough, the CIA can do little if these institutions are against it. And they are against it. Where the Taliban and Osama bin Ladin are concerned, and the United States aren't allies. Relations between the two countries have been poor for years, owing to American opposition to Pakistan's successful nuclear-weapons program and, more recently, Islamabad's backing of Muslim Kashmiri separatists. Bin Ladin's presence in Afghanistan as a "guest" of the Pakistani-backed Taliban has injected even more distrust and suspicion into the relationship.

In other words, American intelligence has not gained and will not gain Pakistan's assistance in its pursuit of bin Ladin. The only effective way to run offensive counter terrorist operations against Islamic radicals in more or less hostile territory is with "non-official-cover" officers-operatives who are in no way openly attached to the U.S. government. Imagine James Bond minus the gadgets, the women, the Walther PPK, and the Aston Martin. But as of late 1999 no program to insert NOCs into an Islamic fundamentalist organization abroad had been implemented, according to one such officer

who has served in the Middle East. "NOCs haven't really changed at all since the Cold War," he told me recently.

"We're still a group of fake businessmen who live in big houses overseas. We don't go to mosques and pray." A former senior Near East Division operative says, "The CIA probably doesn't have a single truly qualified Arabic-speaking officer of Middle Eastern background who can play a believable Muslim fundamentalist who would volunteer to spend years of his life with shitty food and no women in the mountains of Afghanistan. For Christ's sake, most case officers live in the suburbs of Virginia. We don't do that kind of thing."

A younger case officer boils the problem down even further: "Operations that include diarrhea as a way of life don't happen." Behind-the-lines counter terrorism operations are just too dangerous for CIA officers to participate in directly. When I was in the Directorate of Operations, the Agency would deploy a small army of officers for a meeting with a possibly dangerous foreigner if he couldn't be met in the safety of a U.S. embassy or consulate. Officers still in the clandestine service say that the Agency's risk-averse, bureaucratic nature-which mirrors, of course, the growing physical risk-aversion of American society-has only gotten worse.

A few miles from Peshawar's central bazaar, near the old Cantonment, where redcoats once drilled and where the U.S. consulate can be found, is the American Club, a traditional hangout for international-aid workers, diplomats, journalists, and spooks. Worn-out Western travelers often stop here on the way from Afghanistan to decompress; one can buy a drink, watch videos, and order a steak. Security warnings from the American embassy are posted on the club's hallway bulletin board.

The bulletins I saw last December advised U.S. officials and their families to stay away from crowds, mosques, and anyplace else devout Pakistanis and Afghans might gather.

The U.S. embassy in Islamabad, a fortress surrounded by roadblocks, Pakistani soldiers, and walls topped with security cameras and razor wire, strongly recommended a low profile-essentially life within the Westernized, high-walled Cantonment area or other spots where diplomats are unlikely to bump into fundamentalists.

Such warnings accurately reflect the mentality inside both the Department of State and the CIA. Individual officers may venture out, but their curiosity isn't encouraged or rewarded. Unless one of bin Ladin's foot soldiers walks through the door of a U.S. consulate or embassy, the odds that a CIA counter terrorist officer will ever see one are extremely poor.

The Directorate of Operations' history of success has done little to prepare the CIA for its confrontation with radical Islamic terrorism. Perhaps the DO's most memorable victory was against militant Palestinian groups in the 1970s and 1980s. The CIA could find common ground with Palestinian militants, who often drink, womanize, and spend time in nice hotels in pleasant, comfortable countries. Still, its "penetrations" of the PLO-delightfully and kindly rendered in David Ignatius's novel Agents of Innocence (1987)-were essentially emissaries from Yasser Arafat to the U.S. government.

Difficulties with fundamentalism and mud-brick neighborhoods aside, the CIA has stubbornly refused to develop cadres of operatives specializing in one or two countries. Throughout the Soviet-Afghan war (1979-1989) the DO never developed a team of Afghan experts. The first case officer in Afghanistan to have some proficiency in an Afghan language didn't arrive until 1987, just a year and a half before the war's end.

Robert Baer, one of the most talented Middle East case officers of the past twenty years (and the only operative in the 1980s to collect consistently first-rate intelligence on the Lebanese Hizbollah and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad), suggested to headquarters in the early 1990s that the CIA might want to collect intelligence on Afghanistan from the neighboring Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union.

Headquarters' reply: Too dangerous, and why bother? The Cold War there was over with the Soviet withdrawal in 1989. Afghanistan was too far away, internecine warfare was seen as endemic, and radical Islam was an abstract idea. Afghanistan has since become the brain center and training ground for Islamic terrorism against the United States, yet the CIA's clandestine service still usually keeps officers on the Afghan account no more than two or three years.

Until October of 1999 no CIA official visited Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in Afghanistan. Mas'ud is the ruler of northeastern Afghanistan and the leader of the only force still fighting the Taliban. He was the most accomplished commander of the anti-Soviet mujahideen guerrillas; his army now daily confronts Arab military units that are under the banner of bin Ladin, yet no CIA case officer has yet debriefed Mas'ud's soldiers on the front lines or the Pakistani, Afghan, Chinese-Turkoman, and Arab holy warriors they've captured.

The CIA's Counter-terrorism Center, which now has hundreds of employees from numerous government agencies, was the creation of Duane "Dewey" Clarridge, an extraordinarily energetic bureaucratspook.

In less than a year in the mid-1980s Clarridge converted a three-man operation confined to one room with one TV set broadcasting CNN into a staff that rivaled the clandestine service's Near East Division for primacy in counter-terrorist operations. Yet, the Counter-terrorism Center didn't alter the CIA's methods overseas at all. "We didn't really think about the details of operations-how we would penetrate this or that group," a former senior counter-terrorist official says. "Victory for us meant that we stopped [Thomas] Twetten [the chief of the clandestine service's Near East Division] from walking all over us." In my years inside the CIA, I never once heard case officers overseas or back at headquarters discuss the ABCs of a recruitment operation against any Middle Eastern target that took a case officer far off the diplomatic and business-conference circuits. Long-term seeding operations simply didn't occur.

George Tenet, who became the director of the CIA in 1997, has repeatedly described America's counter-terrorist program as "robust" and in most cases successful at keeping bin Ladin's terrorists "off-balance" and anxious about their own security. The Clinton Administration's senior director for counter-terrorism on the National Security Council, Richard Clarke, who has continued as the counter-terrorist czar in the Bush Administration, is sure that bin Ladin and his men stay awake at night "around the campfire" in Afghanistan, "worried stiff about who we're going to get next."

If we are going to defeat Usama bin Ladin, we need to openly side with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, who still has a decent chance of fracturing the tribal coalition behind Taliban power. That, more effectively than any clandestine counter-terrorist program in the Middle East, might eventually force al-Qa'ida's leader to flee Afghanistan, where U.S. and allied intelligence and military forces cannot reach him. Until then, I don't think Usama bin Ladin and his allies will be losing much sleep around the campfire. [Masud was later killed during an interview with journalists.]

### Unexplained Meeting Between CIA and Osama bin Laden

Several articles appeared in European and Middle East newspapers describing a meeting between Osama bin Laden and CIA operatives for which I have no explanation. In the Byzantine world of covert activities, there could be any number of reasons for the meeting (if it actually happened) while the United States was publicly stating its attempt to capture him. One article in French's *Le Figaro* newspaper (October 31, 2001), translated into English, stated:

Dubai, one of the seven emirates of the Federation of the United Arab Emirates, North-East of Abi-Dhabi, with a population of 350,000, was the backdrop of a secret meeting between Osama bin Laden and the local CIA agent in July. A partner of the administration of the American Hospital in Dubai claims that public enemy number one stayed at this hospital between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of July [2001].

Having taken off from the Quetta airport in Pakistan, bin Laden was transferred to the hospital upon his arrival at Dubai airport. He was accompanied by his personal physician and faithful lieutenant, who could be Ayman al-Zawahari—but on this sources are not entirely certain, four bodyguards, as well as a male Algerian nurse, and admitted to the American Hospital, a glass and marble building situated between the Al-Garhoud and Al-Maktoum bridges.

Each floor of the hospital has two "VIP" suites and fifteen rooms. The Saudi billionaire was admitted to the well-respected urology department run by Terry Callaway, gallstone and infertility specialist. Dr. Callaway declined to respond to our questions despite several phone calls.

As early as March, 2000, Asia Week, published in Hong Kong, expressed concern for bin Laden's health, describing a serious medical problem that could put his life in danger because of "a kidney infection that is propagating itself to the liver and requires specialized treatment." According to authorized sources, bin Laden had mobile dialysis equipment shipped to his hideout in Kandahar in the first part of 2000. According to our sources, bin Laden's "travels for health reasons" have taken place before. Between 1996 and 1998, bin Laden made several trips to Dubai on business.

While he was hospitalized, bin Laden received visits from many members of his family as well as prominent Saudis and Emirates. During the hospital stay, the local CIA agent, known to many in Dubai, was seen taking the main elevator of the hospital to go to bin Laden's hospital room.

A few days later, the CIA man bragged to a few friends about having visited bin Laden. Authorized sources say that on July 15<sup>th</sup>, the day after bin Laden returned to Quetta, the CIA agent was called back to headquarters.

In late July, Emirates customs agents arrested Franco-Algerian activist Djamel Beghal at the Dubai airport. In early August, French and American authorities were advised of the arrest. Interrogated by local authorities in Abu Dhabi, Beghal stated that he was called to Afghanistan in late 20000 by Abou Zoubeida, a military leader of bin Laden's organization, Al Qaeda. Beghal's mission: bomb the US em-

bassy on Gabriel avenue, near the Place de la Concorde, upon his return to France.

According to Arab diplomatic sources as well as French intelligence, very specific information was transmitted to the CIA with respect to terrorist attacks against American interests around the world, including on US soil. A DST report, dated 7 September, enumerates all the intelligence, and specifies that the order to attack was to come from Afghanistan.

In August, at the US Embassy in Paris, an emergency meeting was called between the DGSE (French foreign intelligence service) and senior US intelligence officials. The Americans were extremely worried, and requested very specific information from the French and Algerian activists, without advising their counterparts about the reasons for their requests. To the question, "What do you fear in the coming day,?" the Americans kept a difficult-to-fathom silence.

Contacts between the CIA and bin Laden began in 1979 when, as a representative of his family's business, bin Laden began recruiting volunteers for the Afghan resistance against the Red Army. FBI investigators examining the embassy bombing sites in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam discovered that evidence led to military explosives from the US Army, and that these explosives had been delivered three years earlier to Afghan Arabs, the infamous international volunteer brigades involved side by side with bin Laden during the Afghan war against the Red Army.

In pursuit of its investigations, the FBI discovered "financing agreements" that the CIA had been developing with its "Arab friends" for years. The Dubai meeting is then within the logic of "a certain American policy."

### Guardian

Other newspaper articles made reference to the same events. An article in the British *Guardian* (November 1, 2001) added:

The disclosures are known to come from French intelligence.... Intelligence sources say that another CIA agent was also present; and that Bin Laden was also visited by Prince Turki al Faisal, then head of Saudi intelligence, who had long had links with the Taliban, and Bin Laden. Soon afterwards Turki resigned.

### Asia World

Asia World also printed the story (October 31, 2001), referring to his kidney condition:

Osama bin Laden underwent treatment in July at the American Hospital in Dubai where he met a US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) official, French daily Le Figaro and Radio France International re-

ported. Bin Laden has been sought by the United States for terrorism since the bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998. But his CIA links go back before that to the fight against Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

Several sources had reported that bin Laden had a serious kidney infection. He had a mobile dialysis machine sent to his Kandahar hideout in Afghanistan in the first half of 2000, according to "authoritive sources" quoted by Le Figaro and RFI.

### **United Press International**

A *United Press International* article (October 31, 2001) referred to the incident:

A CIA agent allegedly met with suspected terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden in July, while the Saudi underwent treatment for kidney problems at an American hospital in Dubai, France's Le Figaro newspaper reported Wednesday. Le Figaro cited a "professional partner" linked to the hospital's management as its source.

The alleged American spy was called back to the CIA's McLean, VA., headquarters July 15—a day after bin Laden checked out, Le Figaro reported, citing "authorized sources."

Why bin Laden would have met with a CIA officer—or vice versa—is unclear. Even before the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, the Saudi millionaire figured among America's top terrorist suspects, blamed for several earlier plots against U.S. targets, including the 19993 World Trade Center bombing.

But the French newspaper asserted CIA-bin Laden links stretched back years, and appeared to suggest bin Laden gave the agency information regarding future terrorist strikes. "The Dubai meeting is therefore a logical follow to a "certain American policy," the newspaper said.

In particular, the newspaper noted that just two weeks after bin Laden checked out of the Dubai hospital, United Arab Emirates security agents arrested the alleged mastermind of a plot to blow up the American Embassy in Paris. The suspect, a French-Algerian named Djamel Beghal, earlier confessed to receiving his orders from bin Laden, according to French news media citing his written confession

### **Could This be True?**

Bizarre as it sounds—and bizarre things happen all the time that the public never knows about—it is improbable that so many respected newspapers could be totally wrong about these facts.

# October Surprise: Secret Arming of Iran

ctober Surprise was a scheme involving people from both political parties that rewarded terrorism for political gains. October Surprise was the name given to a scheme that corrupted the 1980 presidential elections. It included payment of bribes to enemies of the United States who held 52 American prisoners, seized at the American Embassy in Teheran on November 4, 1979. Shiite Muslim militants attacked and seized the Embassy in Teheran, taking the Americans hostage.

The attack upon the American Embassy occurred several months after the Shah of Iran was overthrown and power seized by the Ayatollah Khomeini. The American hostages were subjected to 444 days of brutal conditions, including mock executions. If this scheme had not been carried out, the Americans would have been released months earlier.

#### Intent of the Scheme

The intent of the scheme was to alter the presidential elections to bring about the defeat of President Jimmy Carter and to elect presidential nominee Ronald Reagan. This was accomplished by blocking the release of the American hostages, causing many Americans to be displeased with President Carter, increasing the chances that Carter would be defeated at the polls.

Months of negotiations to affect the release of these hostages went on between the government of the United States under President Jimmy Carter and the government of Iran. Early in 1980 the U.S. tried a military mission called Operation Desert One to free the hostages, but it failed miserably in the Iranian desert, resulting in the deaths of eight Americans. While the U.S. military was preparing another rescue try, simultaneously negotiating to obtain the hostages' release, the Reagan-Bush team sabotaged the efforts by making public the hostage-rescue plans

and warning the American people that Carter was preparing to exchange arms for hostages. One effect of these tactics that were part of October Surprise was the dispersal of the American prisoners throughout Iran, making rescue all but impossible.

# Losing the Election if the Hostages Were Freed

The American public was becoming increasingly disenchanted with Carter, affecting the outcome of the 1980 presidential elections. Analysts in the Reagan-Bush team estimated they would lose the election to President Jimmy Carter if the American hostages were released prior to the November 11, 1980, election.

After the military rescue mission failed, the United States renewed negotiations for release of the 52 American hostages. The Iranians demanded that President Carter release U.S. military equipment that had been ordered and paid for by the Shah of Iran before Iran would release the hostages.

Despite pressures against an arms-for-hostages swap, in mid-1980 President Carter secretly agreed to Iran's terms. Carter agreed to exchange \$150 million in previously ordered and prepaid military equipment in exchange for the release of the hostages. Iran desperately needed the military equipment after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein attacked Iran in September 1980.

## Sabotaging U.S. Interests for Political Gains

While Reagan and his camp were charging Carter with arms-for-hostage negotiations, the Reagan team, headed by former OSS officer William Casey, entered into secret negotiations with Iranian factions. Casey and other members of the Reagan-Bush team met secretly with Iranian factions, offering bribes in the form of money and U.S. arms if the Iranians *continued* the imprisonment of the American hostages until after the November 11, 1980, elections.

A series of secret meetings were held between the Reagan-Bush team and the Iranian factions in European cities, with the final meeting occurring on the October 19, 1980, weekend in Paris. The Iranians demanded that either Ronald Reagan or George Bush personally appear in Paris to sign the final agreement. Carrying out this scheme required secrecy and massive cover-ups by many in the United States and in France.

### **Various Interests Wanted Carter Out**

There were special-interest groups wanting President Carter removed from office. Among them was the Central Intelligence Agency, which suffered serious losses to its clandestine operations when Carter ordered the dismissal of large numbers of CIA operatives in 1977. This wholesale firing of Agency employees became known as the "October Massacre."

George Bush, who had CIA connections since the late 1950s, had

been Director of the Central Intelligence Agency in 1976 until Carter assumed the presidency and replaced him with Stansfield Turner.

The Reagan-Bush team promised the Iranians billions of dollars of U.S. military equipment and \$40 million in bribes to individual Iranians involved in the scheme. The Reagan-Bush team promised to include arms merchants in the lucrative deal and to include Israel as intermediary in the profitable arms sales.

Carter had refused to deal through arms merchants. He limited the shipment of arms to what had already been purchased. Israel was not included in the sales. The secret and treasonous deal offered by the Reagan-Bush team profited everyone, it seemed. The only people who suffered were the 52 American hostages, held captive months longer, and the American people, who felt the fallout in many ways.

Included in Reagan campaign rhetoric was his promise to get tough with the Iranians, saying he would never negotiate with terrorists. Simultaneously, he and his group were bribing the Iranians to continue the imprisonment of the hostages.

The plan worked. The American public believed the disinformation put out by the Reagan-Bush team. Americans, kept ignorant about the truth and dissatisfied with Carter's inability to get the prisoners released, elected a president and vice president who had engaged in a covert scheme involving the CIA.

Within an hour of Reagan's inauguration on January 20, 1981, the Iranians allowed an aircraft to leave Teheran Airport with all but one of the 52 American hostages on board. The flight was prearranged to take off immediately after the Iranians knew that Reagan and Bush had taken their oaths of office.

#### "The deal is off."

When a White House aide told President Reagan that one of the hostages had not been released, Reagan was heard<sup>3</sup> to respond: "Tell the Iranians that the deal is off if that hostage is not freed."

President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George Bush held widely televised homecoming celebrations for the American hostages, saying all the right things about the sufferings the hostages endured. Reagan never divulged that he and his team were responsible for many months of additional imprisonment and suffering. Neither the hostages nor the American people knew about the Reagan-Bush team conspiracy.

It took the cooperation of many people in the United States and Europe to carry out the scheme. Israel's Mossad, acting as a well-paid

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 3}$  This response was heard by Barbara Honegger, a member of Reagan's White House staff.

middleman in the transfer of the arms from U.S. military warehouses to Iran via Israel, played a major role. Without their cooperation, the scheme probably would not have worked.

It also required the cooperation of the French Secret Service and the government of France, which provided security for the secret Paris meetings. It required the cooperation of officials and people in the Central Intelligence Agency; the U.S. Department of Justice, including the FBI, Secret Service, U.S. Attorneys; the Department of State; many members of Congress, among others. It also required the media to cover up.

My CIA sources said that the \$40 million bribe money came from the Committee to Reelect the President (CREEP).

### **Damage Control**

Many participants in the October Surprise scheme were rewarded with key positions in the U.S. government. Many of these same people engineered or became part of other major scandals that were likewise kept from the American public. The October Surprise plot was the genesis to the Iran-Contra affair, and indirectly to the Inslaw, BNL, and Iraqgate scandals.

To protect the incoming Reagan-Bush team and the many federal officials and others who took part in October Surprise, the Reagan-Bush team placed people, including those implicated in the activities, in control of key federal agencies and the federal courts. Some, like lawyers Stanley Sporkin, Lawrence Silberman, and Lowell Jensen, were appointed to the federal bench, defusing any litigation arising from October Surprise or its many tentacles. Lawyer William Casey was appointed director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Lawyer Edwin Meese, Reagan's campaign manager, was appointed to the highest lawenforcement office in the United States, U.S. Attorney General, insuring that there would be no prosecution of the group. Organized crime never had it so good.

### The Facts Slowly Surfaced

Although the details of the secret agreement were known throughout Europe, the establishment media in the United States kept the lid on the scandal. But the facts started coming out. A Miami *Herald* article<sup>4</sup> related statements made by CIA operative Alfonso Chardy describing a secret meeting in early October 1980 between Richard Allen, Lawrence Silberman, Robert McFarlane, and Iranian factions. Allen was foreign policy adviser to President Reagan, and Robert McFarlane was an aide to Senator John Tower on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

In 1987, Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr, the President of Iran during the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> April 1987.

hostage negotiations, wrote a book published in Europe,<sup>5</sup> describing his knowledge of the October Surprise scheme. The information he had received as President disclosed the secret agreement with the Americans, even though he was kept out of the loop by Hashemi Rafsanjani, one of Khomeini's chief lieutenants and later Speaker of the Iranian Parliament.

In 1988, *Playboy* magazine published an in-depth article on the October Surprise scheme. In what would become a pattern of killings that coincidentally protected high U.S. officials, one of the authors, Abbie Hoffman, was killed shortly after bringing the article to *Playboy*. The eight-page article, "An Election Held Hostage," detailed many of the events surrounding the scheme, as did a ten-page *Esquire* article entitled "October Surprise."

A former member of the Reagan-Bush election team, later a member of the White House staff, Barbara Honegger, authored a 1989 book *October Surprise*, based upon knowledge she gained as a White House insider and subsequent investigator. Honegger left the Reagan camp when she became disillusioned with certain practices. Living in Monterey, California, she and a friend, Rayelan Dyer, worked together researching the October Surprise story.

Rayelan was the widow of a former professor and dean of the physics department at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. She later married a deep-cover, high-ranking officer in the Office of Naval Intelligence, Gunther Russbacher, who was assigned to the Central Intelligence Agency. Unknown to her at the time, her new husband played a key role in the October Surprise operation. Ironically, she initially found out from me about her new husband's role in the matter she and her friend, Honegger, had investigated.

In 1991, Bani-Sadr authored another book describing the October Surprise operation, this time published in the United States: *My Turn To Speak*. On April 15, 1991, *Frontline* aired a television show addressing the October Surprise, which was followed the next day by an article in the Op-Ed section of the *New York Times* written by Gary Sick, describing his knowledge of October Surprise. Sick authored a book published in 1991 that copied Barbara Honegger's title, *October Surprise*. Both *October Surprise* books relied upon statements made by dozens of people who were part of the operation or witnesses to it, and who had nothing to gain and much to lose by disclosing what they knew.

Ari Ben-Menashe, a former member of Israel's secret intelligence agency, the Mossad, described in his 1991 book *Profits of War* the role he

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> European publisher Eagleburger.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> October Surprise, Tudor Publishing Company.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Random House.

and the Mossad played in October Surprise, including meetings he attended in Madrid, Barcelona, and Paris.

Ben-Menashe was heavily involved in various secret activities with the Mossad and the CIA, and was one of the first to expose the Iran-Contra activities, for which October Surprise served as the genesis. Ben-Menashe stated that he was a member of the Mossad's advance team working with the French government, which arranged meetings between William Casey, George Bush, and the Iranian factions, including the meetings on the October 19, 1980, weekend in Paris.

Ben-Menashe related that he and others on the Israeli team stayed at the Paris Hilton Hotel, meeting with various members of the Iranian factions, while waiting for George Bush to arrive from the United States. He stated that on Sunday, October 19 at approximately 11 a.m., the Ayatollah Mehdi Karrubi and his body guards appeared in a room on the upper floor of the Hotel Ritz, where Israeli and French intelligence agencies were waiting for Bush to arrive. George Bush and William Casey followed several minutes later.

The meeting lasted about ninety minutes and a final agreement was reached, whereby the Iranians were to be given \$40 million bribe money and large quantities of arms would be sold to them. In exchange, the Iranians would continue to imprison the 52 Americans until after the November 1980 presidential election and the January 1981 inauguration.

# **Justice Department Obstruction of Justice**

CIA contract agent Richard Brenneke testified in U.S. District Court at Denver in 1988 on behalf of another CIA contract agent, Heinrich Rupp. The purpose of the testimony was to show that Brenneke's friend, Rupp, was a CIA contract agent (as was Brenneke), and that the offenses for which Rupp was being charged were offenses committed under orders of the CIA. Justice Department prosecutors had charged Rupp with money offenses at Aurora Bank in the Denver area.

During Brenneke's testimony, he described other CIA activities, including his role in the October 19, 1980, weekend flights to Paris, in which both Brenneke and Rupp took part. Brenneke testified that he saw George Bush and Donald Gregg in Paris on the October 19, 1980, weekend. Brenneke had nothing to gain by revealing the October Surprise scheme, and much to lose if he was lying. Justice Department officials already knew of the October Surprise activities. U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese had been on the Reagan-Bush presidential campaign and knew of the criminal activities. Now he held the top law enforcement spot in the United States. Instead of performing his duty, he engaged in many criminal acts, including cover-up, aiding and abetting, misprision of felonies, obstruction of justice, subornation of perjury, and others. He

then compounded these crimes by falsely prosecuting an informant to silence and discredit him, compounding his earlier obstruction of justice.

Instead of prosecuting the guilty people in the October Surprise scheme, Justice Department officials and prosecutors responded to Brenneke's testimony by charging him with perjury for making the statements to the court. This false charge made Justice Department lawyers guilty of felony persecution of an informant under federal criminal statutes, felony cover-up, and obstruction of justice.

### **Justice Department Subornation of Perjury**

The perjury trial was conducted in Portland, Oregon, where Brenneke resided. Justice Department prosecutors brought Donald Gregg, then Ambassador to South Korea, to testify that he was not in Paris on the October 19, 1980, weekend, even though the prosecutors knew Brenneke was telling the truth and that Gregg was lying. They encouraged Gregg to lie under oath, testifying that he was swimming at a beach in Maryland with his family on that weekend. Justice Department prosecutors produced pictures of Gregg and his family in bathing suits on the beach in bright sunshine. They knew the snapshots they were submitting to the court were not taken on that cold October 19th weekend. Encouraging someone to commit perjury is the crime of subornation of perjury.

Brenneke's lawyer called a witness from the weather bureau who testified that the sky was overcast during that entire weekend.

Justice Department prosecutors produced two Secret Service agents<sup>9</sup> to testify that Bush never left the Washington area during the October 19, 1980, weekend. But they were vague in their testimony and failed to produce the Secret Service logs showing Bush's activities during a 21-hour period from Saturday afternoon to Sunday evening. The Secret Service agents could not state where Bush was from 9:25 p.m. on Saturday, October 18 until Sunday at 7:57 p.m. My CIA sources told me that several Secret Service agents were on board the BAC 111 aircraft that flew vice presidential nominee George Bush to Paris during the missing twenty-one hours.

Secret Service records, if they are accurate, indicate that Bush gave a speech at 8:40 p.m. on Saturday, October 18, 1980, at Widener University in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, and then did not show where Bush was until Sunday night, October 19, 1980, when Bush gave his speech to the Zionist Organization of America at the Washington Hilton Hotel, arriving an hour late for his 7:30 p.m. scheduled appearance. I obtained sequestered Secret Service documents showing Bush flying into

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Including Title 18 U.S.C. §§ 1512 and 1513.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Who worked under the control of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Washington National Airport at 6:37 p.m. Sunday evening.

### **Secret Service Perjury?**

In addition to lying about Bush's whereabouts, the Secret Service agents testifying in Brenneke's trial withheld the fact that several Secret Service agents were on the plane that carried Bush to Paris during that October 19, 1980, weekend.

# **Blackmailing the United States**

As could be expected, when the Reagan-Bush team took office they were then subject to blackmail by Iran, Iraq, Israel, and anyone who had knowledge of October Surprise.

After Reagan and Bush took office, the Iranians received huge quantities of military equipment, many times more than they could have received had they completed the agreement with the United States government under President Carter. In 1982, the Reagan-Bush team took Iraq off the list of terrorist states despite the strong protests of intelligence organizations in the United States and Europe. Israel received huge quantities of military supplies and aid, much of it unknown to the American public, who will be paying the bill for years.

October Surprise also adversely affected the military preparedness of the United States and its European allies. To obtain the arms for Iran promised at Paris, military equipment was stolen from U.S. warehouses in Europe and sent to Iran via Israel.

#### **CIA Confidential Sources**

In later pages, I describe how I met the CIA sources that gave me many of the specific details of the October Surprise scheme. Briefly, they told me in their sworn declarations that October Surprise was primarily a CIA operation, engineered and carried out with CIA personnel and funds. William Casey, a private citizen and covert CIA operative, met several times with Iranians at different European locations in 1980.

One of the key meetings occurred at the PepsiCo International Headquarters building in Barcelona, Spain in late July 1980. One of my CIA sources was present with Casey at that meeting, arranging for procurement and shipment of the arms from various European locations to Iran via Israel. The final meeting occurred in Paris on the October 19, 1980, weekend.

Bush flew to Paris from the United States on October 18, 1980, on a BAC 111 owned by a member of the Saudi Arabian family. My CIA contacts have said that the pilots on that flight were Gunther Russbacher, Richard Brenneke, and an Air Force Major.

The BAC 111 reportedly departed Washington National Airport for nearby Andrews Air Force Base on Saturday evening, October 18, 1980.

It then departed Andrews at approximately 19:00 pm EST (0000 GMT)<sup>10</sup> for an airport on Long Island in the New York City area, arriving there at 19:45 p.m. (0045). The BAC 111 landed shortly before the arrival of a Gulfstream jet owned by Unocal, from which William Casey deplaned. Casey then joined the passengers on the BAC 111 for the flight to Paris.

The BAC 111 departed Mitchell at 20:00 p.m. (0100 GMT) for Gander, Newfoundland, arriving there at 21:20 p.m. (EST) (22:20 Atlantic Time; 0220 GMT), where it refueled for the flight over the North Atlantic. It departed Gander at 21:40 p.m. EST (22:40 Atlantic Time; 0240 GMT) for Paris, arriving at Le Bourget Airport at 03:40 EST (9:40 a.m., European time; 0840 GMT).

Unocal's Gulfstream flew non-stop from Mitchell Field to Paris and was waiting at the airport in London when the BAC 111 arrived. Heinrich Rupp was one of the pilots on the Unocal Gulfstream.

In Paris, a fleet of limousines met the plane to carry the passengers to their destinations. George Bush and William Casey went straight to the meetings which were then in progress. At the Paris meetings were numerous Iranians and members of Israel's Mossad, including Ari Ben-Menashe.

\$40 million bank draft on a Luxembourg bank was given to the Iranians as bribe money and a part of the overall agreement, which consisted also of the shipment of arms to Iran. CIA-operative Michael Riconosciuto played a key role in arranging for the wire transfer of these funds.

Because it was necessary for Bush to return to the United States quickly in order to attend a late Sunday evening speech at the Washington Hilton Hotel, the CIA provided an SR-71 aircraft. This plane departed from a military field near Paris at approximately 1450 European time (8:50 a.m. EST; 1350 GMT) and took approximately one hour and forty-four minutes to McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey, arriving there at approximately 10:50 a.m. EST (1550 GMT).

Later that day, Bush boarded the same BAC 111 that had taken him to Paris and then flew into Washington National Airport. The Secret Service reports that I obtained showed Bush arriving at Washington National at 6:37 p.m., in the BAC 111 and then proceeding with Secret Service escort to the Washington Hilton Hotel, where he gave a speech.

# **CIA Code Name for October Surprise**

As will be explained more fully in later pages, most CIA operations have code names, and the code name for the CIA October Surprise scheme was Operation Eurovan (EV).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Greenwich Mean Time.

# Circumstantial Evidence Showing October Surprise Existed

Even discounting testimony from the many people who were involved in one way or another with October Surprise, the circumstantial evidence is far in excess of that used by federal and state prosecutors to convict a person of a crime or to sentence the person to death. The facts exposed by investigative media articles and books were of sufficient magnitude to make President Nixon's Watergate cover-up child's play.

#### One Form of Election Fraud

October Surprise was one form of election fraud, manipulating events through fraud that changed the voting pattern.

The factors indicating that October Surprise did in fact occur include:

- Statements by former president of Iran, Bani-Sadr, whose 1987 and 1991 books detailed the secret agreement between Iranian factions and the Reagan-Bush team.
- Statements of numerous people given to Barbara Honegger and quoted in her 1989 *October Surprise*, enlarged upon what she learned as part of the Reagan-Bush team.
- Statements of numerous people given to Gary Sick and quoted in his 1991 *October Surprise*.
- Sworn testimony by CIA contract personnel Richard Brenneke and Heinrich Rupp in the U.S. District Court at Denver in 1988.
- Statements of numerous people given to the authors of various newspaper and magazine articles.
- Statements made to the press by Ari Ben-Menashe, a former highranking Mossad staff officer, who was present at several of the secret October Surprise meetings.
- Circumstantial evidence in the sequence of events that occurred, including the sudden withdrawal of Iran from further discussions when the United States under President Carter agreed to the terms proposed by Iran, and the release of the American hostages within minutes of President Reagan's inauguration.
- The implications of guilt by the pattern of cover-ups.

# **Contacts with October Surprise Insiders**

Commencing in 1990, I became friends with a number of deep-cover whistleblowers formerly employed by various U.S. intelligence agencies, some of whom had been silenced by Justice Department prosecutors and federal judges. Over a period of six years, and continuing at this time, over a thousand hours of deposition-like questioning of these people occurred, divulging government corruption beyond the wildest imagination

of the average American. These people divulged to me the specifics of deep-cover criminal activities that were and are inflicting unprecedented harm upon the United States and the American people.

Despite my personal knowledge of government corruption, commencing while I was a federal investigator, I would probably not have believed what I was told if such a great amount of time had not been expended obtaining specifics and confirmation from other deep-cover sources. Much of what they told me was supported by documentation. Further, highly detailed and documented exposé books and articles helped support the existence of this misconduct.

Ironically, it was the corrupt actions by renegade Justice Department lawyers and federal judges in the Ninth Circuit federal judicial district<sup>11</sup> that brought me into contact with these people.

One of the standard tactics employed to keep the lid on the various scandals and to silence or discredit whistleblowers is to falsely charge the person with a federal crime. This is usually followed by seizing his or her assets, depriving the person of funds for legal defenses. Court appointed lawyers are then furnished, who routinely provide a weak defense so as to protect those in power.

### **Justice Department Prosecution Backfired**

Justice Department prosecutors and federal judges tried to silence me by the sham judicial action in the California courts and the voiding of all state and federal protections needed to defend against the scheme. When I sought to protect myself, the coalition of corrupt Justice Department prosecutors and federal judges sentenced me to prison, just as they did when I sought to expose the criminal activities in which they were involved. There is a certain risk in sending a citizen to prison that is determined to blow the lid on these subversive and criminal acts and who is also an author.

Virtually nothing has been written about whistleblowers or concerned citizens who blow the whistle on hard-core criminal acts by federal personnel, especially federal judges and their legal cohorts in the Justice Department. All whistleblowers fare poorly, but none fare as badly as those who expose corruption in the powerful Justice Department and federal judiciary.

It was in prison that many former CIA contract agents educated me about corrupt CIA and Justice Department activities. I met people in prison who, incarcerated for various political reasons, were former CIA operatives or assets operating covert CIA proprietaries, including airlines, banks, and savings and loans. Either their CIA cover was exposed,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Ninth Circuit comprises the States of California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, and Hawaii, and is the largest judicial district in the United States.

and the CIA and Justice Department chose to make them scapegoats, or the imprisonment was to silence potential whistleblowers or witnesses.

Whatever the reason, CIA and Justice Department officials acted in unison with federal judges, eliminating people who constituted a threat of exposure. The standard tactic is to charge the targeted individual with a federal offense for some act they were ordered to perform by their CIA handlers, deny them adequate legal counsel, deny them the right to have CIA witnesses testify on their behalf, and deny to them the right to present CIA documents. A standard and sham excuse for denying these defenses is that they are not relevant to the immediate charge, when the matter of who gave the person his or her orders is absolutely relevant.

From 200 to 300 former CIA operatives or contract agents had been sentenced to prison by Justice Department prosecutors during the 1980s on charges arising out of the covert activities they were ordered to perform by their CIA bosses. It was their unanimous belief that their prosecution was either to silence them, or to discredit them if they talked about the operations.

It was in prison that I first met Gunther Russbacher, a CIA deep-cover high-ranking operative. The hundreds of hours of statements given to me by Russbacher, and my book-writing and radio and television appearances, brought me into contact with other former deep-cover personnel and investigators. The thousand and more hours of information gathered during the last few years revealed a convoluted web of intrigue that is bizarre, and irrefutable.

### **Compounding the Judicial Persecution**

If the facts in these pages ever motivate enough people to rebel and throw out the crooks, a tongue-in-check gratitude should be given to the crooked judges and Justice Department lawyers that sent me and others to prison to silence us. And these should especially include U.S. District Judge Marilyn Patel at San Francisco, one of the most corrupt judges I have ever encountered. Her retaliation against me for reporting the criminal activities in Chapter 11 courts made it possible for Russbacher and me to meet.

The cover-ups, and the retaliation, continued the culture, protected the guilty, and led to great harm to many people, and to national interests.

### **Gunther Karl Russbacher**

Russbacher's parents were members of the Hapsburg group of Austria, and his father was an Austrian in German intelligence during World War II. In 1950, the U.S. government offered many of these intelligence officers the choice of either being prosecuted for war crimes or going to the United States and infiltrating various U.S. intelligence agencies. Russbacher's parents were among those who accepted the move to

America. In 1950, the Russbacher family moved to the United States, living in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and then went to Fallon, Nevada.

When Russbacher reached the age of seventeen, he entered the U.S. Army, later joining the U.S. Navy, and in 1967 received his Navy pilot wings at Pensacola. He then went on to the Naval Air Station at Jacksonville, Florida. (I also received my Navy wings at Pensacola and then went on to Jacksonville, where I became a Navy flight instructor.) Approximately a year later, Russbacher received pilot training in the SR-71 at Beale Air Force Base and flew many SR-71 missions for the CIA. During his CIA activities he was given numerous aliases and service and Social Security numbers.

In 1969, Russbacher was attached to the Office of Naval Intelligence and "sheep-dipped" into the Central Intelligence Agency. He had two tours of duty in Vietnam; during his first tour, as a fighter pilot, he was shot down and returned to Fitzsimmons Hospital in Denver for extensive hospitalization. Upon his discharge from the hospital, the CIA sent Russbacher back to Vietnam, where he engaged in various covert activities, including attempting to rescue prisoners of war. During one of these attempts, he was caught and spent about a year in a North Vietnam prison camp until he again escaped. During his imprisonment Russbacher was tortured, including pulling out his fingernails.

The CIA sent Russbacher to Afghanistan in the early 1970s, helping the Afghan fighters against the Russian-backed Kabul government. During this period he helped transfer CIA funds to the newly created Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). These CIA funds, and those supplied by Bank of America, were a significant source of capital for that bank.

The CIA then put Russbacher into the financial field, starting in Operation Cyclops, a program where CIA operatives are placed into financial institutions to learn the business. He subsequently started up and operated during the late 1970s and 1980s several covert CIA proprietaries in the United States, including savings and loans, mortgage companies and investment companies, dealing in money laundering and other covert CIA activities.

For more than two decades of CIA operations the CIA had given him over thirty aliases for different covert operations. He also had various nicknames including "Gunsel" and "Gunslinger." When undergoing flight training in the SR-71, including at Beale Air Force Base, he used

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> "Sheep-dipped" is the term used to describe the transfer of military personnel to the CIA, in which records are falsified showing the person discharged from the respective military organization, and who then works with the CIA in a clandestine position, where the CIA can deny any relationship to the party doing CIA work.

the alias Robert Behler, and the rank of an Air Force Lt. Colonel. When operating covert financial institutions his usual alias was Emery J. Peden with occasional use of Robert Andrew Walker, or both. When he wanted to control two positions within a company, he used two different aliases. With Red Hill Savings & Loan and Hill Financial, he used Emery J. Peden for his role as Chairman of the Board and Robert A. Walker as Chief Executive Officer. He also used his real name, Gunther Russbacher.

Russbacher and I spent hundreds of hours dissecting the mechanics of CIA operations during the past four years, some of it sworn declarations when I thought to ask, and I received numerous written declarations from him. Russbacher described some of the CIA affiliated companies or fronts that he operated and their covert business activities. He also mentioned moving money from Silverado Bank Savings & Loan in Denver to start up other covert CIA operations, including Red Hill Savings and Loan and Hill Financial in Red Hill, Pennsylvania.

Several times during the years Russbacher expressed regret to me for having committed some of the things that he was ordered to do by his CIA bosses, including his role in assassinations, both in foreign countries and in the United States. As I became a confidant to other deep-cover high-ranking CIA/ONI operatives I learned that assassination teams were part of their official activities and not simply done by rogue elements.

Russbacher described the various factions operating within the CIA, each with its own agenda and often running similar parallel operations. He fell out of grace with the CIA in the late 1980s for various reasons. Because of Russbacher's role in many CIA activities that implicated high federal officials and his knowledge of criminal activities by the CIA, federal judges, Justice Department officials, and others, Russbacher posed a serious threat to those in control of key segments of the federal government. He was the smoking gun in many national scandals, the exposure of which could create a national emergency.

# **Sequence of Sham Charges**

In late 1986 the State of Missouri filed charges against Russbacher for allegedly writing checks to an alias, upon an account that had inadvertently closed; for allegedly defrauding several people out of \$20,000, when the money had actually been returned to them, and for allegedly selling unregistered securities (from one CIA proprietary to another). These alleged offenses occurred while he was operating a CIA proprietary known as National Brokerage Company in Clayton, Missouri and Southwest Latex Supply. Russbacher said that no one ever lost any money since people were always compensated for their losses. The charges were not pressed, and Russbacher was not arrested.

In August 1989, Russbacher used a CIA Learjet based at Hayward Airport in California to fly his prospective bride from Seattle to Reno, where they were married, and then back to Seattle. Personal use of government aircraft is not exactly an unknown event, but in this case Justice Department prosecutors, representing Faction One of the Central Intelligence Agency (Russbacher was Faction Two), chose to charge him with misuse of government aircraft and fuel.

Over a period of years I learned of many instances where one government agency seeks to charge an agent of another agency with a federal crime.

Another reason for charging Russbacher with an offense was that he married shortly after signing his latest CIA secrecy agreement in which he agreed not to marry for the next two years. On August 30, 1989, Russbacher married Rayelan Dyer, the widow of a former professor<sup>13</sup> at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. Among the Naval personnel that Rayelan had met at the school while her husband was alive was Gunther Russbacher, having first met him in 1982. Several weeks before the marriage, Russbacher requested permission to marry from his CIA bosses.

Permission was necessitated by his CIA secrecy agreement barring him from marrying for two years after its latest signing. Russbacher was verbally advised that this approval would probably not be forthcoming because Rayelan was an activist of the 1960s and had sought to expose the October Surprise operation in collaboration with Barbara Honegger, who authored the book, *October Surprise*.

Rayelan had met Russbacher for the second time in August 1989 while she was traveling in Oregon with her mother, Bess Smith. Several days later, Russbacher called and proposed marriage. After she accepted, Russbacher called the crew of a CIA proprietary aircraft charter operation, Jet Charter International, based at Hayward, California, instructing them to pick him up at Sacramento Municipal Airport and fly him to Boeing Field in Seattle. After Flightcraft in Seattle serviced the plane, the Learjet departed for Reno with Russbacher and Rayelan on board.

After arriving in Reno they were married, and immediately flew back to Seattle. From Seattle the Learjet pilots, Don LaKava and Jan Pierson, both of whom had served with Russbacher in Central American activities, flew to Modesto, California. The Russbachers then drove to Bess Smith's home in Newman, California.

Within days after the marriage, FBI agents burst into Bess Smith's home (September 1, 1989) in Newman, arresting Russbacher, falsely

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Dean of Science and Engineering.

charging that he kidnapped his wife's niece, Jennifer Smith.<sup>14</sup> The FBI agents told Rayelan and her mother that Russbacher was a con artist, marrying women all over the country and then taking their money. The FBI agents stated that Russbacher was committing all types of fraud throughout the United States. They stated he had no association with the government and was a pathological liar. The FBI agents were so convincing in their lies that they almost had Rayelan convinced.

The kidnapping charges were dropped on December 1, 1989, but the State of Missouri took custody of Russbacher on 1986 charges that he had misappropriated \$20,000 through bad checks and sold securities without registering the transaction with the State. Russbacher was denied bail. During trial, the judge declared a mistrial. Waiting for the next trial, which was repeatedly delayed, Russbacher remained in the harsh surroundings of St. Charles county jail in Missouri. His lawyer, Timothy Farrell, and the Missouri County Prosecutor, John P. Zimmerman, pressured Russbacher to sign a plea agreement, claiming it would put all of the charges behind him. Russbacher verbally agreed to an Alford agreement, or nolo contendere, wherein Russbacher did not plead guilty but agreed to certain conditions to avoid trial.

Russbacher's lawyer appeared more interested in appeasing the judge and the prosecutor and failed to provide the defenses expected of even a half-baked lawyer.

When Russbacher entered the courtroom on July 16, 1990, the terms in the written plea agreement, which he had never seen before, were very different from what his lawyer and the prosecutor had stated earlier. Russbacher was pressured to sign the agreement, stating he would then be set free. Under the pressure of a year in a county jail and the promise of a return to his CIA status, Russbacher signed the papers. During questioning by Judge Lester Duggan, Jr., Russbacher told the judge that he was not pleading guilty but exercising an Alford plea. But the judge entered into court records that Russbacher pled guilty to the offenses.

#### **Unaware of the Pitfalls of Probation**

The wording of the plea agreement was such that he could be incarcerated again whenever it suited Missouri prosecutors, who were working hand in hand with Justice Department and CIA personnel. Russbacher either did not realize it at the time, or he was desperate to get out of jail.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Rayelan's mother received a telephone call from her granddaughter living near Seattle asking that she be allowed to stay in California until the girl's parents recovered from their drug and alcohol problems. Russbacher called the CIA's Learjet to fly him, Rayelan and her mother, to Seattle, where twelve-year-old Jennifer Smith resided. Jennifer's mother agreed to let the daughter go to California.

The terms of the plea agreement required Russbacher to remain silent concerning any CIA activities. (This was similar to orders rendered against me by federal judges in the San Francisco area, when they barred me from reporting any criminal activities to a federal court.)

Under the terms of the probation agreement, Russbacher could be returned to prison to serve 21 years, even though there was never a trial on the original charges, if he violated any of the terms of the plea agreement. Almost anything he did for the CIA violated the conditions of the plea agreement, including trips outside of the St. Charles area and failure to report regularly to his probation officer.

## No Snitching

One paragraph of the plea agreement was obviously meant to keep Russbacher from testifying at any Congressional or other government inquiry. Paragraph number five read:

That the defendant enter into no agreements with any governmental or other agency to provide information concerning crimes or bad acts. No snitching for anyone.

This agreement was signed by the Missouri Assistant Prosecutor, John P. Zimmerman; by Russbacher's lawyer, Timothy Farrell; and St. Charles, Missouri Judge Lester Duggan, Jr. This was another version of the tactic that federal judges and Justice Department prosecutors inflicted upon me, seeking to silence my exposure activities.

The terms of the plea agreement were also spelled out in a July 2, 1990, letter by St. Charles County Assistant Prosecuting Lawyer John P. Zimmerman to Russbacher's lawyer, repeating the exact words in the plea agreement. There was a determined effort to silence Russbacher, using state officials to carry out the intent of federal officials.

Item number seven provided that Russbacher "not leave the St. Louis area without written permission from his probation officer." But Russbacher's CIA duties required that he immediately leave the area, which he did. The plea agreement also required Russbacher to make weekly reports to the probation officer, which he never did. Nothing was said about it until several years later when Justice Department officials wanted to silence Russbacher.

# **Secret Operation**

The CIA had an important task for Russbacher to perform upon leaving prison. He was needed for an ultra-secret project associated with the Bush administration's dealings with Iraq's Saddam Hussein. The signature of Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev was needed on a secret agreement prepared and signed by President George Bush. Russbacher stated that the agreement provided that Russia not intervene if the United States attacked Iraq in the near future. Russbacher spoke Russian, had

been assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in the 1970s and mid-1980s, and knew President Gorbachev personally. The signature and agreement had to remain secret.

Russbacher's handlers instructed him to proceed to Offutt Air Force Base for a top-secret briefing. Immediately upon release from prison at St. Charles, Missouri, on July 16, 1990, Russbacher and his wife drove to Offutt Air Force Base. They arrived there on July 18, where CincPac authorization permitted them to occupy living quarters at this high-security Air Force Base. Russbacher was briefed about the mission in which he was to be involved. Among those present at the meeting were Brent Scowcroft, national security advisor, and CIA Director William Webster.

Gunther Russbacher and his wife departed Offutt on July 21, 1990, driving to Reno, where they stayed at the Western Village Inn and Casino in nearby Sparks, awaiting further orders. Late in the afternoon on July 26, 1990, Russbacher boarded a CIA Learjet at Reno, which took him to Crows Landing Naval Air Station, where four CIA SR-71 aircraft were being readied for a non-stop flight to Moscow, carrying out the plans reached at Offutt.

Russbacher described the in-flight refueling of the SR-71's on their transpolar flight to Moscow, with the first one occurring northeast of Seattle and the second refueling by Russian tankers as they approached the USSR. Russbacher identified one of the passengers in the SR-71s as national security advisor Brent Scowcroft.

Russbacher was the only person on the four aircraft who spoke Russian, and his previous contacts with Gorbachev were valuable to the success of the mission. Russbacher told me of handing the secret agreement to Gorbachev, obtaining Gorbachev's signature on one of the agreements, and then flying back to the United States, along with two of the other CIA aircraft. One SR-71 was left for the Russians, along with a flight crew to check out Russian pilots. It is believed that one of the flight instructors was a former Air Force Chief Flight Instructor from Beale Air Force Base in Marysville, California, reportedly Abe Kardone. (I owned a 60-unit motel in nearby Yuba City and would occasionally pass near a departing SR-71 when I flew into Yuba City or Marysville Airport.)

The aircraft refueled twice in the air on the return flight and the three SR-71s landed at Fallon Naval Air Station on July 26, 1990.

On July 25, 1990, the day before Russbacher obtained Gorbachev's signature, U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie assured Iraq's Saddam Hussein that the United States had no interest in its conflict with Kuwait. These assurances were interpreted by Saddam Hussein as clearance to invade Kuwait, which he did several days later. This sequence of events almost suggests that Saddam Hussein was encouraged to attack Kuwait

while the United States waited to retaliate.

Upon landing at Fallon Naval Air Station, a Navy helicopter flew him to Reno, at which time he took a cab to the motel where his wife was waiting. While at the motel waiting for further instructions from his CIA bosses, Russbacher received telephone instructions on July 28th from Admiral George Raeder, instructing him to report to Castle Air Force Base for a debriefing on the Moscow flight. Raeder further advised Russbacher that he would be promoted from Captain to Rear Admiral, and that Russbacher should get the proper uniform and a Rear Admiral's cap at nearby Fallon Naval Air Station, which he did.

Bizarre as the Moscow flight sounds to people living a normal life, it must be remembered that the CIA deals in the bizarre. I talked to Rayelan, who saw the CIA Learjet and three CIA SR-71s arrive at the Reno airport. She saw Russbacher enter the Learjet, which immediately departed. I talked to Bess Smith, Rayelan's mother, who lived in Newman, near the Crows Landing Naval Air Station, and who was present at the Navy base during the preparation of the SR-71s. She saw Russbacher get in one of the aircraft. During the debriefing at Castle Air Force Base, she was in one of the adjoining bedrooms and saw the people receiving the debriefing from Russbacher.

The answers Bess Smith gave to my questions showed she wasn't fabricating what she saw. She was a kind, motherly person, who could not fabricate the facts that she witnessed. I also talked to the SR-71 pilot and former instructor at Beale Air Force Base, Abe Kardone of Tacoma, Washington. Kardone, while being circumspect, made statements indicating he was one of the pilots on the flight and that he was the SR-71 instructor who remained behind in Moscow to check out the Russian flight crews.

The Russbachers arrived at Castle Air Force base on July 29, 1990, and CincPac authorization was again waiting from the navy permitting them to be billeted there for several days. (I have copies of the billeting receipts from both military bases.) Russbacher's CIA handlers debriefed him in his apartment-size accommodations while Rayelan and her mother were sleeping in one of the two adjoining bedrooms. After the debriefing, Russbacher waited to receive his promotion to Rear Admiral. Up to this point he had not worn his Navy uniform, which was hanging in the closet in a protective bag. While Russbacher debriefed his CIA people, Bess Smith walked into the kitchen from her bedroom and exchanged greetings with the people there.

On July 31, 1990, the morning after the late-evening debriefing, FBI agents burst into their living quarters, arrested Russbacher for allegedly impersonating a Naval officer. He was then incarcerated at the Fresno

County jail while awaiting trial. Justice Department prosecutors soon dropped the charge, but U.S. Attorney David Levi at Sacramento filed new charges. He alleged that Russbacher misused government aircraft, fuel, military facilities and purchase orders associated with the flights to Seattle and Reno when Russbacher married Rayelan.

During the trial, FBI agent Rich Robley testified that Russbacher had worked for the government, and it looked favorable for an acquittal. Before reaching the jury, U.S. District Judge Leonard Pierce declared a mistrial, which was followed by months of delaying tactics by Justice Department prosecutors as they prepared for another trial. Meanwhile, Russbacher languished in jail. When Russbacher stated he would fight the charges, U.S. Attorney David Levi threatened to charge Russbacher's wife and mother-in-law with unlawfully trespassing on Offutt and Castle Air Force Bases and request six months in prison for each of them.

Despite the constitutional requirement of a jury trial, federal judges have held that six months imprisonment permits eliminating that constitutional protection, allowing federal judges to imprison a citizen without a jury trial. In this way a federal judge, who is often a former Justice Department lawyer and usually works in unison with the prosecuting lawyer, can sentence a person to six months in prison on fabricated charges.

This six months imprisonment often destroys a person financially and inflicts great personal harm upon the individual and family. This unconstitutional imprisonment without a jury trial occurs frequently. It was done to me in retaliation for reporting the federal crimes in which federal judges and Justice Department lawyers were implicated.

The U.S. Attorney promised Russbacher that he would receive only a three-month prison sentence if he pled guilty, and Russbacher agreed. However, U.S. District Judge Pierce refused to honor this agreement and sentenced Russbacher to twenty months in prison. After several months in the county jail, Russbacher was transferred to the federal prison camp at Dublin, California. That is where I met him.

Russbacher and I had a good relationship, possibly due to our prior Navy piloting background. At first, Russbacher was very guarded in what he told me about CIA operations. He described his activities in Central America with the CIA, including Oliver North's involvement, and the disdain that CIA and other people had for North's incompetence and involvement in drug trafficking.

# "My life wouldn't be worth a nickel"

At first, there were many CIA operations Russbacher wouldn't disclose to me. When I pressed him for details he stated, "My life wouldn't be worth a nickel if I talked about the hush-hush things." A few weeks

after we had met, I was released<sup>15</sup> December 10, 1990<sup>16</sup> and returned to my home in Alamo, California. Russbacher started calling me from prison, and our discussions about CIA and other covert activities continued. Much of the time I asked specific questions about CIA activities and he responded, similar to a deposition.

I thought that *I* had discovered major criminal activities while an FAA investigator, but it was child's play compared to what I subsequently learned. Through my contacts with Russbacher, I became acquainted with other deep-cover CIA operatives and contract agents, DEA personnel, and former police and private investigators. This small group had information about virtually every dirty covert activity of the CIA. The education was priceless and made possible the exposures described within these pages.

Russbacher's health problems necessitated his transfer to the federal prison at Terminal Island near Long Beach, California. But our almost daily telephone conversations continued, going further into CIA activities in which he had been involved.

Russbacher's CIA status and his credibility were proven to me not only by the hundreds of hours of questioning but by the statements given to me by other deep-cover operatives or contract agents, some of whom hadn't seen Russbacher for years.

### **October Surprise**

Rumors about the October Surprise scheme started surfacing in the media in late 1990, causing me to ask Russbacher if he had any knowledge of it. He replied that he was well familiar with the details and that he was part of the operation. But he would only make a few general statements about it. But this suddenly changed.

During an early morning telephone conversation on April 30, 1991, Russbacher said that three Office of Naval Intelligence officers were coming to Terminal Island that afternoon and he would be flying with them to Monterey, California on a special assignment. The flight from

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> But the release was only pending still another trial at which the same Justice Department and the same Ninth Circuit judges sought to again send me to federal prison. The FBI and Justice Department again accused me of criminal contempt of court for having filed a federal law suit in the U.S. District Court at Chicago which described additional federal crimes that I had uncovered in Chapter 11 courts, and in which I sought relief from the escalating attacks upon me.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> San Francisco U.S. District Judge Marilyn Patel had caused me to be incarcerated without charges, without having personal jurisdiction over me, on the basis that I had filed a federal action in the U.S. District Court at Chicago (No. 90-C-2396), reporting a pattern of federal crimes that I had discovered, and for exercising declaratory and injunctive relief remedies to obtain relief from the Judicial persecution inflicted upon me, that initially commenced from the sham law suit filed by the covert Justice Department law firm, Friedman, Sloan and Ross.

Long Beach to Monterey would be in a Learjet, after which a Navy helicopter from the Naval Air Station at Alameda, California would take them to Fort Ord and then on to Santa Cruz, landing at the college. Russbacher's CIA faction occasionally extracted him from prison for short periods of time. But something happened.

Shortly before midnight, my telephone rang. It was Russbacher's wife, Rayelan. She sought my help to determine if her husband was on a helicopter that reportedly crashed several hours earlier at Fort Ord. She had been expecting her husband to arrive at Santa Cruz by Navy helicopter and when she saw on television that a helicopter had crashed at nearby Fort Ord that evening she became worried.

Rayelan had contacted a friend who was CIA Chief of Station at St. Louis, nicknamed "Rabbit," who in turn phoned an FBI contact in California. The CIA station agent then called Rayelan, advising her that a Navy helicopter at Fort Ord had blown apart in the air and that there were no survivors. But he didn't know who had been on board when it crashed. Russbacher's wife asked me to call my FAA contacts to find out if her husband was one of the fatalities.

### "I've been drugged!"

While Russbacher's wife and I were talking, Russbacher came on the line, calling from federal prison at Terminal Island. He exclaimed, "I've been drugged." Russbacher explained that he had coffee at approximately 2:30 with the Admiral whom he had been expecting. Russbacher said that the Admiral advised that he would return in about an hour and a half to take him to Santa Cruz.

After drinking coffee with the Admiral, Russbacher suddenly felt drowsy and went back to his cell and fell sound asleep. Shortly after 10 p.m., Russbacher woke up when a prisoner shouted that he had an emergency phone call from his wife. He called his wife and the call came through as she and I were talking.

Russbacher described what happened, stating that he felt the Navy Admiral deliberately drugged him to prevent him flying back, and may have done so thinking there was a plot to kill Russbacher, and in that way protect him.

# "Your life may depend on you going public!"

I warned Russbacher that the information he possessed put his life in danger, which would continue until he disclosed this information to others, and the information made public. "Your life may depend on you going public," I added. Russbacher's knowledge threatened to expose the people involved in October Surprise and many other criminal activities implicating the CIA, members of Congress, federal judges, and others.

It was now about midnight and Russbacher was still groggy. I sug-

gested that he call me the following morning when his mind was clear and give me a sworn declaration of events surrounding the October Surprise operation. I said that I would record his statements and have the recording transcribed, after which I would send portions of the transcript to members of Congress. (What an optimist!)

# **Revealing Major Crimes**

When Russbacher called the next morning I said, "I need to know the specifics on the flight to Europe, including who was on board the aircraft, who stayed at what hotel; where did the flight start from, and where did it land enroute?" What he stated on that first questioning session was repeated many times during the next few years as other segments of that and other operations were detailed. This was the start of discoveries continuing to this date, of treasonous, subversive, and criminal acts implicating many federal officials. The information and documents I obtained enlarged upon the hard-core criminal misconduct that I had already uncovered.

Russbacher's declaration started with a statement and followed by me asking him questions:

"My name is Gunther Russbacher. I am a captain in the United States Navy; my service number is 440-40-1417. My current location is the Federal Correctional Institution, Terminal Island. I am a federal prisoner, awaiting appeal on a charge of misuse and misappropriation of government properties, misuse of government jets, and misuse of government purchase orders for purchase of fuel. That is my current situation. The date today is May 1, 1991. The time of this interview is 0824. Now that we have the formalities under way, Rodney Stich, we can talk."

"Who were the pilots," I asked.

"On the flight deck were pilots Richard Brenneke, an Air Force pilot, and I was the command pilot."

"Who was in the cabin?"

"In the cabin were George Bush; William Casey (who would be appointed director of the CIA); Robert Gates; Donald Gregg (who at that time was a member of President Carter's National Security Council), and others."

In later sessions, I asked Russbacher to provide a more complete list of the passengers on the BAC 111 flight. He stated that other passengers included several Secret Service agents assigned to vice-presidential candidate George Bush; George Cave (former CIA Iran expert and translator); Richard Allen; Senators John Tower and John Heinz; Congressman Dan Rostenkowski; Jennifer Fitzgerald of the State Department (reportedly a close lady friend of Bush for many years).

"What type of plane were you flying?" I asked.

"The plane was a BAC 111, and we departed from Andrews Air Force Base, to New York, to Gander, and then on to Paris, landing at Le Bourget."

"At what stage of the flight did you see the passengers?"

"I went back into the cabin after taking off from Gander."

"Where did the crew stay while in Paris?"

"We stayed at the Florida Hotel in Paris."

"How long did Bush stay in Paris?"

"Bush only remained a few hours."

"Did you fly the same plane back?" I asked.

"No I didn't. I flew the man [George Bush] back in the SR-71."

"Are you qualified in the 71?"

"Rodney, I flew the 71 for eighteen months."

Recognizing that the SR-71 could not fly from Paris to the United States without refueling, I asked: "Where did the 71 refuel?"

"The refueling occurred approximately, I would have to say, 1800 to 1900 nautical miles into the Atlantic. We were met by a KC 135."

"Where did you land on the return flight?"

"McGuire," Russbacher replied. [McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey]

"How long did the flight take?"

"The flight took one hour and forty four minutes."

"What time did you arrive back at McGuire Air Force Base?"

"We arrived at McGuire Air Force Base approximately 10:50 a.m. the following morning."

"Who were some of the people you saw in Paris?"

"Adnan Khashoggi, Hashemi Rafsanjani. Rafsanjani was the Ayatollah's henchman and the second in command. Please look who is in command now; Rafsanjani."

# **Describing Details on SR-71 Operation**

In response to my questions, he provided additional data, including sophisticated technique for operating the SR-71. He provided detailed information on conversations, airports, and other data that would be hard to fabricate. Russbacher described the route of flight from Washington to New York, to Gander, and then to Paris. He gave specifics that might be meaningless to anyone but a pilot who had been to the airports he described, which provided further confirmation that he was telling me the truth.

After arriving in Paris, Russbacher went to the Hotel Florida and had been asleep only a short time when he received a call from the CIA station chief in Frankfort, advising him that an SR-71 was being flown to Paris for him to fly back to the United States. The SR-71, with vice presidential candidate George Bush as a back-seat passenger and Russbacher at the controls, departed from a military air base near Paris 2:50 p.m. European Time (13:50 GMT, or 8:50 a.m. EST).

The SR-71 was refueled about 1,800 miles from Paris over the North Atlantic by a U.S. Air Force tanker. He landed at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey at 10:50 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (6:50 p.m. GMT). After Bush left the aircraft, Russbacher flew the SR-71 to Andrews Air Force Base.

Going back to the October Surprise operation, I asked Russbacher, "What do you know about the first meeting in Madrid between Casey and the Iranians that reportedly occurred in July of 1980?"

"The Madrid meeting was more of a diversionary tactic. The actual meeting occurred in Barcelona. I was in Barcelona at the time of the meetings. I was there at the PepsiCo International headquarters building. I gave you the guy's name that was our interface there. V-a-n-T-y-n-e. [Peter Van Tyne]"

"That was approximately what month?" I asked, to make sure we were talking about the same meetings.

"That was in late July of 1980."

"This is the meeting or meetings in which William Casey met with some Iranians?"

"That is correct. That was with Hushang Lavi and Rogovin." 17

"Referring to all of the reports of Casey having been in Madrid, I believe you stated that Casey was never in Madrid?"

"I said that the meetings, the top-level high-speed meetings, did not take place in Madrid. The suites and conference rooms and everything were rented and cared for. However, the meetings took place, and the people stayed, at the Hotel Princess Sofia, S-O-F-I-A, in Barcelona."

I responded, "And was this at the same time that he was supposedly in Madrid?"

"Right. It was a little subterfuge upon the part of the government [CIA]. But the actual meetings took place in Barcelona. They took place at the PepsiCo International Headquarters building."

"And you were there in town with Peggy [Gunther's wife at the time]?"

"That's right. I was there at the meetings."

"So you know what was stated at the meetings?"

"This is where the first discussions were coming up as to what type of arms and munitions that the Iranians wanted."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Mitchell Rogovin, lawyer for Lavi.

"And who was there besides William Casey; was that Robert Mc-Farlane?"

"Yes, it was."

"You previously stated that in Barcelona the meetings were held at the hotel, but then you also mentioned in one place about them being held at the PepsiCo plant. Can you explain that?"

"Right. The day's meetings were held over at the PepsiCo International Headquarters buildings."

"That was the main meeting then? Did you have any at the hotel that you mentioned?"

"Yes."

"What part did Van Tyne play in the meetings? Did he more or less coordinate the meetings?"

"Facilitator, Yes."

Realizing that PepsiCo surfaces in numerous CIA activities, including drug processing in the Far East, I asked Russbacher: "Was PepsiCo a CIA proprietary corporation?"

"No, but they have close connections to each other; they work together."

"A few more questions on the Barcelona meeting, 18 just to get clarified in my mind. Why did they have to use Madrid 19 as a diversionary point when they were trying to cover up for the whole operation?"

"There were also high-level meetings going on in the Spanish cabinet at the same time. It would be easier to hide under the cloak of secrecy as to what transpired in Madrid at that time, without going in and having to create a brand new cover for the meeting in Barcelona."

"Can you give me the details on the hour of the day and how long the meetings lasted?"

"I would estimate, according to my recollection, that the meeting began about ten o'clock in the morning, and lasted probably until one o'clock, at which time they broke for lunch, and the meeting reconvened from about three to six p.m."

"Was it a one-day meeting?"

"No, two days. The first day was full of meetings, and the second day was only about three hours long."

"What was your role at that meeting?"

<sup>18</sup> The secret late-July 1980 Barcelona meetings, involving private citizen William Casey, preceded the secret October 19, 1980, weekend meetings held in Paris.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Investigative reporters and writers charge that William Casey met secretly in Madrid with Iranian factions to prevent the release of the 52 American hostages (last week of July 1980). But this is incorrect. The first meeting in Spain was not at Madrid, but at Barcelona.

"The only part that I took part in was to set up a centralized command in Vienna, which would involve being able to draw large containers and to allow freighting weapon containers, and so on."

"From the reforger stores?"<sup>20</sup>

"From the reforger stores, through Austria and down by rail."

"I would presume, referring to some comments you made about Austria being unhappy, were they to be notified when military shipments went through their country?"

"It was a total no-no."<sup>21</sup>

"Even when it is ordered by the United States?"<sup>22</sup>

"The United States cannot order anything. Austria is a sovereign republic. We made weapon shipments from the early contacts with the Iranians through Switzerland. We railed from Zurich to Vienna, and from Vienna on down."

"You said the people at the meeting were Casey and McFarlane; were there any other Americans there?"

"I think Allen was there for a couple of hours."

"And on the other side there was Hushang Lavi, and I think you mentioned Rogovin?"

"Yes."

"Rogovin was the lawyer for Lavi, wasn't he?"

"Yes."

"Was there anyone else there?"

"There were several other people. But the individual I dealt with primarily was Mr. Peter Van Tyne."

"What was his position?"

"Peter Van Tyne was executive vice-president for PepsiCo International. I might add that part of the reason I was there was that I was to set up a large production warehouse and production corporation in Vienna. We are talking about an extremely large warehouse where we could hold container shipments until transshipment took place. We were withdrawing military weapons and munitions from Switzerland, including Swiss military manufacturer Orlikon. We were drawing stores<sup>23</sup> from Germany.

Reforger stores contain American military weapons and were located in various European locations. To fulfill the Barcelona agreement, US weapons and munitions were fraudulently removed from military warehouses in Austria, Germany, and Italy, commencing in September 1980.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Secretly moving the military shipments through Austria violated the laws and sovereignty of Austria.

Actually, the duly elected government of the United States neither ordered the shipments of military arms, nor knew about the shipments. The removal was unlawfully done through a criminal conspiracy by private citizen William Casey and Central Intelligence Agency factions, in a literal coup against the United States.

23 Military equipment and supplies.

We were also drawing stores up from Italy. The shipments from Italy came up through Brenner Pass in overland containers, at which point they ended up in Innsbruck, Austria. In Innsbruck they were replaced by other containers, that were supposedly at that point moving mineral waters from Innsbruck to Third World areas."

"Mineral water?" I asked.

"That was what the code name was. The code name for it was Seltzer Water."

Describing the route of the arms shipments, Russbacher stated he established "transshipment points from Europe, especially Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. In Italy, up through Brenner Pass; from Germany into Austria. We were buying arms from Orlikon, a corporation, a weapons manufacturer in Switzerland. We had a big warehouse, a huge one. Some went through Yugoslavia. It went through Yugoslavia for transshipment through Macedonia, down through Greece, and then to Cyprus, and then across. Hungary was a transshipment point also. At times it went through Hungary. However, most of the times it went throttelle country, we had a choice of transshipment points. Either first from Vienna to Budapest, where they were then transferred onto trains to Yugoslavia, or directly from Austria to Yugoslavia, and Yugoslavia down into Greece, and then to Cyprus. Most of the time it went through Yugoslavia."

This dialogue, and others within these pages, was repeated many times during years of conversations, letters, and affidavits.

In a later written response to interrogatories Russbacher replied in a sworn declaration:

I was in attendance during the meetings held in Geneva, Switzerland; the meetings in Barcelona, Spain; the meetings held in Madrid, Spain, and the meeting held in Karachi, Pakistan. I was there as agency supply and logistics person, as well as facilitator for the governments involved.

The initial meeting was held in Geneva, and was held with Ahmed Heidari and Mohammed Hussein Behishti. Mr. Cyrus Hashemi was the arms specialist present at this meeting. In order to be unknown in this field we used the following DOS personnel as cutouts: Mr. Sam Carlton and Peter Merrell. This meeting took place six days after my return from Buenos Aires, Argentina, where a meeting of low echelon state staffers and I talked to the Mossad contact man, Ari Ben-Menashe.

The meeting with Ari Ben-Menashe was held on or about March fourth to the eighth, 1980. The initial meeting with the DOS persons,

Hashemi, Heidari, Behishti and myself, was held in Geneva, shortly after our return from Buenos Aires. We met in Geneva on or about 14 March 1980. The discussion centered around another version of the swap for the hostages.

Mr. Adnan Khashoggi permitted us the use of his credit cards for the purpose of purchasing fuel for the aircraft. He indicated that he had specific interest in obtaining a deal for the sale or trade of arms to the government of Iran. We contacted Mr. Behishti and Mr. Heidari (who was the person responsible for coordinating the sale of the arms). Because Mr. Behishti spoke very little English, all conversations were held in either French or German. I was able to function as negotiator and interpreter for several such meetings.

### **Looting United States Military Warehouses**

During another probing session, Russbacher revealed when the arms and munitions started to flow. The answer was critical and helped explain how the officially elected government of the United States was rendered helpless by the coup d'etat aspects of the October Surprise conspirators.

"After the [July 1980] Barcelona meeting, how soon did these arms start flowing?"

Russbacher hesitated in answering that question. He replied: "My friend, the arms began flowing, I would say, probably in September."<sup>24</sup>

"Were you over there at that time?"

"Yes, I was."

Since Casey, Ronald Reagan, and George Bush, the principal parties in the October Surprise conspiracy, had not held any government office at that time, and the November 1980 presidential elections had not yet occurred, the question arose as to who authorized the shipment of arms, especially since there were laws preventing the shipments, and since the shipments undermined the negotiations by President Jimmy Carter seeking to obtain the release of the 52 American hostages.

"Where did the authority come from to move that military equipment, since Casey and the gang held no government positions?"

Russbacher again hesitated, and then answered: "We [CIA] were already in there. The Agency [CIA] was already out on the limb.<sup>25</sup> And

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> The gravity of this is that private citizen William Casey (and others) were able to remove military weapons and munitions from United States stockpiles, that were intended for the defense of Europe, and with the obvious cooperation of CIA factions, ship the arms to Iran via Israel, as part of the treasonous and subversive acts to continue the imprisonment of the 52 American hostages. A coup against the United States had occurred.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> The CIA arranged for Bush and others to fly to the Paris meetings on the weekend of October 19, 1980, at which the secret agreement was finalized (Paying \$40 million bribe money and promising billions of dollars in military equipment and munitions, in

bear in mind that Bush was the ex-DCI.<sup>26</sup> Casey had gone back to the days of Wild Bill Donovan. So you are talking about an agency coup that was already in the making at that time."

"What about the military, didn't they have control of those weapons; I mean the US military?"

"Rodney, if I tell you the shenanigans that are pulled, and the shopping that can be done at these reforger stores,<sup>27</sup> you would pull your hair out"

I asked Russbacher who worked with him in procuring the arms and arranging the shipments. "The procurement of them was handled by an associate of mine. The fellow's name was John George Fisher. He is dead."

I asked Russbacher, "What type of paperwork was done to get the U.S. military organizations to release the equipment?"

"It is very simple," Russbacher replied. "All you have to have is a request for transfer; which is commonly referred to as an AF series, duly signed by authorized personnel, or by an authorized officer. And, of course you need a transfer form. And then you need end-user certificates"

When I asked Russbacher how those in control of the weapon depots allowed the arms to be removed, he referred to the CIA practice of placing CIA people in other government departments: "We [CIA] had already put them in position."28

"What about the end-user certificate requirements; you had to show an end-user, and who was that?"

"We [CIA] had end-user certificates available. That's why all shipments went through Cyprus. By the time the weapons came to Cyprus, new end-user certificates, or the real ones, that were going to be used, then showed up. But the end-user certificates that we always provided would have been countries that were friendly to the United States. Some of them were bogus. A lot of them went down to an entity in Spain. We had some sympathetic people."

Continuing, Russbacher stated, "We had embassies in Madrid that provided us end-user certificates. A lot of them were embassies from North African countries, West African countries, including Liberia."

Russbacher referred to the key role played by Israel in the operation,

<sup>26</sup> Director of Central Intelligence.
<sup>27</sup> Term applied to US military warehouses in Europe.

exchange for continuing the imprisonment of the 52 American hostages).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> It is a standard practice of the CIA to install CIA personnel through the federal government, into state governments, and throughout industry, including the media.

stating, "We worked hand in hand with the Mossad."<sup>29</sup>

During the next few years, I repeatedly questioned Russbacher concerning operations in which he had been directly involved, or of which he had specific details due to the nature of his work. Russbacher repeated details of the various CIA operations that we had previously discussed; oftentimes expanding on the information he had given me earlier.

### Israeli Participation

"Were there any Israel people at the Barcelona meeting?"

"I knew there was a discussion that there were some present."

"Was Karrubi there?" [Mehdi Karrubi, presently Iranian Parliamentary Speaker.]" Russbacher replied, "Yes."

In Ari Ben-Menashe's book *Profits of War* and in conversations with Ben-Menashe, he stated that he was present at the Barcelona meeting.

Referring to the \$40 million bribe money that was reportedly given to the Iranian factions at the subsequent Paris meetings on the October 19, 1980, weekend, I asked: "Do you know anything about the routing of the reported forty-million-dollar bank draft that was given to the Iranians during the Paris meetings?"

"Michael Riconosciuto would be the best one to answer that."

### **The Helicopter Crash**

I needed details surrounding the helicopter crash that had occurred the night before. "Were the Naval officers that you had coffee with [at Terminal Island Federal Prison], on the helicopter?" I asked.

"Yes," he replied, "I had coffee with one of them."

"What was his name?"

"The first guy's name was Samuel Walters."

"And he was Navy?"

"And that's his true name too." [referring to the alias frequently used; Gunther used the alias of Robert A. Walker.]

"What was his rank?"

"He was a captain."

"Did you meet the other two guys that were on it?"

"Yes, one of them was a Rear Admiral. John D. Burkhardt. He was in defense logistics."

"Office of Naval Intelligence?"

"Yes. And his present job was that he was very strongly implicated in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Israel played a key role in carrying out the secret activities, including participation/attendance at the Barcelona and Paris meetings, the stealing of the arms from US warehouses, and the secret shipment of arms to Iran. Israel obviously knew that the scheme and activities were treasonous, subversive, and harmful to the United States; and also recognized that they could thereafter blackmail the United States while Reagan and Bush were in the White House.

NASA and the SDI initiative." Russbacher continued, "Raye called the Chief of Stations at St. Louis, who is a friend of ours. He made some checks and found out who was on board."

"Were they the ones who were to have gone back with you?"

"Yes. Tricky business, Rodney, I don't know if you want to get into this. If I had been on that helicopter, I would be dead."

Relating what his CIA handlers told him, Russbacher said:

The helicopter took off yesterday carrying a rear admiral, two Navy captains, and it should also have carried myself. Everybody here, including the D of J [Department of Justice], was under the impression that I was going to be on that airplane. The aircraft took off from Fort Ord with a flight to Monterey, and from Monterey they were going to discharge one of the crew who was going to stay at the FBO at Monterey. And then the aircraft was going on to Santa Cruz and land back behind the university grounds.

The incident occurred about 6:18 p.m. The original incident, as it was described by the radio at Santa Cruz, was that a helicopter exploded about 200 feet above the ground. No pieces. Just general wreckage. What came out about an hour later was that a helicopter went down with two FBI agents on board. There were two FBI agents on board; although they suffered serious injuries, they were O.K. One of them suffered very serious head injuries. Somehow or other they were able to cover up for the initial flight. Rodney, they are after every one that has anything to do with these activities.

Russbacher continued, "Someone saved my butt last night. I don't know how many more times in the future they are going to be able to do it."

"You felt that something was put in the coffee. Did it just make you groggy?"

"I went right to sleep and slept until twenty minutes of ten."

"So after you drank the coffee you were supposed to leave right then and there?"

"Within an hour and a half."

"Then you went back to your cell and went to sleep, expecting them to call you?"

"They never called."

"They never tried to wake you up?"

"As far as I know, no one tried to wake me up. The first inclination I had that it was time to wake up was at twenty minutes of ten; people were screaming at me that I had an emergency call from the [prison] Control Center and that I needed to call home immediately."

"I'm surprised the prison officials gave you that personal service."

"Well, you have to also bear in mind that [my status is] a little differ-

ent.

"Well, the fact that you can get to a phone that is not monitored indicates that you are in a different category than most prisoners."

"Within four minutes of being awakened, I was on the phone talking to Rayelan and hearing your voice in the background."

I asked Russbacher how he ended up in prison. He replied, "That could be a book by itself. It dealt with repatriating some of the arms from Central America back to the United States."

Referring to what was done to silence me, Russbacher stated: "Your case is different. It does not address a single issue. Your case addresses multi-issues. If you create sufficient fires, it is extremely difficult to determine where the fires are and how best to put them out. You pose a significant threat. You pose as much of a threat to their little game as I do to the total administration. You pose a significant embarrassment to the federal government. It isn't quite so easy to shut these people down."

# Confirming the Helicopter Crash and Death of a Navy Admiral

The existence of the Navy helicopter crash was kept secret by the government, as though it never happened. The absence of any report caused me to withhold further mention of it, fearing that reference to a non-reported helicopter crash would discredit the other information Russbacher supplied me. However, during a conversation with *St. Louis Post Dispatch* reporter Phil Linsalata, I described the helicopter crash and qualified the information with the statement that I had no evidence to support its occurrence; that I hadn't told anyone else about it because of lack of evidence. Linsalata said that the *Post Dispatch* had a reliable CIA source and that they would contact him for possibly confirming the crash.

Linsalata contacted me several days later, on May 4, 1991, advising that the CIA contact confirmed the helicopter crash and that a Navy admiral was killed. Linsalata stated that the CIA contact expressed surprise that the *Post Dispatch* knew of the crash and the death of the Navy admiral. During another conversation on May 20, 1991, Linsalata again made reference to the statements made by the CIA source concerning the death of the Navy admiral in the helicopter crash. In response to my questions, Linsalata stated:

The guy (CIA source) seemed shocked that I had access to this information. His shock seemed sincere. You judge the truth of what a person is saying, such as by the tone of voice. He seemed quite shocked that I had access to this information. He also made a comment that he personally knew who the ranking officer was, the brass, the admiral, and that he knew the guy.

He was personally shocked that he [the Admiral] had been

killed, and that he was a nice guy. He said the Admiral didn't deserve what happened. The things that he said to me made it impossible to rule out that he was simply offering the information that I gave him. The new information was given to me on his own. I didn't flush it out of him in any way. He just made comments reflecting that he knew what he was talking about. He seemed to be sincere.

# Cover-Up by St. Louis Post Dispatch

Harry Martin,<sup>30</sup> publisher of the *Napa Sentinel*,<sup>31</sup> called me (July 8, 1991), stating that he had just received a call from Phil Linsalata of the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* denying that he had ever talked to any CIA contact about any helicopter crash at Fort Ord. Martin said that Linsalata sounded very nervous, as if he was under pressure to make that call. It appeared that the intent of the call was to dissuade Martin from making any reference to the statements Linsalata made to me confirming the existence of the crash and the death of the Admiral.

Martin had been one of the first media sources to respond (May 1, 1991) to the notices that I had a tape and transcript of a CIA operative who had been part of the October Surprise scandal. His subsequent articles were copied by numerous other papers, and members of Congress requested copies of Martin's articles. There was danger of exposing the October Surprise scandal if Martin printed the statements made to me by the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* reporter. Possibly to prevent this from happening, Linsalata's publisher ordered Linsalata to call Martin and deny that he had ever talked to me or to anyone else about the helicopter crash. Martin asked if I had a tape of the conversation and I replied that I did, of both the May 4 and May 20, 1991, telephone conversations. During these telephone conversations, Linsalata went into great detail concerning the information given by his CIA sources.

# Warnings to Forget the Helicopter Crash

Several days after the helicopter crash, Gunther and his wife warned me to totally forget about it, warning me that my life would be in danger if I made any reference to it or even made any inquiries. As I started to make reference to the crash during a subsequent conversation Russbacher stopped me: "No Rodney, don't bring that up. Don't touch that with a ten-foot pole."

# "Because there is so much cover-up in that crash!"

Russbacher said:

Rodney, don't even talk about it. I'm telling you. Because there is so much cover-up in that crash. Listen to me. Listen closely. And be very

<sup>31</sup> The *Napa Sentinel* had been at the forefront in exposing government scandals, including Inslaw, October Surprise, and other stories.

<sup>30</sup> Napa Sentinel, Napa, California.

guarded. When Raye got a call, she called St. Louis. St. Louis in turn made a phone call and then called her back. There were three people on board and they are all dead. You got that? Stay away from that as far as you can.

I replied, "It would be important to know the details." Russbacher answered, "This is not the time to know. For your own life. I'm talking about personal safety." At a later date, I discovered additional evidence supporting the existence of that crash and that assassinations were an all-too-common CIA tactic.

#### **Notifying the Media**

After I notified various media contacts that I had declarations of a CIA operative concerning the October Surprise operation, journalists from all parts of the United States were calling me for further information. When these journalists contacted Justice Department and White House officials, they were told that Russbacher was a con artist, that he had a long rap sheet and was not believable. This followed the standard line when CIA whistleblowers go public.

Shortly after Russbacher supplied me with his first declaration on May 1, 1991, I mailed partial transcripts to members of Congress, <sup>32</sup> along with a petition demanding that our testimony and evidence be received. I reminded them I was exercising rights <sup>33</sup> and responsibilities <sup>34</sup> under federal law and that they had a responsibility under these same laws and under federal criminal statutes to receive our testimony and evidence. I explained that I was a former federal investigator who held federal authority to make these determinations and that I hadn't lost any of my abilities to do that since leaving government.

I mailed certified letters and transcripts to Independent Prosecutor Lawrence Walsh, who had the duty to investigate all aspects of the Iran-Contra affair, which started with the October Surprise scheme. I reminded Walsh of his responsibilities under federal criminal statutes to receive my testimony and evidence and that of the CIA whistleblowers.

Despite hundreds of certified mailings, each containing over fifty pages of data, no one responded. The non-response was one of the most amazing examples of mass cover-up that I had ever witnessed. But it happened time and again. My letters raised very serious charges that, if only a small fraction of them were true, would inflict enormous harm upon the United States. This refusal to perform a duty made possible the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Every Senator in the United States Senate and to about 250 Representatives.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Right to petition government relating to criminal acts by federal officials, including the First Amendment right to petition government and Title 28 U.S.C. § 1361, the right to judicial halting of corrupt acts by federal officials.

<sup>34</sup> Federal crime reporting statutes, including Title 18 U.S.C. § 4.

continuation of the government corruption that continues to inflict great harm upon America.

As Russbacher provided me with further information and other CIA sources gave me supporting data, I sent additional petitions to members of Congress, demanding that they receive the testimony and evidence from a *group* of concerned CIA whistleblowers on criminal activities against the United States. I described specific facts that would be revealed. Every senator received at least three certified mailings from me between May 1991 and December 1992, as did the members of the House Judiciary Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee, Oversight and Investigations, government Operations, and Aviation. Not a single reply was received.

As a result of publicity generated by my transcripts and references to Russbacher on my talk show appearances, Russbacher was asked to appear on numerous radio and television talk shows, which he did from prison. Despite all this, the public remained passive, and none of those in government wanted to disturb the status quo.

### **Escalating Media and Congressional Disinformation**

Shortly after I had first publicized Russbacher's sworn statements, the disinformation to discredit him commenced. Even author Barbara Honegger, who authored the first *October Surprise* book, tried to discredit Russbacher, fabricating facts that I had to address by sending out information identifying the apparent deliberate misstatements. Her tactics tended to discredit the existence of the very scandal that her earlier book sought to expose. It was as if she was being rewarded in some way to discredit the smoking gun in the October Surprise conspiracy.

The charges by Justice Department officials, commencing in 1986, were to discredit Russbacher and minimize the danger to White House and other officials. Russbacher had earlier described the three factions in the CIA as often fighting each other. Faction-One was controlled by the Justice Department and the White House under George Bush. Faction-Two was controlled by the Office of Naval Intelligence, often at odds with Faction-One. And Faction-Three was a small number of former Office of Strategic Services (OSS) personnel.

# "They are deporting Russ!"

Russbacher's appearances on radio and television from his prison environment threatened many people. Justice Department officials addressed this threat by seeking to deport him. Once, upon answering the phone, <sup>35</sup> Russbacher's wife exclaimed, "Gunther isn't in Terminal Island. He is on a flight to Oakdale, Louisiana, a federal prison where prisoners

<sup>35</sup> October 13, 1991.

to be deported are sent."

In an attempt to prevent the deportation, I phoned talk-show host Tom Valentine with Radio Free America; senior White House reporter Sarah McClendon; Independent Prosecutor Lawrence Walsh, and appeared on numerous talk shows describing the efforts to sequester evidence relating to October Surprise.

#### "I need more information!"

Despite the gravity of criminal activities I listed in the petitions that I sent to Congress, the recipients did nothing. I felt that I needed more information about additional CIA crimes that would force members of Congress to respond. I told Russbacher, "I need more information!" Russbacher went into great detail about other areas of corrupt CIA activities.

Russbacher detailed the involvement by CIA factions in the looting of savings and loan institutions and insurance companies; the CIA's role in drug trafficking throughout the United States, and much more. He furnished me with blank checks, letterheads, and incorporation papers of some of the covert CIA proprietaries he operated for the CIA, which dealt in unlawful activities.

The information Russbacher gave me in hundreds of conversations was detailed and was presented in a way that I had no reason to question its accuracy. The answers to very specific questions, requiring a very detailed answer, came without hesitation. In those cases when he didn't know, he didn't hesitate to say so, even though he could have fabricated an answer. There were some areas of CIA activity he would not discuss, and information on these areas would often come to me from other sources. Russbacher did back down after refusing to answer questions concerning a certain area when another source described it to me. Then Russbacher would enlarge upon the information in a manner indicating he was well familiar with the operation.

To confirm his answers, I approached the subject from a different angle many months later, and the precise detailed facts would rarely waver. His precise knowledge of people and events in many areas of intrigue was unprecedented and checked out with facts that I obtained from other sources. I was convinced that he was not a con man. He simply could not make up the vast amount of data he gave me in response to questions that covered a broad spectrum. As other CIA whistleblowers came to me I was able to obtain further confirmation of Russbacher's CIA status and of many of the events that he described to me.

Even when I told him information given to me by others, such as former Mossad agent Ari Ben-Menashe, Russbacher often responded with additional information on the person that had never appeared in print. It wasn't Russbacher who sought attention. I was the one that repeatedly told Russbacher to give me information of CIA corruption so that I could force Congress and the media to meet their responsibilities.

Russbacher detailed how the CIA was part of the looting of Chapter 11 assets, and how the CIA used crooked federal judges, trustees, and law firms to accomplish this. He described how the CIA covered up for some of its looted proprietaries by placing the companies into Chapter 7 or 11 where the CIA had control of the judges. He named judges, trustees, law firms and their lawyers, who were present at CIA drug and arms transshipment points in Central and South America, and especially trustee Charles Duck, who looted much of my multi-million in assets. At a later date, Russbacher gave me the name of the overseas corporation that paid the bribe money to the judges, trustees and law firms beholden to the CIA and Justice Department gang.

Russbacher described the interrelationships between the CIA and people looting the savings and loans. He described how Keating-controlled corporations hid over \$300 million of depositors' money in Colorado through secret trusts and other financial mechanisms. When I quizzed Russbacher about the CIA's role with Charles Keating, he responded: "It wasn't just Keating. Bear in mind that we are not talking about strictly Keating-controlled corporations. We are talking about a multitude of corporations that were controlled by outside forces. Keating just happened to be one of them."

### **Removal of Money From the United States**

Elaborating upon the huge outflow of funds generated by CIA proprietaries through various financial scams and drug money laundering, Russbacher stated: "It is a systematic removal of funds from U.S. bank accounts. And these accounts that held large amounts of funds were then channeled to off-shore bank accounts and off-shore investment companies."

I asked, "How are these funds identified; I'm talking about who would be identified as the owner of these funds? Would it be numbered accounts?" Russbacher replied, "It would be numbered or designated accounts, where you have a primary person that is allowed to make transactions. That doesn't necessarily mean that person is the only one."

"I presume that the CIA has numerous operatives who are authorized to place or remove funds from these accounts?"

"There are only ten or twelve people in the whole agency that are permitted to do that. Let's say, no more than two dozen people."

"Are you one of those?"

"Yes, I am. Or I was."

Russbacher's statements as shown in these pages are but a minute

fraction of the in-depth discussions between him and myself. These statements were made during late 1990 and up to the date of this book's publication. Much of the details were unknown to the general public and had not been in print. Many people confirmed to me Russbacher's CIA position, and statements made to me by Russbacher were often confirmed by statements made by others, including Ari Ben-Menashe, Michael Riconosciuto, Ronald Rewald, and other CIA related people.

Many hours were spent on what he saw firsthand as a CIA operative in Chapter 11 courts. Russbacher told of the CIA practice of using Chapter 11 courts for two primary purposes. One was to cover up for its looting of CIA proprietaries. The other was to loot the assets of small to medium size companies and individuals who filed Chapter 11 seeking time to pay their debts, and who had large equities.

### Pattern of Judicial Corruption in Chapter 11

Many of the victims didn't understand the blatant illegality of how the racketeering enterprise stripped them of their life's assets. The scheme follows a standard pattern, violating federal statutes and constitutional protections. The Chapter 11 judge, who almost always is a direct participant in the corrupt enterprise, orders the assets seized, usually in clear violation of law, and then appoints a trustee who promptly loots the assets, forcing the Chapter 11 case into a Chapter 7 liquidation.

During liquidation, the trustee, his law firm and lawyers, and others who work together, sell the properties at a fraction of their market value. The person who sought relief in Chapter 11 then becomes the victim of one of the most outrageous racketeering enterprises in the United States. Russbacher gave me details of this racket as seen from his CIA perspective, dovetailing what I had earlier discovered as a victim and an investigator.

I asked Russbacher if, during his CIA activities, he encountered the people who played a major role in seizing and looting my assets. His reply was startling. The federal judge who corruptly seized my assets was Las Vegas Chapter 11 Judge Robert Jones. Russbacher described how the CIA arranged transportation to Atlantic City for this federal judge, where letters of credit would be waiting at different casinos for him to obtain tens of thousands of dollars in gambling chips. Russbacher named other federal judges that he knew who were present at CIA arms and drug or other operations, including Judge Alan Jaroslovsky, a key judge in the Northern District of California, who had repeatedly protected trustee Charles Duck from his accusers. Russbacher later mentioned that he was a CIA-asset and was on a secret financial arrangement.

I asked Russbacher if there could be any legitimate basis for the appearances of federal judges, trustees and law firms at the secret CIA arms

and drug trafficking locations in Central America. He confirmed that there was no lawful reason for their appearances at these locations.

Russbacher had flown to Central America CIA sites in CIA aircraft. accompanied by people such as trustee Charles Duck; lawyer members of the law firms of Friedman, Sloan and Ross (who filed the sham divorce action against me); Goldberg, Stinnett and McDonald<sup>36</sup> (who seized and looted my assets in conjunction with Duck and Judge Robert Jones); and Murray and Murray (who took over after Duck was sent to prison).

Russbacher had been at CIA meetings in Central America with Duck at John Hull's ranch and at Tegucigalpa, 37 as well as other locations. Referring to Duck, Russbacher described his presence in 1987: "The last time that I had dealings with him, or came close to having dealings with him, he was there in the hotel room with me."

### Funding CIA Through Seizure of Chapter 11 Assets

Russbacher said that Charles Duck bragged about how he looted the assets of Chapter 11 parties. Referring to Duck and the CIA looting of Chapter 11 assets, Russbacher stated: "Duck has basically siphoned off large sums of money from his assigned cases. He appeared in different areas where we [CIA] were involved. This is the nexus I have been getting across to you, between the bankruptcy issues, and Agency [CIA] operations. It is one of the funding vehicles for the Company [CIA]."

Russbacher stated that the worst Chapter 11 corruption was in federal courts located in the San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, and St. Louis areas. He added, "Let me tell you like this. St. Louis is notorious on Chapter 11. What it amounts to is: one of the bankruptcy judges in each one of the districts gets definite remuneration from the CIA."

### Typical Start-Up of Secret CIA Proprietary

Describing one of the ways in which the CIA proprietaries generate money, Russbacher stated:

Most of them were limited partnerships. The funds would have been from the CIA to start with. 38 What they did, they allegedly put a private offering together, and the subscribers for the private offerings were already in place before the offering was even written up. Each one of these people who subscribed to the offering brought in Agency funds.

Capital of Honduras.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Name was changed in 1993 to Goldberg, Stinnett, Meyers & Davis, located at 44 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California

To establish a net worth from which to seek large loans that were never repaid and never intended to be repaid. The funds were diverted to covert CIA domestic and international uses.

#### Russbacher stated:

The corporation or limited partnership would issue corporate paper or whatever, and that's how more funds were created. They used the initial funds for the funding of the LTD partnership strictly as a collateral vehicle for large-scale loans.

#### He continued:

If we go in, for instance, with a million or half a million dollars each on a limited partnership, and there are ten of us, let's say we have anywhere from five to ten million dollars in capital assets in the limited partnership, that, along with a good financial statement, and what we planned to do with the limited partnership, can earn us the right to a thirty, forty, fifty million dollar loan. Do you see what I am saying?

Russbacher described what usually happened after obtaining multimillion-dollar loans. The people default on the non-recourse loans after the money is pulled out, stating, "Generally it was strictly default. We pulled money back out and we would end up with thirty, forty million." Russbacher added, "That particular company would file Chapter 11 in courts where we had control of the judges."

#### **Other CIA Sources**

Initially, Russbacher was my best source of information. As I became known in the relatively small intelligence community, other concerned intelligence agency operatives came to me, describing the corrupt activities they had observed or been ordered to participate in.

#### **Mossad-CIA Cross-Check**

Adding to the large amount of information supporting Russbacher's statements was an interesting dialogue between a former Mossad agent, Ari Ben-Menashe, and Russbacher. I arranged for several conference calls between these two former intelligence officers and encouraged them to exchange experiences. In one instance, Russbacher told Ben-Menashe of his friendship with the Mossad's station chief in Vienna, Heinz Toch, a name that would be known to very few people, and then primarily the Mossad. This was one example of Russbacher's intimate knowledge of covert activities. He would not have known this unless he actually was a high-level operative in the CIA.

I talked for many hours to the wives of several operatives who related facts to me as seen from their perspective, corroborating what their husbands told me. I had frequent conversations and written communications with many other former CIA and DEA operatives, including Michael Riconosciuto;<sup>39</sup> Russell Bowen;<sup>40</sup> Trenton Parker;<sup>41</sup> Ronald Re-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Riconosciuto was a CIA contract agent for many years who was involved in the

wald; <sup>42</sup> Basil Abbott; <sup>43</sup> Charles Hayes; Edwin Wilson; <sup>44</sup> Michael Maholy; Bill Tyree, and others. I was in direct contact with law enforcement people whose investigative functions brought them in contact with CIA activities, especially CIA drug trafficking. These included Jim Rothstein; 45 Ted Gunderson; 46 and others. This vast amount of data, plus what I discovered, developed into a mosaic-like depiction of sordid intrigue, deception, and murder, portraying the worst pattern of criminal activities ever reported against the American people.

My phone was used for hundreds of hours of three-way conference calls between CIA and DEA personnel, their wives, a Mossad agent, and even Ross Perot. Often the conversations were of the nature of one pilot describing to another events that they experienced, each one knowing that any fabrication would be recognized by the other. My position was like a secret mole inside covert CIA activities, adding to the discoveries I made while a federal investigator and while being victimized in one of the many criminal enterprises.

As a former federal investigator holding federal authority to reach conclusions based upon the facts uncovered, based upon the fifteen years of book publishing, and based upon what I had personally observed, the evidence was overwhelming. The American people are being systematically defrauded by a well-entrenched group in the federal government.

### **Continuing Justice Department Attempts to Silence Russbacher**

Russbacher was scheduled to be released December 23, 1991. At that time he would pose a greater threat of exposing October Surprise, Inslaw, and numerous other major criminal enterprises implicating White House and federal officials and ongoing criminal operations.

Justice Department prosecutors used another tactic to keep Russ-

October Surprise operation, Inslaw, and other activities.

<sup>42</sup> Rewald was placed by the CIA head of the Agency proprietary, Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham and Wong (BBRDW).

<sup>43</sup> DEA pilot who flew drugs from Central and South America to the United States.

44 Heavily involved in CIA activities in Southeast Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, who worked with key figures in the Iran-Contra affair, and who was made the fall guy and was sent to prison.

Rothstein was on the New York City vice-squad for many years. He arrested Frank Sturgis when Sturgis arrived in New York to kill a former girl-friend of Fidel Castro. Rothstein had considerable street knowledge of CIA drug trafficking commencing in

<sup>46</sup> Former FBI agent heavily involved in exposing pedophilia.

Bowen was a member of the OSS during World War II and then continued with a small group of OSS people as moles inside the CIA after OSS was disbanded. He was heavily involved in CIA and Mossad drug trafficking and other intelligence agency operations in Europe, the Middle East, and Central and South America.

41 Long-time deep-cover CIA operative.

bacher in prison. Shortly before Russbacher was scheduled for release, Justice Department lawyers notified Missouri authorities that he had been charged with impersonating a Naval officer at Castle Air Force Base. The lawyers induced them to revoke Russbacher's parole arising from the sham charges for which Russbacher had never had a trial and for which he was induced to enter an Alford plea. (U.S. Attorney David Levi in Sacramento had dropped the impersonating-a-Navy-officer charge shortly after it was made in 1990.)

Russbacher was transported to St. Charles, Missouri for a February 7, 1992, hearing on revocation of his parole on the charge of impersonating a Navy officer. Missouri Judge Donald E. Dalton refused to allow him to call CIA personnel who could attest to his being a covert CIA operative on assignment from the Office of Naval Intelligence. However, he did allow Russbacher to call witnesses from Offutt and Castle Air Force Base, who testified that Russbacher and his wife were billeted there and that the authorization came from Navy CincPac (Commander in Chief, Pacific). The witnesses provided the authorization numbers. This testimony and the Air Force records were strong evidence that Russbacher was on official duty with the United States Navy.

Dalton disregarded the evidence that Russbacher was a covert intelligence officer. He ignored the fact that there had never been a trial on the underlying money offense charge; that there was no evidence presented to show that Russbacher had committed any of the acts charged, or that anyone suffered any financial loss. (Several of the charges arose from Russbacher's transfer of stock from one CIA proprietary to another, without registering with the State of Missouri. Several charges arose from Russbacher writing checks on a CIA proprietary that he owned, to one of his aliases.)

The judge revoked Russbacher's probation and ordered him to start serving the 21-year sentence that had been rendered in 1990 when Russbacher was encouraged to enter an Alford plea (not admitting any guilt but settling for probation).

Russbacher and I continued our almost daily telephone conversations discussing the specifics of CIA operations in which he was involved. As he became more discouraged, he loosened up and gave me more information about CIA/ONI covert (and subversive) activities, most of which were continuing.

Russbacher's health was failing due to an urgent need for coronary bypass surgery. Rayelan, his wife, and I, and other people, worked for his release. I rushed to get the first printing of *Defrauding America* published, with the intent of using the book as the basis for appearing on radio and television shows. In this way publicity would be focused on

Russbacher and other CIA scapegoats. The primary intent was to make the American people aware of the well-orchestrated criminality involving government personnel, and to motivate them to take action. That was naive.

The statements made to me by Russbacher that are quoted here are only a small fraction of what he disclosed. Over 200 audiotapes are filled with his answers to my questions given over a four-year period. His precise and sophisticated knowledge of names, dates, and places exceeded anything that I had experienced before or after this time period. In subsequent books, other areas of CIA activities will be described, which Russbacher and other deep-cover operatives described to me.

Russbacher's lawyer, Robert Fleming, had filed an appeal of the charges against Russbacher, and in 1994 the appellate court overturned the conviction that had kept Russbacher in prison, causing his release. The prosecutor refiled charges against Russbacher and served Russbacher before he was released from prison, requiring Russbacher to appear for a hearing. Instead of appearing, Russbacher went back to his native Austria. Missouri then filed a warrant for Russbacher's arrest, insuring that Russbacher would be arrested if he returned to the United States.

For reasons not clear to me, Russbacher returned to the United States in 1997 and was promptly arrested. After a few months in county jail in Missouri, a closed-door hearing was held, followed by Russbacher being deported to Austria, accompanied by two INS agents, apparently to be sure he did in fact arrive in Austria.

### **CIA Disinformation Expert**

In 1994, I made contact with Oswald LeWinter, a former deep-cover CIA operative who spent 30 years with the agency and primarily as a disinformation expert. He played a cover-up role in the October Surprise operation. He and several associates were responsible for removal of incriminating records from such locations as hotels, cab and limousine companies, and at the airport. LeWinter was with the CIA from 1974 to 1984, assigned to the CIA's achieves at Langley, in Europe, and Israel. He was part of Operation Gladios involving the CIA destabilization of the Italian government.

In 1979, LeWinter was assigned to ITAC, and in 1980 he was asked to get involved in the Reagan-Bush campaign, which led to his involvement in the October Surprise scheme. He said that one of the government officials secretly involved in the October Surprise operation was Donald Gregg, who at that time was head of the National Security Council under President Jimmy Carter. While holding this position, Gregg sabotaged the government of the United States in the operation that helped get Reagan and Bush into office in 1981.

#### On the Clean-Up Crew

LeWinter stated that he started doing advance work for logistics for the October Surprise meetings held in Europe, including Madrid, Barcelona and Paris. When I asked him if he was at the Barcelona meeting at the PepsiCo plant he said: "I was there, I made sure that the guys I interfaced with in Spain picked up all the papers. I made sure that the landing and takeoff records from the airport were collected, so there was no evidence that the meeting occurred."

When I asked about the Paris meeting, LeWinter said:

LeWinter: "At Paris I coordinated with French intelligence, a man by the

name of Picard."

Stich: "At the Paris meeting, did you get to see any of the people,

such as Gregg, Bush, or any of the others?"

LeWinter: "Yes, Bush, Gregg, Casey." Stich: "Where did you see them?"

LeWinter: "I saw Casey at the Hilton where he was staying; I got

instructions from Casey. I saw Bush in a black Embassy

Chevy near the [Hotel] Crillon."

Stich: "Did you get involved in any of the arms shipments?"

LeWinter: "No, I knew that they were taken from the reforger stores

without telling the European governments, our NATO allies, and shipping them to Iran. They later used me to do some

misinformation about that."

### **Among the Tactics to Silence Russbacher**

Many tactics were used to silence or discredit Russbacher. One scheme involved charges made against Russbacher by Missouri officials. The fraudulent nature of these charges was suggested by a document I received in August 1993. The document consisted of a May 14, 1989, letter written by former Missouri Secretary of State, Roy Blunt on stationery of the Missouri Secretary of State, to a Missouri prosecutor, Scott Sifferman, prosecuting lawyer in Lawrence County.

The letter exposed the scheme by state officials, working with a faction of the CIA, to press charges against Southwest Latex Supply and its head, who was Gunther Russbacher, operating the company as a CIA proprietary. The charges were based upon Russbacher's alleged attempt to sell unregistered securities of Southwest Latex Supply Company.<sup>47</sup>

Southwest Latex Supply was one of the CIA proprietaries Russ-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Southwest Latex Supply was a spin-off from National Financial Services Corporation. National Financial was to buy the stock from Southwest Latex. Because they were not registered, the trade was not outside of Southwest Latex and considered a violation of the "blue-sky" law. National Financial Services provided the money to start up Southwest Latex Supply and it was considered a daughter corporation from NSF.

bacher operated while a deep-cover CIA operative.<sup>48</sup> The reference in the document to Christian was to a CIA Deputy Director of Covert Operations (DDCO). Russbacher referred to him as part of the CIA's Faction-One, reportedly under the control of George Bush during Bush's stay in the White House.

Russbacher described how the interests of Faction-One often clashed with the Office of Naval Intelligence Faction, known as Faction-Two. Russbacher felt that Christian was attempting to silence and discredit him through the sham charges and subsequent imprisonment, and discredit any disclosures of October Surprise and related operations that threatened George Bush and the many people who were part of the operations.

Gunther said, "You have to understand, we always had to use Roy Blunt; he was our intermediary. Without Roy we couldn't have chartered half of the CIA proprietaries that we did." Russbacher added:

And then he [Blunt] was going to use me [through the sham charges] after I had been sanctioned by the Agency. He was going to use me to put a cap in his head and become the new governor of the State of Missouri. But it didn't work.

I asked, "When you had to pay him off, what was he doing, looking the other way as it related to the CIA proprietaries?" Russbacher responded, "Sure. Absolutely."

Russbacher said to me that Missouri Secretary of State Blunt worked with the CIA in the past in covert activities, and that he and other CIA personnel paid Blunt bribe money to carry out CIA proprietary activities.

One of the significant aspects of the letter was how state prosecutors and officials criminally misused government offices against private citizens and brazenly put into writing details of the scheme, confident that no State or federal officials would prosecute. That is what always astounded me through the thirty years of discovering major corruption implicating federal officials: none ever feared prosecution for their crimes. The letter revealed that the sham charges were return of a favor to a Mr. Christian; and that the prosecuting lawyer carrying out his part of the conspiracy would be rewarded with a judgeship.<sup>49</sup>

State of Missouri Office of Secretary of State Jefferson City, 65102

<sup>49</sup> Because of poorer quality of the FAX copy in the author's possession, the exact wording of the letter is duplicated here.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Russbacher stated that Southwest Latex Supply manufactured the five-gallon buckets used to package the C-4 explosives sold by CIA agent to Libya.

Roy D. Blunt Secretary of State May 14, 1989

To: Scott S. Sifferman Prosecuting Lawyer Lawrence County Courthouse Mount Vernon, Missouri 65712

Re: Southwest Latex Supply

Dear Mr. Sifferman:

I have tentatively set my schedule to be in Mount Vernon on June 14, 1989. We will need you, to do the following:

- 1. Have the charges ready to be filed for selling unregistered securities, fraud, and commingling of funds. Please forward for my review.
  - 2. Schedule Press and Miller People.
  - 3. Itinerary.

As you have seen, we have no grounds for these charges but, I owe one to Christian and, with full press coverage I should pick up some strong support in Webster's stronghold for 1992. I have spoken to the Lawrence County Republican Committee [and] they have assured me you will be recommended for the judgeship after the charges are filed. I will personally make the statements to the press and, they will not have any credibility after that.

Pursuant to our conversation we should set the bond high and you can advise Mr. Tatum. He can then present our scenario. You and John can handle it from there.

Sincerely,

Roy Blunt Secretary of State

#### The Rewards

The prosecutor who assisted in carrying out the scheme, Scott Sifferman, was later appointed a judge in the State of Missouri, as promised. Russbacher said that other State officials who participated in this scheme that eventually resulted in his state imprisonment included State Prosecutor Scott Zimmerman, who prosecuted Russbacher knowing the charges to be false; William Webster, a nephew to former FBI and CIA Director William Webster (who was Missouri Attorney General); former Missouri Governor John Ashcroft (who became U.S. Attorney General); former Lt. Governor Mel Carnahan (who became Missouri Governor in 1993).

On August 15, 1993, I sent a copy of the Blunt letter to Missouri's Secretary of State, Judith Moriarty, requesting a clean copy of the letter I

sent and which should be in their files. She never responded, and I sent another request on September 3, 1993. Obviously, a letter by a prior Secretary of State outlining a plan to charge a person with a crime, for which that person is currently in prison and which admits in its contents that the charges are false, isn't the type of letter that a State official wants exposed. No response to either letter.

I sent a letter to Missouri's Governor Mel Carnahan on October 1, 1993, requesting his assistance in obtaining a copy of the Blunt letter. Carnahan was Lt. Governor of Missouri during the 1989 scheme to incarcerate Russbacher, and was a close friend to the writer of the letter, Roy Blunt. The Governor had a vested interest in preventing exposure of the Blunt letter. The Missouri Governor had the power to pardon Russbacher, and I demanded that he do so. (Carnahan died in a November 2000 plane crash.)



**Gunther Russbacher** 

# **Cover Up: Standard Washington Reaction**

he mainstream media in the United States kept the lid on the October Surprise operation and the other corrupt activities associated with it through a pattern of disinformation and the withholding of evidence. The mainstream media sought to discredit the CIA whistle-blowers that could prove the existence of the October Surprise operation. They fabricated reasons to discredit a group of former CIA and Mossad intelligence agency personnel who were personally involved in the operation, and who had nothing to gain by giving testimony, and had much to lose, including criminal prosecution. These sources were willing to risk their safety and freedom to expose the corruption against the American people.

The "investigating" committees and the establishment media gave absolute credibility to the statements of those who were part of the treasonous and criminal activities, and who faced impeachment and prison terms if the charges were proven. In this way, as a matter of law, members of Congress and the media became co-conspirators.

The *Village Voice* discredited the testimony of CIA contract agent Richard Brenneke because it found ten-year-old credit card slips for Brenneke that were made in Portland, Oregon on October 18, 1980. These credit card slips were found by Peggy Robahm, who went to Portland where Brenneke resided, from her home state of Connecticut, for the sole purpose of becoming involved with Brenneke. Later, she was hired by the House October Surprise Committee to "investigate" the October Surprise allegations.

My CIA sources state that the signatures on the credit cards were not Brenneke's signatures and that it is standard practice for CIA people engaging in covert operations to cause a record to be established showing them to be elsewhere. CIA contract agent, Michael Riconosciuto, a close friend of Brenneke, who also resided in the Portland area, stated to me<sup>50</sup> "Brenneke's credit card was used by a friend during that weekend."

The same mainstream media discredited CIA operative Gunther Russbacher, the pilot who reportedly flew George Bush and others to Paris on the October 19, 1980, weekend, and then flew Bush back in an SR-71. Former, and probably current CIA asset, Frank Snepp, wrote an article in the Village Voice stating that Russbacher didn't even know how to start the engines of an SR-71. This article was then repeated over and over again by the media until the lie was taken as truth.

I had obtained a copy of the formerly secret SR-71 manual, studied its 1000-plus pages, and guizzed Russbacher on the operation of the aircraft, including the starting procedures for the engines. I was qualified to determine his competency in this area since it was my job for many years to conduct pilot competency checks for airline pilots on jet aircraft. Russbacher certainly knew how to start the engines on the SR-71. The start-up procedures are quite different than other jet aircraft, but amazingly simple.

A Newsweek article<sup>51</sup> fabricated facts to discredit the October Surprise charges, stating on its cover: "The October Surprise Charge: Treason; Myth." It misstated and omitted facts so as to support the front-page cover. The magazine sought to discredit the testimony of former Mossad agent Ari Ben-Menashe, who was present at the Madrid, Barcelona, and Paris meetings.

Authors of several books and many magazine and newspaper articles found Ben-Menashe credible and quoted him in their writings. Gary Sick quoted him numerous times in his 1992 October Surprise book, as did Seymour Hersh in *The Samson Option*. 52 Russbacher said to me many times that he saw Ben-Menashe at the Barcelona meetings. The establishment media sought to discredit Ben-Menashe by stating he was only a low-level file clerk who never left Israel.

Denying the existence of the October Surprise operation required undermining the credibility of these whistleblowers and informants who were present. Newsweek portrayed Ben-Menashe as being a "shadowy, Israeli exile, a former translator for the Israeli government,...does not seem to check out." Perhaps they expected an espionage agent to live the life of a nun!

Time magazine also joined the disinformation tactics. Its October 28,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> During a phone call with Riconosciuto and lawyer Jim Vassilos on October 27, 1992.
51 November 11, 1991.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Described Israel's nuclear program and the part played by Robert Maxwell in various forms of skullduggery.

1991, issue called Ben-Menashe a "veteran spinner of stunning-if-truebut yarns," and a "fabricator." An eleven-page deceptive article in The New Republic<sup>53</sup> was entitled "The Conspiracy That Wasn't" with the subtitle, "The hunt for the October Surprise." The deceptive article, written by Steven Emerson and Jesse Furman, stated in part:

The conspiracy as currently postulated is a total fabrication....Almost every source cited by Sick or Frontline has been indicted or was the subject of a federal investigation prior to claiming to be a participant in the October Surprise.

Ben-Menashe authored the 1992 publication of *Profits of War*, <sup>54</sup> subtitled "Inside the Secret U.S.-Israeli Arms Network," which contained copies of Israeli government documents showing Ben-Menashe as a high-level staff officer for Israel's Mossad and military agencies.

#### The CIA's Media Wurlitzer

The CIA has many media personnel on its payroll to plant stories or discredit charges against it. The Agency secretly pays out large sums of money for articles and books to be written on the CIA's behalf. Its control over the media is like a Wurlitzer, orchestrating and manipulating all segments of the written or broadcast media. The CIA uses taxpayer funds to control reporters and publishers of newspapers, magazines and books.

#### **Serious Implications**

The evidence supporting the October Surprise charges required impeaching President George Bush and filing criminal charges against key officials in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the federal government. Never in the history of the United States was there such a serious criminal conspiracy inflicted upon the United States by people in control of the White House and government. There was no comparison between the relatively minor cover-up of Watergate and the hard crimes associated with October Surprise. The media exaggeration of Watergate inflicted immense harms upon the United States. The media cover-up of October Surprise inflicted far greater harm upon the United States but in a form not recognized by the uninformed American public.

October Surprise was many times more serious, involving people scattered throughout the three branches of the federal government. Failure to deny the existence of October Surprise could cause mass impeachments, criminal prosecution, and awaken the American public to the criminality in government. The fallout would affect both political parties.

Consider the difference between the political turmoil associated with

November 18, 1991.
 Profits of War, Sheridan Square Press.

exposing the October Surprise crimes and the seeming tranquility following its cover-up. The surface tranquility, however, hid the hard-core corruption and harm that continued to affect national interests and inflicted great harm upon the American people in ways they would not recognize.

### "We couldn't stand another disgraced presidency."

The cover-up by some of the media was for reasons other than protecting the guilty or vested interests. Several syndicated columnists, including Jim Fain of *Cox News Service*, explained the reason for the October Surprise cover-up in an April 23, 1991 column: "A consensus grew that we couldn't stand another disgraced presidency. Democrats in the bungled Congressional hearings said as much."

One of the tactics used to discredit October Surprise and other scandals was to discredit and make a mockery of those who describe the criminal acts and who use the word conspiracy. This tactic plays upon the ignorance of the public as to what constitutes a conspiracy. A conspiracy exists in almost any type of crime and consists of two or more people agreeing to do one or more acts. There is obviously no shortage of conspiracies anywhere, even though the standard disinformation tactic is to ridicule anyone who makes reference to a conspiracy.

Another cover-up tactic is to discredit statements or charges made by someone accused of a federal offense, calling him or her a felon, and a person whose statements cannot be believed. Many CIA operations have been criminal under law, making it easy for Justice Department officials to silence any potential CIA whistleblower by charging them with committing a crime. Using this argument, the only witness who could be considered reliable would be someone like a nun, someone who couldn't possibly have access to information about criminal activities.

However, when the shoe is on the other foot and Justice Department prosecutors are trying to sentence a person to prison, they not only use the testimony of felons but also even reward them for their often-fabricated testimony. Paid testimony comes in the form of pardons from earlier convictions, dropping of pending charges, money, including supporting the witness for years in the witness protection program.

If witnesses didn't testify as Justice Department prosecutors wanted, they would face long prison terms or other consequences. In addition, they don't have to worry about prosecution for perjury; the only law enforcement agency holding authority to prosecute them *wanted* them to commit perjury. In the criminal trial against Mafia figures Gotti and Thomas Gambino, long prison sentences were based upon the testimony of other felons, who were rewarded for their testimony through sentence and charge reductions.

#### **Great Pretense**

President George Bush, speaking (August 14, 1991) before an audience of nearly 3,000 delegates to the national convention of the Fraternal Order of Police, the nation's major police labor organization, stated:

The time has come to show less compassion for the architects of crime and more compassion for its victims. Our citizens want and deserve to feel safe. We must remember that the first obligation of a penal system is to punish those who break our laws. You can't turn bad people into saints.

So much for hypocrisy! The initial media attention to October Surprise forced the Senate and House to form committees supposedly investigating the charges. But the Republican members of the House and Senate vigorously opposed any investigation, afraid of what would be revealed. When continuing media pressure forced an investigation, safeguards were installed, including bringing people from other government agencies that could be counted upon to insure a cover-up.

These "investigators" then barred witnesses who would expose what was being investigated. They conducted closed-door hearings of witnesses, preventing the public from making their own decision as to the truthfulness of what was written in the final reports, or what was omitted. By omitting key testimony, the final report would be a farce.

Another tactic is to label key witnesses as unreliable or discredited, as was done with U.S. and Israeli intelligence agency witnesses: Mossad agent Ari Ben-Menashe; CIA contract agent Richard Brenneke, and deep-cover CIA operative Gunther Russbacher. These witnesses had no reason to lie.

They were not at risk because of the role they played in the October Surprise scheme. Instead, they risked persecution by Justice Department prosecutors if they testified falsely. In a Catch-22 scenario, they knew that they faced false prosecution from Justice Department lawyers even if they testified truthfully and disclosed government corruption. Brenneke discovered this when he testified during a Denver hearing about George Bush and Donald Gregg's trip to Paris, which Justice Department lawyers sought to cover up.

### **Trojan Horses**

In 1991, the Senate refused to conduct an investigation into the October Surprise charges, but the Senate Foreign Relations Committee conducted a small-scale investigation with virtually no staff and very little funding. The Senate Committee selected lawyer Reid Weingarten<sup>55</sup> to be Special Counsel controlling the investigation. He was formerly employed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> Special Counsel Weingarten was appointed on December 16, 1991.

by the U.S. Department of Justice and could be expected to protect the Justice Department's cover-up and involvement in the October Surprise operation. Immediately after Weingarten was named Special Counsel, I sent to him portions of the transcript of Russbacher's sworn declarations that described details of the October Surprise operation. They now had Brenneke's sworn statements in the Denver U.S. District Court and Russbacher's declarations. The committee refused to respond to my petition and refused to receive Russbacher and Brenneke's testimony.

A key member of the Senate committee was Cecilia Porter, on loan from the GAO's Office of special investigations. Her previous "investigation" into October Surprise discredited key witnesses, including Richard Brenneke (without obtaining his testimony), and then she helped write a report claiming that the October Surprise scheme did not exist.

The chief investigator on the Senate October Surprise Committee was an agent from the Treasury Department's Secret Service, a federal entity that played a major cover-up role in the October Surprise operation. The chairman of the Senate October Surprise Committee, Senator Terry Sanford, was formerly the lawyer for Earl Brian, one of the principal participants in the October Surprise scheme. Brian was a CIA asset involved in numerous corrupt CIA and Justice Department activities, including the Inslaw affair.

### **Blocking the Investigation**

The senators on the committee placed numerous restrictions on the investigation, which were admitted in their final report:

- Imposed travel restrictions, barring the investigators from traveling to Europe, the travel necessary to obtain the testimony of numerous people identified with the October Surprise operation. The report stated, "Senator Jesse Helms, Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, served notice to Chairman Claiborne Pell that he would not authorize any such foreign travel [barring testimony from key witnesses]." The report stated, "Special Counsel was denied authority to travel abroad, thereby precluding the possibility of interviewing Iranian exiles in Europe, Israeli public officials and intelligence operatives, international arms dealers, and prominent Iranian political figures such as Hashemi Rafsanjani and Mehdi Karrubi, who may have knowledge relating to the allegations at issue."
- Denied subpoena power to the investigators that was needed to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documents. The investigators had to submit their request for subpoenas to the full committee of senators and obtain majority approval for the Chairman of the Committee to sign the subpoenas. The Republicans on the committee were primarily responsible for this restriction. This awk-

ward restriction was further compounded by the senators refusing to approve many of the subpoenas. Out of 47 witnesses and 15 entities for which subpoenas were requested, the senators refused to issue 44 of them. Without subpoenas, many government agencies, directed by Justice Department officials, refused to provide important testimony or evidence.

• Limited the funds and the time for completing the investigation. The Senate October Surprise Committee spent only \$75,429 by the time it issued the November 19, 1992 report. In comparison, Iran-Contra Independent Prosecutor Lawrence Walsh spent over \$40 million and six years investigating White House personnel to determine who withheld evidence from Congress. Compare the \$40 million spent for the relatively minor offenses of determining who withheld evidence to the \$75,000 spent to investigate the treasonous and subversive criminal acts involved in the October Surprise operation.

#### **More Evidence**

In June 1991, the committee took the testimony of Ari Ben-Menashe behind closed doors. Ben-Menashe described his presence at the various October Surprise meetings in Spain and France, including the presence of George Bush at the Paris meetings. His testimony was dynamite, describing in a credible manner the specifics of what he had witnessed in the October Surprise scheme. The American public was deprived of this information. Their massive ignorance and indifference to government misconduct made the sham investigation possible.

The Secret Service refused to allow the committee to question their agents who personally followed Bush during the October 19, 1980, weekend. Instead, they limited the questioning to Secret Service agent Leonard J. Tanis, who had not seen Bush on that October 19, 1980, weekend and had simply read the agents' reports placed before him. If the reports were altered, his testimony would be based upon the altered documents. Tanis' lack of knowledge was revealed during questions about contradictions in his statements.

Tanis testified: "Evidently, I've either mixed up the date or something." If he were deliberately perjuring himself and his testimony shown as false, it would be easy to state he had the dates confused. Secret Service officials were covering up. The refusal to allow the Secret Service agents who were with Bush to testify could only be to hide his actual whereabouts.

#### **Additional Confirmation from Mossad Agent**

In his book *Profits of War*, author Ari Ben-Menashe described his role as a Mossad agent in the transfer of bribe money for Iranians as part of the October Surprise conspiracy. He also detailed the partial diversion

of these funds to Earl Brian, a friend and business associate of California lawyer Edwin Meese. Meese was rewarded for his treachery in October Surprise by being appointed Attorney General of the United States, and was able to block any subsequent investigation, and retaliate against any whistleblower.

Ben-Menashe described receiving \$56 million from the Saudi ambassador in Guatemala and leaving \$4 million of this in the CIA-related Valley National Bank of Arizona in a bank account belonging to Earl Brian. Ben-Menashe's boss, Director of Israel Defense Forces/Military Intelligence Yehoshua Sagi, explained that it was CIA money and that the Saudis helped arrange the banking and transfer. Ben-Menashe wrote that this money came from Central America drug deals involving some Israelis and the CIA. Ben-Menashe described being met by CIA Deputy Director Robert Gates at Miami, who then went to Phoenix to insure that Earl Brian got his bribe money.

Ben-Menashe described how Brian was involved in other secret deals involving the CIA and other U.S. agencies. Ben-Menashe wrote that bribe money was given by the CIA to the West Australian Labor Party for allowing Australia to be used in the transfer of arms to Iran following the October Surprise agreement. He stated that Richard Babayan, a CIA contract agent, received a six million dollar check from Earl Brian, who was acting on behalf of a CIA cutout.

Hadron and Earl Brian figured prominently in a later scandal given the name of Inslaw. The CIA connections help explain how they avoided criminal prosecution and how Attorney General Edwin Meese, deeply involved in these criminal activities, protected all parties involved, and misused the Justice Department to persecute and imprison informants.

### George Bush, CIA Asset

George Bush was a necessary participant in the October Surprise scheme because the Iranians wanted final approval by either presidential candidate Ronald Reagan or his running mate, George Bush. Bush was far more capable of carrying out this type of covert operation. He had been the director of the CIA in 1976 and 1977, and a CIA operative since at least 1960, prior to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. A document dated November 29, 1963, from John Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI, to Director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research in the U.S. Department of State, identified Bush as a CIA asset. Referring to information given to the CIA, FBI Director Hoover wrote of the person providing the information:

The substance of the foregoing information was orally furnished to Mr. George Bush of the Central Intelligence Agency and Captain William Edwards of the Defense Intelligence Agency on November

23, 1963, by Mr. W.T. Forsyth of this Bureau.

Attached to the letter was a self-explanatory FBI report:

DL 89-43 HJO:mvs

Re: James Milton Parrott

Houston on November 22, 1963, advised that George H.W. BUSH, a reputable businessman, furnished information to the effect that JAMES PARROTT has been talking of killing the President when he comes to Houston. A check with Secret Service at Houston, Texas revealed that agency had a report that PARROTT stated in 1961 he would kill President KENNEDY if he got near him.

### The Senate October Surprise Cover-Up Report

The Senate October Surprise Committee issued its report<sup>56</sup> on November 19, 1992. It is a standard tactic for a good liar or an lawyer to admit certain things to establish a facade of honesty and then follow with lies to complete the cover-up. The report properly identified the severity of the charges, a standard practice to give the impression of credibility by admitting one or more facts.

The report then proceeded to discredit the witnesses whose testimony proved the existence of the October Surprise scheme. The witnesses being discredited had nothing to gain by giving false testimony, and much to lose, but this basic reasoning was ignored. The report gave absolute credibility to federal officials who would have been impeached and prosecuted if the charges were proven true. Former Justice Department lawyer Reid Weingarten prepared that report.

### The Report Met the Definition of Cover-Up

The committee refused to receive the testimony of Gunther Russbacher. They called him an imposter (without questioning him) and refused to address the transcript of his sworn declarations that I sent to them. The report discredited Russbacher by making reference to an lawyer friend, Paul Wilcher, who reportedly failed to produce a copy of a video<sup>57</sup> that allegedly existed of an SR-71 flight from Paris to Andrews

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> The Senate October Surprise Committee commenced operation after Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell requested that the committee, through the subcommittee, investigate the October Surprise charges. The committee was headed by Senator Terry Sanford, Chairman, and Senator James Jeffords, ranking member, and was a subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> CIA SR-71 aircraft made a continuous video recording of the two seats in the SR-71 aircraft, making a permanent tape recording and simultaneously sending transmissions

Air Force Base on the October 19, 1980, weekend. The failure of someone else to produce a copy of videotape had nothing to do with the importance and credibility of Russbacher's testimony.

Richard Brenneke gave sworn statements to a U.S. District Court in Denver in 1988, describing his role in the Paris October Surprise meetings. His testimony coincided with statements and testimony of other people. Without requiring Brenneke to testify, the committee's report discredited the former CIA contract agent on the basis of newspaper articles, primarily those written by former or current CIA operative Frank Snepp. He had nothing to gain by making the report or in lying about what he personally saw. The report said:

On the basis of these published [media] reports, and on the GAO's inquiry (in which Brenneke declined to cooperate), this investigation determined that it would not be fruitful to devote further resources to pursue evidence originating from Brenneke.

On a matter of such urgency, investigators don't ask a key witness to testify; he is ordered to do so. Brenneke had been threatened, just as CIA contract agent Riconosciuto had been threatened, by Justice Department lawyers not to testify. Under these conditions, Brenneke had no alternative but to decline a voluntary request for testimony.

The Congressional Committee report also sought to discredit Brenneke on the basis of ten-year-old credit card slips showing that someone made charges on his credit card in Portland, Oregon on October 18, 1980. Obtaining Brenneke's testimony would have clarified the matter of the credit cards

Barbara Honegger, author of the first book bearing the title *October Surprise*, reportedly had the signatures on these controversial credit cards examined by a handwriting expert, who stated they did not compare with Brenneke's signature. She reportedly stated this fact to Lawrence Barcella, head counsel of the October Surprise Committee, in December 1992. Several years earlier, Honegger had questioned people present at the places covered by the credit card receipts, who knew Brenneke. They stated that Brenneke was not at the places shown by the credit cards, and had not signed the credit card slips.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) had earlier discounted Brenneke because he refused to participate in any hearings, conveniently ignoring the fact that Justice Department employees had threatened Brenneke, warning him that he would suffer the consequences if he testified.

Brenneke had been a CIA contract agent carrying out CIA covert ac-

tivities, which included drug trafficking. Justice Department lawyers could use any one of these CIA-ordered activities for subsequent prosecution. He saw what happened to CIA contract agent Michael Riconosciuto and to many other CIA assets who were sent to prison on trumped-up charges solely to silence them. Brenneke saw the discrediting and coverup tactics by the mainstream media and the cover-up by the entire Senate and House. He was certainly smart enough to recognize that the safest approach was to say nothing.

The Senate report discredited the testimony of Jamshid Hashemi, an arms merchant present at meetings between William Casey and Iranian representatives in Madrid in July 1980. I had obtained secret CIA and State Department documents showing Hashemi's involvement in the arms-for-hostages operation, in which government officials expressed confidence in his credibility. Copies of these reports, sent to the Senate and the House October Surprise Committees, were ignored.

The report stated of Mossad agent Ari Ben-Menashe and other witnesses, none of whom had reason to lie, that they "have proven wholly unreliable." This decision was based upon their testimony having contradicted the testimony of those who were part of the October Surprise conspiracy.

I sent the Senate committee copies of Secret Service reports showing Bush flying into Washington National Airport on Sunday evening, October 19, 1980. These reports disputed Secret Service reports furnished to the committee. I had obtained the reports from Russbacher, who had received them while he was assigned to the CIA at Langley in 1981. They had been sent by the Secret Service to the CIA shortly after the events occurred and before the Secret Service found a need to alter the reports years later.

After discrediting the sworn testimony of people who were innocent participants in the October Surprise operation, after placing irresponsible restrictions on the investigation, and after encountering great numbers of people who refused to testify, the Senate committee held there was no such scheme:

The vast weight of all available evidence—including sworn testimony from Secret Service agents assigned to protect Bush, extensive Secret Service records and logs, as well as statements by campaign staff—indicates that Bush did not travel to Paris in October 1980 or, for that matter, at any time during the 1980 presidential campaign.

The committee report referred to former President Reagan's refusal to cooperate, stating that the investigators were "disappointed by President Reagan' declining the request for an interview. President Reagan's written reply was wholly inadequate to explain his off-hand but apparently

relevant comment to a reporter that he had acted in some fashion as a candidate in connection with the hostage crisis." The report identified the refusal of the FBI to cooperate:

The history of the FBI's handling of evidence in this case—from the disappearance and discovery of the "Pottinger Tapes," to the disappearance and discovery of the entire Hashemi electronic surveillance, to the discovery of an eight-day period in which the Hashemi New York wiretaps were apparently discontinued—is a curious one. It is not typical for the FBI to simply "lose" evidence.

Basically, the committee sought to support its cover-up decision that there was no October Surprise operation and that George Bush had not gone to Paris, based upon the following:

- Secret Service reports purporting to show that Bush never left Washington during the October 19, 1980, weekend. But the Secret Service agents were barred from testifying, and Secret Service agents were reportedly on the BAC 111 to Paris and would be implicated in a coup against the United States. October Surprise was a coup. Secret documents that I later obtained indicate these were altered. From my experience as a federal and private investigator I have found that it is a common practice for Justice Department lawyers and the CIA to falsify documents.
- A Government Accounting Office (GAO) investigation that concluded there was no evidence of the reported October Surprise operation. I had repeatedly contacted GAO for the prior two decades with hard evidence of criminal activities I uncovered first as a federal investigator and later as a victim in Chapter 11 proceedings, and they refused to investigate. The GAO refused to question any CIA operatives and contract agents who were part of the October Surprise operation.
- The testimony of White House personnel implicated in the criminal activities, who faced long prison terms if convicted of the crimes in which they participated. The committee wrote:

No credible evidence has been found to indicate that high-ranking Republican campaign figures or other prominent American political officials—including Bush, Casey, Robert McFarlane, Robert Gates and Richard Allen—attended any October 1980 Paris meetings. Moreover, the Special Counsel has concluded, after a review of Secret Service records and testimony from Secret Service agents, that candidate Bush was in the United States through October 1980.

#### **Cover-Your-Rear Tactics**

Should the cover-up backfire, the Senate October Surprise Commit-

tee sought to cover their rear ends. The report stated that certain obstacles existed to determining the truth of the October Surprise charges: "The investigation was handicapped by several factors which made reaching final conclusions an almost impossible task." There were certainly obstacles, and many of them deliberately put in place by the "investigating" committee. The "CYR" tactics included the following:

- The investigation was hindered by the unavailability of certain key witnesses.
- Key witnesses who would have implicated themselves refused to cooperate, including Ambassador to South Korea Donald Gregg (who was on the BAC 111 flight to Paris). The report stated that Gregg declined to be interviewed by the investigators. The great harm inflicted upon the United States (if the charges were true) demanded ordering him and every other relevant witness to testify.
- The senators refused to issue a subpoena for the testimony of former President Ronald Reagan. They satisfied themselves with a letter from Reagan's lawyer, John A. Mintz, who wrote "that he has no recollection or other information relevant to the issues raised in any of your questions."
- Refusal by the Reagan Presidential Library to produce requested records until after the investigators had already been reassigned and the investigation completed.
- The report admitted that lack of funds and personnel greatly hindered the investigations, forcing investigators to rely upon other federal agencies to conduct an investigation, even though those agencies were implicated and engaged in a cover-up.
- The Treasury Department refused to allow the investigators to question the Secret Service agents who had actually been with Bush during the time in question. There would be no reason for refusing to allow these low-level federal employees to be questioned, other than to cover up.
- The family of former CIA Director William Casey (who died in 1987) impeded the investigation by delaying and refusing to provide his personal and business records, including his diary and passport.
- Failure of Donald Gregg, who was on the flight to Paris on October 19, 1980, to pass a lie-detector test. The Senate October Surprise Committee gave Gregg the test. He failed it. But rather than call the test a failure, the committee report stated, "Gregg's response was lacking in candor." CIA assets Gunther Russbacher and Richard Brenneke, and Mossad's Ari Ben-Menashe, had stated that Gregg was at several October Surprise meetings in Europe.

### The system protects itself and each part of it.

There was far more evidence showing the October Surprise charges to be true than existed in many criminal cases resulting in sentences of death. The testimony of criminals, paid to give testimony wanted by the prosecutors, is sufficient to result in life-long incarceration or death and accepted by the media, the courts, and the Justice Department. But the testimony of whistleblowers exposing corruption by federal officials, who risk perjury charges and prison if their courageous testimony is proven false, is not accepted by those interested in cover-up.

People, who testify falsely, in response to pressure from Justice Department lawyers, are assured of freedom against perjury charges. If people refuse to testify as Justice Department prosecutors want, they suffer consequences that can often destroy their lives. Testifying falsely, as requested by Justice Department lawyers, is rewarded. Criminal charges against them may be dropped; if in prison, they may be paroled; they may be put in the witness protection program and supported financially.

On the other hand, patriotic Americans seeking to testify about government corruption face fraudulent perjury charges and prison.

#### House "Investigative" Team

In response to media pressure, the House of Representatives on February 5, 1992, created a task force to report on the October Surprise operation. The House committee repeated the age-old practice of staffing the committee with people who would carry out the cover-up. Its chief counsel, Lawrence Barcella, Jr., followed the standard practice of former Justice Department lawyers of protecting Justice Department officials who were implicated. He had a history of protecting federal officials who had committed criminal acts against the United States.

Barcella had covered up for a CIA operation that went sour, in which the CIA was secretly supplying Libya with war supplies. Justice Department prosecutors charged CIA operative Edwin Wilson with illegal arms sales to Libya that the CIA had earlier sanctioned. Barcella was the Justice Department prosecutor who prosecuted Wilson and insured that the CIA involvement did not surface.

Barcella was the lawyer for Lynn Nofziger, President Ronald Reagan's chief political adviser during the 1980 presidential campaign . He was also a member of former Senator Paul Laxalt's Nevada law firm when Laxalt was Reagan's Campaign Committee Chairman in 1980. If the October Surprise conspiracy did in fact occur, these men could be expected to know about it and, at the very least, be guilty of felony cover-up. The same could be said of Barcella.

Barcella was one of the key public relations or cover-up men for the corrupt bank, BCCI, and one of its most forceful apologists. Lawyers

Clark Clifford and Robert Altman hired him to deceive the American public through aiding and abetting the criminal acts of that rogue bank. Barcella was one of four lawyers who requested Senator Orrin Hatch to give a speech on the Senate floor in defense of BCCI, seeking to block a Congressional investigation into the criminal activities of the Bank. Barcella was known to be a friend and protector of the U.S. intelligence community while he was a federal prosecutor. The October Surprise charges that Barcella was entrusted to investigate threatened to expose this CIA operation and the cover-up by his former Justice Department bosses

After the BCCI scandal broke, Barcella was asked about BCCI's compliance with U.S. banking laws, to which he falsely replied: "BCCI's policies and procedures were consistent with industry norms in the countries in which they were operating." This bank inflicted the biggest bank fraud in the world's history. It had long been established that BCCI was engaging in criminal activities: drug-money laundering, financing of terrorists, secret takeover of U.S. banks, and bribing of government officials wherever it operated, including the United States.

Another "investigative" committee member was Richard Pedersen, who was involved in other cover-ups of government corruption. In early 1992, Pederson threatened Garby Leon (Columbia Pictures) and Rayelan Russbacher during a telephone call, warning them to cease further activity in the October Surprise matter.<sup>59</sup>

Shortly after the House October Surprise Committee was formed, I submitted several petitions to its chairman, Congressman Lee Hamilton (D-IN). I enclosed my declaration and a partial transcript of Russbacher's declarations giving specific details of the October Surprise operation in which Russbacher was involved. Hamilton and the committee repeatedly refused to respond to these petitions.

# **Circumventing Congressional Cover-Ups**

I submitted numerous documents to the House Committee showing that the October Surprise operation existed (along with other documents showing that the Iran-Contra arms and drug trafficking existed long before the publicized 1986 starting date). Several of the copies indicated that the Secret Service was lying about the whereabouts of George Bush on the October 19, 1980, weekend.

One Secret Service report dated October 30, 1980, reported "Bush arrived Washington National aboard a UAE BAC 111 Charter at 8:25 p.m." Another dated February 17, 1981, was titled, "Visit of George

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> False Profits, Peter Truell and Larry Gurwin, Houghton Mifflin Company.
 <sup>59</sup> Told to the author in conversations with Garby Leon and Rayelan Russbacher.

Bush to Capitol Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C. on October 19, 1980." A report directed to Stuart Knight, Director, U.S. Secret Service, Washington, D.C., stated:

On October 19, 1980, at 8:00 P.M. nominee Bush arrived via motor-cade at the Capitol Hilton Hotel. Nominee Bush attended a dinner in the main ballroom.

#### No Evidence, No Witnesses Called

In July 1992, the Hamilton committee released an interim report stating there was no evidence that Bush was in Paris or that there was any support for the October Surprise charges. The Hamilton Committee didn't obtain testimony of any of the parties willing to testify that would prove the existence of the scheme and Bush's presence at the Paris meetings.

The only parties the committee questioned (not under oath and in private) were two Secret Service agents who guarded vice presidential candidate Bush when Bush was reportedly in Paris. The agents stated that Bush had not been in Paris during the October 19, 1980, weekend. In later pages it is shown that Secret Service agents were on the flight to Paris and that they lied.

Congressman Hamilton had close ties to President Reagan's aide, Earl Brian (who was deeply involved in the Inslaw scandal described in other chapters). Hamilton had close ties to CIA operative John Hull, who operated an arms and drug transshipment point on his ranch in Costa Rica. Hull is reportedly wanted by Costa Rican authorities on drug and murder charges. He also had close ties to Dan Quayle while Quayle was a U.S. senator from Indiana. Hull is being protected in the United States by CIA and Justice Department officials.

## **Again Putting Congress on Notice**

I wrote to Congressman Hamilton on November 27, 1992, enclosing copies of the Secret Service reports, stating that they "showed vice presidential nominee George Bush arriving in Washington, D.C. on a United Arab Emirates BAC 111 at approximately 8.00 p.m., and his departure for the Washington Hilton Hotel." I emphasized the significance of the documents, writing that they showed Bush and Secret Service agents were lying when they stated Bush had not left the Washington area on the October 19, 1980, weekend.

Arguably, those Secret reports had less significance in establishing Bush's Paris presence than the sworn testimony of CIA operatives Russbacher, Brenneke and Riconosciuto, or former Mossad agent Ari Ben-Menashe.

Treasury Agent Richard Pedersen called me several days later, asking where I obtained the Secret Service reports. He said those reports were

forgeries, that the date of October 19, 1980, had been altered from the October 18, 1980, date he had on his copies. He stated that the airline identification had been changed from United Airlines to United Arab Emirates (UAE). I responded that I would check my source and get back to him. If this was correct, the committee had a responsibility to look at my documents and question the person who gave them to me. It is a federal crime to falsify government documents. If Pedersen actually thought that my copies were forged, he had a duty (and surely would have done so) to obtain my testimony to determine where I obtained the documents. They never asked.

I asked Pedersen why the committee didn't call Gunther Russbacher to testify. He said Russbacher was a phony and an impostor; that he was charged in Oklahoma City with being mentally unbalanced; that he had been in prison from 1976 to 1983, and could not have been involved in October Surprise. Further, that Russbacher's lawyer friend, Paul Wilcher, had set up conditions they could not meet.

Several times I had told Russbacher that Wilcher's demand for immunity was giving the committee an excuse for not calling him to testify and that there was no reason to ask for it. Russbacher didn't need immunity if the questions were limited to the October Surprise flights. Because of his wide-spread involvement in CIA-directed activities such as money-laundering, drug trafficking and bank fraud, he was subject to prosecution, especially if the CIA pulled the standard disavowal on him.

Russbacher could raise the immunity issue if the questioning went into areas other than October Surprise, which was unlikely. However, Wilcher's request for immunity was no excuse for the October Surprise committee not to obtain Russbacher's testimony. The October Surprise offenses were of such great importance that prejudgment of Russbacher's credibility and refusal to obtain his testimony was out of order, but consistent with the cover-up pattern.

I asked Pedersen if he had read Ben-Menashe's recently published *Profits of War*, stating that the book contained copies of Mossad documents showing Ari Ben-Menashe to be a high staff officer with Israel's intelligence agency. Pedersen responded, "Ben-Menashe had been discredited," without providing any support. It was obvious that Pedersen was determined to discredit anything and anyone who supported the October Surprise charges.

I contacted Russbacher for a history of the Secret Service reports he had given me that did not coincide with reports the investigative committee had. He said the Secret Service sent copies of those reports to the CIA at Langley, Virginia shortly after they were filed and they were routed through him while he was at CIA headquarters. Russbacher advised that

the initials "RAW" in the upper right hand corner of the documents stood for Robert Andrew Walker, one of his CIA-provided aliases. I sent the following letter to Congressman Hamilton:

December 12, 1992

Congressman Lee Hamilton October Surprise House Committee RHOB, Room 2187 Washington, DC 20515 Certified Mail: P 888 324 843

Dear Congressman Hamilton:

This letter makes reference to a telephone call that I received from Agent Richard Pedersen who is a member of the House October Surprise "investigation," and who was borrowed from the Treasury Department's Secret Service, and puts you on notice of the following facts:

These comments are in response to Mr. Pedersen's recent phone call to me:

1. Agent Pedersen telephoned me recently in response to the letter I sent to you and the attached copies of Secret Service agent reports showing Vice-President nominee George Bush arriving at Washington National Airport at 18:35 on October 19, 1980, and a motorcade to the Washington Hilton.

The significance of that time and date is that it shows Secret Service Agents and George Bush, among others, lying when they stated that Bush had not left the Washington area on the October 19, 1980 weekend.

2. Mr. Pedersen stated that the multi-page Secret Service agent reports which I sent to you had been altered. He stated that his copy shows 10/18/80 (Saturday) as the date that Bush flew into Washington National Airport, while my copies show 10/19/80 (Sunday) as the date.

The significance of this is that the Secret Service and George Bush claim Bush never left the Washington area during the October 19, 1980 weekend, and that if the flight into Washington occurred on 10/19/80, it would show both the Secret Service and George Bush were lying and obstructing justice. Further, even if the flight arrived in Washington on the evening of the 18th, for argument, it appears that this conflicts with the schedule reported by Bush and the Secret Service.

3. Mr. Pedersen stated that whoever altered the document would be guilty of a federal offense, and he asked me where the documents came from. I had found these Secret Service agent reports several months ago in the inflow of papers that I receive in the mail, by FAX, and sometimes given to me. I don't usually keep track of who has sent or given to me any particular papers. I knew that numerous people have the same copies that I sent to you, and which are the subject of Mr. Pedersen's questions.

- 4. Seeking to establish the history of the documents, I questioned CIA operative Gunther Russbacher about them. He stated that the reports were received by him while he was working as a CIA operative at CIA headquarters in Langley, some time after he had played key roles in the October Surprise operation. He stated to me that he placed the initials of one of his CIA-provided aliases, RAW (Robert Andrew Walker), on the upper right hand corner of several of the Secret Service reports. He acknowledged to me that the dates shown on my reports are the same dates as on the reports that he initialed while in his capacity as a CIA deep-cover operative.
- 5. If your October Surprise Committee was an investigative committee instead of a whitewash committee, the answers could be obtained by having this CIA operative, Gunther Russbacher, testify in open door hearings. That same operative can testify to the details of the October Surprise operation, including where the meetings were held in which he participated; when the shipment of arms commenced; how the arms were stolen from U.S. reforger stores; the part played in the treasonous activities of the CIA and high White House officials, and others. He can also describe other patterns of corrupt activities, including the
- 6. CIA looting of financial institutions; CIA drug trafficking within the United States; CIA participation in looting of Chapter 11 assets as part of a vicious racketeering enterprise preying upon American citizens and small businesses who exercise Chapter 11 protections; and other racketeering enterprises implicating federal officials. He can also testify to the Secret Service Agents that were part of the October Surprise operation, along with White House officials, people who are now federal judges, members of Congress who participated, including Senators John Tower and John Heinz, among others.
- 7. Sworn declarations given to me by CIA informants indicate that four or five Secret Service Agents accompanied the group of Americans who traveled to Paris for the October 19, 1980 weekend meetings that finalized the October Surprise operation. The involvement of the Secret Service, the CIA, members of President Carter's staff, and others, in the subversive acts against the United States may constitute one of the worst criminal conspiracies ever exposed

against the United States, and surely constitutes an unpublicized coup. Having a Treasury Department agent play a major role in the October Surprise investigation, when Treasury Department agents assisted in carrying out the coup or scheme, is typical of Congressional "investigations," but hardly meets the definition of an investigation.

8. Mr. Pedersen stated that the Secret Service reports were not confidential or secret but simply not released. However, various news media sources claim they have copies of the reports, and presumably this supports his statement indicating that the reports are not classified. I am requesting copies of the reports that your committee has in its possession, and any other reports commencing from Friday, October 17, 1980 through October 20, 1980, Monday.

### Signs of Cover-Up by Your Committee

- 9. In response to my comment that Ari Ben-Menashe's credibility has been established by the copies of Mossad documents in his recently published book, Profits of War, Mr. Pedersen responded that he was totally discredited. Ari Ben-Menashe testified before Congressional committees that he was present at several of the October Surprise meetings, and saw George Bush, William Casey, Robert McFarlane, Donald Gregg, among others, at these meetings. He knew he would be charged with perjury if he lied, and he had nothing to gain. His recent book, Profits of War, include Mossad documents showing him to be a high staff officer possessing details of the October Surprise operation that dovetails with the testimony, the testimony offered, and the investigative findings of numerous journalists and authors.
- 10. In response to my question as to why the testimony of CIA contract agent Richard Brenneke was not accepted, Mr. Pedersen responded that he was totally discredited. But Brenneke knew that he would probably be charged with perjury if he lied. He had nothing to gain by his testimony before a U.S. District Court Judge in Denver in 1988. He was simply trying to show that he, and Rupp who was on trial in the Aurora Bank fraud case, were CIA contract agents. Further, his testimony coincided with other CIA operatives, with dozens of people who described their part in the October Surprise operation to various investigative journalists and authors. They, like Brenneke, had nothing to gain by their statements.
- 11. In response to my question about why the committee did not accept testimony from CIA contract agent Michael Riconosciuto, Mr. Pedersen totally discredited him. Again, as with Brenneke, Riconosciuto gave sworn testimony concerning the October Surprise opera-

tion, and he knew that he faced perjury charges if he gave false testimony. He had no reason to lie. He testified to assisting in the relay of the \$40 million bribe money in the October Surprise operation.

- 12. In response to my question asking why the House October Surprise Committee didn't have CIA operative Gunther Russbacher testify, Mr. Pedersen justified refusing to allow Russbacher to testify on the basis that Russbacher had been continuously in prison from 1977 to 1983, and thereby couldn't have been part of the October Surprise operation. But Russbacher has given me sworn declarations that he had not been in prison continuously during this time, and only was imprisoned for short periods to provide a background for his covert CIA activities with factions in Europe and the U.S. underworld. Further, Russbacher would not risk further imprisonment from perjury charges and could be expected to testify truthfully. I already have hundreds of sworn statements by Russbacher, describing the specifics of the October Surprise operation, which I have personally checked out with Ari Ben-Menashe, and through contacts with various personnel reportedly implicated in the European meetings associated with the October Surprise operation.
- 13. Mr. Pedersen stated awareness of the SR-71 videotape described by Paul Wilcher, on the purported flight from Paris in which Gunther Russbacher was reportedly the pilot and George Bush the passenger. Your committee could have proved or disproved the existence of that videotape by requesting the tape from the archives at Camp Mead, Maryland. You never did that.
- 14. Gunther Russbacher, CIA operative and Captain in the U.S. Navy and Office of Naval Intelligence, has offered to testify under oath to your committee and others, describing his role in the October Surprise operation, knowing that he would be charged with perjury if he lied. Congressman Hamilton and his committee knew he offered to testify and that Russbacher would undoubtedly not risk a prison term to lie, especially when it would not be to his benefit to testify.
- 15. I provided to your committee a partial transcript of sworn declarations by Gunther Russbacher, describing details of the October Surprise scheme, claiming that he was at several of the meetings, and that he arranged for the procurement and shipment of arms following the Barcelona meeting. I am prepared to testify to what Russbacher stated to me during the past two years concerning his role in the October Surprise (and other corrupt) CIA operation. As a former federal investigator I am quite competent to evaluate the sincerity and truthfulness of almost 300 hours of statements. Russbacher has offered to testify to a Congressional committee, including that

chaired by Congressman Hamilton, knowing that he would be charged with perjury if he lied.

- 16. Your group has ignored the statements made by former Iranian president Bani-Sadr in his two books describing details of the October Surprise operation. Presumably he too is totally discredited.
- 17. I am a former federal investigator who held federal authority to make certain determinations. I witnessed a pattern of hard-core federal crimes perpetrated by federal officials. I have government documents showing the crimes to exist. I have made judicial records of the criminal activities, and the responses of rogue Justice Department personnel and federal judges constitute additional criminal acts on their word. I have questioned CIA operatives, others, and have uncovered a pattern of criminal activities against the United States that are inter-related with the October Surprise operation. I have seen the criminal obstruction of justice by every government check and balance, including Justice Department personnel and members of Congress, among others. These findings coincide with the crimes charged by Brenneke, Riconosciuto, Russbacher, investigative journalists and authors, and the crimes implied by the felony cover-ups.
- 18. Even worse, the conduct of your committee includes threats against those seeking to report the October Surprise crimes. Garby Leon of Columbia Pictures and Rayelan Russbacher stated to me that during an early 1992 telephone conversations with Secret Service agent Pedersen, that he threatened them if they continued with their October Surprise exposure activities.
- 19. Threats reportedly made by Agent Pedersen of your committee against lawyer Paul Wilcher as Wilcher sought to give data to your committee showing details of the October Surprise conspiracy. Wilcher states that he was physically shoved against the wall by Pedersen and warned to halt his exposure activities.
- 20. Agent Pedersen threatened me for having copies of the Secret Service reports, displaying no interest, obviously, in reaching the truth.
- 21. Aiding and abetting the cover-up by this committee are Justice Department prosecutors and federal judges, seeking to cover up for their own involvement in October Surprise and its many related tentacles, by charging me with federal crimes in retaliation for having reported the crimes to a federal court, and in retaliation for seeking to defend against the felony persecution associated with the obstruction of justice.
  - 22. These threats against informants to keep them from reporting

criminal acts are criminal violations.<sup>2</sup> The refusal to receive evidence, the threats against informants, the staffing of your committee with people that have a vested interest in cover-up, violate blocks of federal criminal statutes.

### **Composition of House October Surprise Committee**

The composition of Congressman Hamilton's October Surprise "investigative" Committee parallels many other Congressional investigative committees:

A. Chief counsel Larry Barcella is a former (and probably present) CIA asset. Since October Surprise was a CIA operation he could be expected to block any exposure, and his conduct reflects that approach. Further, Barcella was a Justice Department hatchet man and also represented BCCI, defending their corrupt acts and trying to block their prosecution. His partial success in this respect enabled BCCI to continue their looting of assets in what has become the world's worst bank fraud.

B. Richard Pedersen is an agent with the Treasury Department. The Treasury Department's Secret Service agents were present during Vice-president nominee George Bush's flight to Paris on October 18, 1980. Pedersen's role, and certainly his conduct, has been to block any exposure of the October Surprise treasonous and subversive acts against the United States.

C. Peggy Robahm, one of your "investigators," was reportedly used by the CIA and Justice Department to discredit Richard Brenneke, by tactics that are better described in a fiction book. This same Peggy Robahm was then placed on Congressman Hamilton's October Surprise Committee to discredit the existence of the operation.

The impression I received from Mr. Pedersen was that the House October Surprise Committee's "investigative" report would be released shortly, and reveal that no such event occurred. From what I have observed, starting as a federal investigator and then a private investigator for the past thirty years, what else could be expected! For crimes against the United States, the members of the House October Surprise Committee have met past standards.

With tongue in cheek, I offer my services to expose the crimes involved in October Surprise and the various other associated tentacles. Obviously I don't expect the offer to be taken. If you wish, I will send you a copy of Defrauding America when it is released, which puts these events in the proper perspective.

#### Rodney F. Stich

#### Enclosures:

October 3, 1980 CIA: "Proposal to Exchange Spare Parts With Hostages." October 9, 1980 Department of State: "Approach on Iranian Spares." October 21, 1980 Department of State: "Talk with Mitch Regovin."

October 21, 1980 Department of State: Talk with Mitch Regovin.
October 29, 1980: "Two Related Items on Iranian Military supply."

October 1980 Secret Service reports: Bush's security detail.

June 3, 1983(?) CIA: Release of Hostages.

July 5, 1985: "New Developments on Channel to Iran."

August 19, 1985: "Status of Hashemi-Elliot Richardson Contact."

#### **ENDNOTES**

- 1. The criminal activities include: (a) pattern of air safety and criminal acts related to a series of fatal airline crashes; (b) CIA scheme known as "October Surprise," in which U.S. military equipment was stolen and given to Iran in exchange for continuing the imprisonment of 52 American hostages held by Iran in 1980; (c) CIA embezzlement and looting of America's financial institutions; (d) criminal misuse of Chapter 11 courts by the CIA/federal judges/federal trustees/law firms to sequester evidence of the looted CIA proprietaries; (e) criminal misuse of Chapter 11 courts by the same group to fund covert and corrupt CIA activities (including corrupt seizure and looting of Petitioner's assets in the Oakland Chapter 11 courts, cases Nrs. 487-05974J/05975J); (e) CIA drug smuggling into the United States, enlarging upon its history of drug trafficking in foreign countries; (f) felony cover-up and conspiracy to cover-up by persons in the U.S. Department of Justice and by federal judges/justices; (g) felony persecution of informants, whistleblowers, and protesting victims by corrupt federal judges and prosecutors; (h) criminal activities related to the stealing of software belonging to Inslaw, and criminal misuse of the Justice Department and Chapter 11 courts; and other criminal activities.
- 2. Title 18 U.S.C. § 1512. Tampering with a witness, victim, or an informant—
- (b) Whoever knowingly uses intimidation or physical force, or threatens another person, or attempts to do so, or engages in misleading conduct toward another person, with intent to—
- (1) influence, delay or prevent the testimony of any person in an official proceeding: shall be fined...or imprisoned...or both. [1988 amended reading]
- Title 18 U.S.C. § 1513. Retaliating against a witness, victim, or an informant. (a) Whoever knowingly engages in any conduct and thereby causes bodily injury to another person or damages the tangible property of another person, or threatens to do so, with intent to retaliate against any person for—(1) the attendance of a witness or party at an official proceeding, or any testimony given or any record, document, or other object produced by a witness in an official proceeding; or (2) any information relating to the commission or possible commission of a federal offense...
  - 3. Title 18 U.S.C. § 1505 (obstructing proceedings before federal courts,

and earlier, before FAA, NTSB, before federal grand jury, to prevent presenting testimony and evidence of federal offenses); § 1512 (tampering with a witness or informant, and specifically, preventing Stich's communication to a federal court of the federal air safety and criminal offenses, using felonious means to block such federal proceedings); § 1513 (retaliating against a witness, victim, or an informant, and specifically against Stich, to prevent his reporting of the federal crimes by federal officials); §§ 1961-1965 (RICO violations, by conspiring to harm an informant, and adversely affecting interstate and international commerce); § 241 (conspiracy against rights of any citizen, including conspiracy that violated wholesale numbers of federally protected rights); § 371 (conspiracy to commit offense against, or to defraud, the United States); § 1951 (interference with interstate and international air commerce, and specifically the FAA, NTSB, wrongful acts, and blocking and retaliating against Stich for seeking to report federal air safety and criminal acts affecting air safety);  $\S$  2 (principal);  $\S$ 3 (accessory after the fact); § 4 (misprision of felony); § 35 (imparting or conveying false information); § 2071 (Concealment, removal, of official reports); § 34 (changing federal offenses to capital offense when death results); § 111 (impeding FAA inspectors or other federal employees); § 1621 (perjury, at FAA hearing); § 1623 (subornation of perjury, at FAA hearing); § 1623 (false declarations before federal grand jury); 28 U.S.C. § 1343 (Failure to prevent the violations of a person's civil and constitutional rights); Title 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983-1986 (Violating civil and constitutional rights of another, conspiracy to do so, failure to prevent the violations when the ability and responsibility to do so exists); Treason, Art 3 § 3 of US Constitution.

## **Making Another Record**

I mailed another letter to Congressman Hamilton on December 29, 1992, enclosing copies of secret CIA and State Department documents describing arms-for-hostages meetings from 1980 through 1985. The documents clearly showed that the arms flow to Iran started not in 1986, as reported in the Iran-Contra prosecutions and media reports, but years earlier, commencing in September 1980 as part of the October Surprise operation.

To determine whether the Secret Service report in my possession or the one cited by the House October Surprise Committee was correct, I filed a Freedom of Information (FOI) request with the Secret Service, enclosing a copy of my document showing Bush arriving at Washington National Airport on a UAE BAC 111. I requested their copy of the document. The Secret Service acknowledged finding their copy, but refused to release it to me.

# Reports of the House Committee

On July 1, 1992, the House committee issued an interim report on October Surprise, stating its investigation had not been completed, that a final report would be released in January 1993, and that they believed there was no truth to the charges. Special counsel Lawrence Barcella, Jr.,

issued the preliminary report.

The final report, consisting of 968 pages, was issued on January 3, 1993. It followed the standard Congressional pattern of withholding incriminating evidence, discrediting witnesses who supported the original charges, and lending credibility to those government officials who were implicated in the charges. The report withheld knowledge of the Secret Service reports and Russbacher's declarations that I submitted in November 1992.

A number of factors struck me in the report, including:

- Most of the investigators consisted of current or former Justice Department and Secret Service personnel.
- Withheld knowledge of the Secret Service documents that I submitted to Congressman Hamilton in November 1992, which contradicted the statements made by Secret Service personnel as to George Bush's location on the October 19, 1980, weekend.
- Withheld knowledge of the 40-plus-page sworn declarations given by former CIA operative Gunther Russbacher and other CIA and Mossad assets.
- Refused to receive my testimony and evidence relating to statements made to me by Russbacher over a two-year span that described many specifics involved in the October Surprise operation.
- Refused to allow Russbacher to testify, giving sham excuses for not doing so.
- Fraudulently discredited the testimony of former Mossad operative Ari Ben-Menashe, who was present at several of the European meetings, including the Paris meetings and meetings at which Russbacher was present. The Task Force report stated:

The Task Force has determined that Ben-Menashe's account of the October Surprise meetings, like his other October Surprise allegations, is a total fabrication.

A September 4, 1987, letter written by Colonel Pesah Melowany in the Israel Defense Forces states of Ben-Menashe:

Mr. Ari Ben-Menashe has served in the Israel Defense Forces External Relations Department in key positions. As such, Mr. Ben-Menashe was responsible for a variety of complex and sensitive assignments which demanded exceptional analytical and executive capabilities.

IDF Colonel Yoav Dayagi wrote on September 6, 1987:

[Ben-Menashe] served in the IDF External Relations Department in key positions...is a person known to keep to his principles, being always guided by a strong sense of duty, justice and common sense.

Ben-Menashe's book had copies of other letters from the Israel Defense Forces attesting to his high level position. There are copies of Telex messages from Ben-Menashe to Iranian president Rafsanjani and other Iranian officials quoting prices for war material to be shipped by Israel.

- Falsely discredited Ben-Menashe's testimony by stating he was only a low-level translator, even though he presented letters and documentation during a closed hearing showing otherwise. Several of my CIA contacts described encountering Ben-Menashe in Europe, Central and South America and other locations, engaging in covert activities for Israel
- Accepting at face value written denials by Israel officials<sup>60</sup> that they were not involved in any of the October Surprise activities. These denials contradicted testimony by former Mossad agent Ben-Menashe and my CIA contacts, including Gunther Russbacher. The disclaimers by Israeli officials were made indirectly to the Task Force, as the Israeli government refused to allow them to be questioned. Obviously they had something to hide! Israel has a strong vested interest to make sure the American people never learn of its complicity in October Surprise.
- Refused to have former CIA operative Richard Brenneke testify, despite his key role in October Surprise and other deep-cover CIA operations. This has been a standard cover-up tactic for decades.
- Discredited Brenneke on the basis of deceptive credit card charges routinely made on behalf of covert CIA operatives for later use as disclaimers.
- Falsely stated that Paul Wilcher, who made numerous attempts to have the Task Force obtain Russbacher's testimony, was an unlicensed lawyer, when in fact he was admitted to practice in the state of Illinois.
- Referred to witnesses who risked Justice Department retaliation by coming forth with the truth as "utter fabricators." This group included Ari Ben-Menashe, Gunther Russbacher, Richard Brenneke, Michael Riconosciuto, Heinrich Rupp, and Jamshid Hashemi. It accepted without question, recanted statements made to journalists by Oswald LeWinter, Admiral Ahmed Madani, and Arif Durrani.
- Accepted as true the self-serving statements and denials by those who would be implicated, including Donald Gregg, Robert McFarlane, and Israel officials. The U.S. personnel would be impeached and charged with major crimes if the truth was admitted.
- Refused to contact the National Archives at Camp Mead, Maryland

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> David Kimche, Shmuel Moriah, Rafi Eitan.

to obtain a copy of the videotape showing George Bush and Gunther Russbacher in an SR-71 aircraft on a flight from Paris to McGuire Air Force Base on Sunday, October 19, 1980. This is the tape that the report stated Wilcher did not deliver.

- Refused to have Riconosciuto testify about the electronic transfer of the \$40 million in bribe money given to the Iranians during the October 19, 1980, weekend meetings in Paris.
- Refused to address Donald Gregg's failure to pass a lie detector test given by the Government Accounting Office.
- Refused to make reference to the transcript of sworn declarations that I had obtained from Russbacher, while including hearsay statements that denied the existence of October Surprise.

The Task Force report dismissed the charges of an October Surprise scheme as "bizarre claims." The American people have been victimized by the subversive criminal conspiracy and its many tentacles, including the brutality of the Iran-Contra operation. These criminal acts against the American people were then followed up with the cover-up.

Using Hamilton To Cover-Up for 3,000 Deaths on 9-11

Years later former Representative Hamilton was selected to be a member of a commission investigating the blame for 19 hijackers seizing four airliners on September 11, 2001, that killed 3,000 people and was made possible by the corruption I documented in my various books.

Aiding in the cover-up was the media. A classic example was a January 16, 1993, article in the *Wall Street Journal* praising the House report and suggesting that Justice department officials charge the witnesses, who had risked so much, with perjury. Since the mid-1960s I had sent evidence to the *Wall Street Journal* of hard-core criminal acts committed by federal officials. Several of my CIA confidants believed that the *Journal's* preoccupation with protecting Israel was the reason behind their efforts to cover up for the October Surprise operation.

# **Guilty as the Perpetrators by Their Silence**

I sent letters to people who were involved in part of the October Surprise operation or who had evidence of its existence, advising them that I was going to publish in this book their involvement unless they gave me contrary information. Members of the French Secret Service present during the October 19, 1980, meetings in Paris would have filed reports on their activities. I mailed a registered letter to French President Francois Mitterrand on April 4, 1992, requesting a copy of the French Secret Service report of the October 19, 1980, October Surprise meetings in Paris. Several of my sources told me that French government agents were present during the meetings and that reports were made. My letter stated in part:

This letter is a request for information, and copies of official writings, relating to the following:

- Barcelona meetings that occurred in late July, 1980, at the PepsiCo International Headquarters Building, at which William Casey (subsequently Director of the United States Central Intelligence Agency) was present, along with Robert McFarlane, Gunther Russbacher, and Iranian nationals. The intent of this meeting was to provide Iranian factions with bribe money and military equipment and munitions stolen from United States military warehouses, and which started flowing to Iran via Israel in September 1980. These meetings consisted of a criminal conspiracy to defraud the United States.
- October 19, 1980 weekend meetings in Paris, furthering the treasonous and subversive acts, in which a scheme was finalized to pay large amounts of money, and billions in secret military equipment and ammunition, from the American conspirators, to Iranian factions, to continue the imprisonment of 52 American hostages.

These acts were subversive and treasonous, and required the felony cover-up by many people. Until these criminal acts are uncovered, the same people who unlawfully and corruptly gained control of the United States government are continuing to inflict great harms upon the United States, with international implications.

I know that the French secret police knew of these meetings, were present at these meetings, and made reports of them. I also know that you were made aware of them. I therefore request that you send to me copies of these reports, and related writings, so I can take actions to have these American officials impeached and prosecuted.

If you refuse to do so, you should be advised that you, as the head of the government in France, will be aiding and abetting the treasonous, the subversive, the criminal acts, that continue to inflict great harms upon the United States and its people. This letter, and your response, will be included in the nearly completed book describing the criminal cartel that is defrauding the American people.

When the president of France did not respond to that request, I sent another request for documents by registered mail on July 7, 1992. The French government again refused to answer or deny my charges. I had advised that their refusal to respond would be included in this book as support for the charges being true.

A manager at Columbia Pictures in Los Angeles, Garby Leon, told me in early 1992 that he had spoken to ABC News' Paris bureau chief, Pierre Salinger, who had admitted to him that he had a copy of the French Secret Service report describing the October Surprise meetings in Paris. Salinger said that he would show the report to him if he came to

London. I sent a request to Salinger and to ABC's corporate headquarters by registered mail, requesting a copy of that report. My letter stated in part:

This is a request for information, and a copy of documents in your possession, relating to the activities known as "October Surprise." I have been advised by several sources that you, and American Broadcasting Corporation, have writings supporting the existence of these treasonous and subversive activities which were a CIA operation. I am writing in my book that is nearly completed, and it is being stated...that ABC has these writings in its possession, and...that ABC has become, as a matter of federal law, co-conspirators, and liable criminally as principals.

# **Further October Surprise Support**

Neither Salinger nor ABC responded. However, in 1995, Salinger admitted in a book called "P.S.," originally published in France and then in English in the United States, that he knew of the October Surprise meetings in Paris. In an eight-paragraph section of the French publication (omitted in the English translation) he described the secret meeting that Bush attended. Salinger wrote that he determined through his high-level sources in France that the secret meetings did in fact take place.

Salinger wrote in his book,

A man named Jacques Montanes showed up at my ABC office with a big bag full of papers. The papers documented the airlift of military supplies to Iran in October 1980, prior to the U.S. presidential elections. Montanes had been involved with the arms shipments, obtaining documents showing companies contributing to the military equipment shipments from Spain, France, Great Britain, and Israel. Obviously, I broke this story on ABC News, something that shocked the American government."

Gunther Russbacher, who arranged for much of the military equipment, had described these shipments to me years before Salinger wrote his book

Salinger described his long relationship with top officials in French intelligence that confirmed to him that the U.S.-Iranian meeting did take place on October 18 and 19. In his book Salinger wrote, "Marenches had written a report on it which was in intelligence files. Unfortunately, he told me that file had disappeared."

Salinger described his conversations with respected American journalist, David Andelman, who was the ghostwriter of the 1992 memoirs of Alexandre de Marenches, French spy chief. At Salinger's request, Andelman asked Marenches about the alleged Paris meetings involving Casey and Bush. Salinger wrote in his book, "Andelman came back to me

and said that Marenches had finally agreed [that] he organized the meeting, under the request of an old friend, William Casey. Marenches and Casey had known each other well during the days of World War II. Marenches added that while he prepared the meeting, he did not attend it." Salinger referred to the cover-up by such U.S. magazines as The New Republic and Newsweek, who debunked the charges.

Andelman testified to this admission before the House October Surprise task force in December 1992. But as with other creditable witnesses, this testimony was ignored so as to deny the existence of this crime

### U.S. Publishing Censorship

The English edition of Salinger's book omitted any reference to these facts or to October Surprise. I continually ran into this media coverup. The book, Trail of the Octopus, written by a former Defense Intelligence Agency agent, Lester Coleman, published in England, exposed Justice Department cover-up of the CIA-DEA drug smuggling operation that permitted the bomb to be placed on board Pan Am Flight 103 that blew up over Lockerbie.

In 1996, American West Distributors in Berkeley, California, halted its plan to distribute the book, due to pressure from government sources. The television documentary, Maltese Doublecross, produced in England, also described how this conduct by CIA and DEA personnel led to the bombing of Flight 103. Francovich, who I had met while he was in Berkeley, California, and was in frequent contact with him, could not get any distributors in the United States to handle the film.

# PepsiCo among the many CIA Assets

PepsiCo International Headquarters in Barcelona was the site of one of the meetings held in Barcelona in July 1980.61 I sent a registered letter to Wayne Calloway, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors of PepsiCo, in Purchase, New York, advising that I was describing in my book the part they played in the October Surprise operation unless I heard otherwise from them. The letter stated in part:

I am in possession of declarations/transcripts showing that the PepsiCo Corporation played key roles in the treasonous and subversive acts known as October Surprise. 62 These declarations and transcripts, by a deep cover CIA officer, who was present at the Barcelona meetings in late July 1980, at the PepsiCo International Headquarters Building, describes the part played by PepsiCo in helping to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> Stated by Russbacher and Ben-Menashe.

<sup>62</sup> The conspiracy involved private citizens, renegade federal officials, Central Intelligence Agency personnel (all sabotaging the elected Government of the United States), and Iranian factions who were holding 52 American citizens in Iranian prisons.

sabotage the United States by becoming a part of the conspiracy known as October Surprise.

Other declarations show the part played by PepsiCo in other CIA schemes. The PepsiCo official directly involved in the Barcelona caper was Peter Van Tyne.

PepsiCo's part in the CIA-related schemes is being described in the nearly completed Defrauding America book, which is a follow-up to my last one, Unfriendly Skieṣ-Saga of Corruption. To fill in areas that are not yet clear, would you kindly provide me with the following information:

- 1. The address of Peter Van Tyne, and what his position was with PepsiCo in mid-1980.
- 2. Peter Van Tyne's present address for receiving correspondence.
- 3. Who in the CIA, and any others, arranged with PepsiCo for the use of its International Headquarters facilities in the subversive acts associated with October Surprise?
- 4. What is the relationship between PepsiCo and the Central Intelligence Agency in the United States and overseas?
- 5. What other covert relationships existed, and exist, between PepsiCo and the CIA?
- 6. What are the rewards, financial and otherwise, arising from these relationships?

For your information, copies of the transcripts showing PepsiCo's involvement with these very serious crimes against the United States have been attached to federal briefs, and have been sent to many members of Congress (despite its record as the world's most reliable cover-up body), and others. Many more will be sent out. Your answer to these questions would be useful in clarifying the covert relationships that helped inflict such great harms upon the United States.

If you don't provide this information, the book will show the implications of what PepsiCo has done, and what can be implied by your refusal to respond.

There was no response and no denial.

Russbacher told me that William Casey boarded the BAC 111 at a New York City area airport after deplaning from a Unocal Gulfstream aircraft. I contacted Unocal<sup>63</sup> by certified mail on June 7, 1992, advising them of the serious charges associated with the October Surprise opera-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>63</sup> Richard Stegemeier, Chief Executive Officer, Unocal Corporation P.O. Box 7600, Los Angeles, CA 90051; Certified P 790 780 431.

tion in which they were a part and advising that unless I heard otherwise from them I would describe the part they played in the operation. No response and no denial.

The House October Surprise Committee advised me that my Secret Service report showing George Bush flying into Washington National Airport in a UAE BAC 111 should read United Airlines, and the date should be October 18, 1980. I wrote to United Airlines via certified mail asking for their confirmation of the flight and date. They refused to answer.

### **October Surprise Cover-Up Crew**

As stated earlier, I started communicating in December 1994 with a former CIA operative, Oswald J. LeWinter, and we were in frequent contact. He gave me details on various deep-cover CIA activities in which he had been involved, including the October Surprise cleanup operation. He described how this team went to hotels and other suppliers of services in Paris, removing records and other evidence relating to the October Surprise meetings.

LeWinter was involved in many CIA operations throughout the world, and one of the few agents who whose knowledge and experience was compartmentalized. He was a CIA mole in NATO, and had top-level contacts in Vietnam. He said that his primary duty during his 30 years as a CIA operative was disinformation. This included planting false stories, removing evidence to hide CIA activities, and putting different spins on the facts. He was involved in undermining foreign governments and described some of these activities that occurred in South America. He acknowledged knowing of several of my CIA sources, including Bob Hunt and Gunther Russbacher.

Larry Barcella had contacted LeWinter for information about October Surprise. LeWinter asked, "What version do you want; that it existed, or didn't exist?" Barcella replied, "The version that shows it did not exist." LeWinter than denied any knowledge of October Surprise.

At a later date, LeWinter was interviewed by a reporter from the German newspaper *Der Spiegel*, at which time LeWinter admitted the existence of October Surprise, giving details, and stating that he lied to Barcella, giving Barcella the version the investigator wanted to hear. LeWinter even gave the reporter an affidavit containing these statements.

The *Der Spiegel* reporter then contacted Barcella with the statement by LeWinter admitting lying to a congressional investigator. Barcella did nothing, not wishing to risk exposing the October Surprise operation.

In early 1996, LeWinter stated to me that he was preparing a manuscript on his CIA activities, and had a tentative name for it: *For the Honor Of Lying*, a fitting title for his CIA-ordered disinformation.

#### **Evidence That October Surprise Operation Occurred**

- Sworn declarations and testimony of CIA operatives, including Gunther Russbacher, Richard Brenneke, and Michael Riconosciuto, who were part of the operation, and had much to lose if they lied, and even if they came forward.
- Sworn testimony of Mossad officer Ari Ben-Menashe, who was present at several October Surprise meetings.
- Secret Service documents disproving the statements of Secret Service agents and George Bush relating to Bush's absence from Washington on the October 19, 1980, weekend.
- Statements by dozens of people in the United States, Europe and the Middle East, describing their knowledge of the October Surprise operation.
- Refusal of people to deny the charges that I advised would be made against them if they did not respond to my mailings.
- Large amount of anecdotal and circumstantial evidence.
- Many people who were killed or who mysteriously died, who had knowledge of the October Surprise operation, and who were a threat to Iranian and U.S. officials implicated in the scheme.
- Intense opposition by Republican members of Congress to conduct investigations into the charges.

# **Enormous Consequences if the Public Was Told the Truth**

The resulting consequences of being caught in a cover-up were minor compared to the consequences suffered by Washington officials if the October Surprise was admitted. Among the potential consequences of admitting that October Surprise conspiracy occurred:

- Impeachment and criminal prosecution of many federal officials.
- Exposing the role played by the CIA and possibly exposing other criminal activities of this agency.
- Many Congressmen would be criminally implicated by their coverup, calling for impeachment and criminal prosecution.
- Federal judges, who gained their positions by having played a role in the October Surprise scheme would be exposed, undermining public respect for the federal judiciary.
- Past presidents of the United States would be exposed as guilty of treasonous and criminal activities.
- Powerful law firms, lobbyists, and many other private interests with fortunes tied to those in power would be adversely affected if their benefactors were prosecuted and removed from office.
- All political parties would suffer as a result of the public's awareness of the level of criminality in government.

# **Responsibilities and Obstruction of Justice Parties**

Every member of Congress had a responsibility under federal criminal statutes to receive testimony and evidence of the criminal acts described within these pages. The oath states:

I, [name of Congress person], do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office in which I am about to enter. So help me God.

# Further Support for SR-71 Flight to Moscow

In March 1996 I received a phone call from John Lear, an airline pilot, who was one of the sons of the famed builder of the Learjet airplane. He had just read the second edition of *Defrauding America* and said he found it very accurate. Lear had flown for CIA-related airlines for many years. When he got to the part in which Gunther Russbacher described an SR-71 left in Moscow in 1990, he remembered a conversation that he had with a pilot friend, Ken Polzin.

Polzin had flown as captain for Buffalo Airways into Budapest in 1990, and while there, his Hungarian copilot, Gabor Szabo, told him about seeing an SR-71 in a hangar at Moscow several months earlier. I called Polzin for further information, and he related his Hungarian copilot telling him, on a flight to Budapest, Hungary, about seeing the SR-71 in a hangar. Szabo had recently been to Moscow receiving flight training on the Tupolov aircraft while flying for Malev Hungarian Airlines, and had seen the SR-71. There is certainly something strange about giving our supposed adversary one of our most secret aircraft during the Cold War.

Included among the blowback consequences brought on by the October Surprise scheme were the following:

- Arming Iran in its war with Iraq—while the Reagan-Bush White House was secretly funding and arming Iraq.
- Subverting the presidential elections in which the Reagan-Bush team prevailed over President Jimmy Carter.
- Enlarging the extent of White House involvement in corrupt and subversive activities.

# Iran-Contra: More Arming of Iran

Ithout the October Surprise operation there could not have been an Iran-Contra scandal. The Iran and the Contra portions of what is known as Iran-Contra are really separate scandals with some relatively minor connections. The media and Congress have joined them together and have loosely described Iran-Contra as unlawful arms sales to Iran in exchange for American hostages seized in Lebanon and unlawful arms sales to Nicaragua. But the secret sending or arms to Iran started with the October Surprise operation involving people from both political parties during the end of the Carter Administration.

### **The Iran Connection**

U.S. media and congressional publicity on Iran-Contra focused on the illegal arms sales to Iran in the mid-1980s, but these sales began years earlier, as part of the October Surprise operation. Although the arms sales were allegedly to obtain the release of American hostages seized in Lebanon, there was also a profit motive for many of the participants. Sharing in the profits from these arms sales to Iran were arms brokers, Israel, and a private network composed of CIA and National Security Council players. These arms sales to Iran violated U.S. law, and the criminal acts involved the president and vice president of the United States, members of the National Security Council, the CIA, and others.

#### **Motives for the Arms Sales**

The sales occurred partly because huge profits could be made by many participants. The arms would be purchased from U.S. or foreign governments, and then resold to Iran. Profits from these unlawful arms sales were stashed away in secret offshore bank accounts. <sup>64</sup> Ironically, about \$10 million was placed in the wrong-numbered Swiss bank ac-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> One such account was in the name of Lake Resources, number 386-430-22-1.

count that was intended for Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard Secord and his business partner, Albert Hakim.

Another motive for the illegal arms sales was for the CIA and NSC participants to purchase arms through their front companies. The money generated by the Iranian arms sales was not gifts to the Contras, as implied by the Reagan-Bush White House and the media. The profits from the arms sales to Iran were used to purchase additional arms, which were then traded to the Contras for drugs. These drugs constituted a large portion of the huge cocaine trafficking into the United States from Central and South America. The aircraft flying arms to Nicaragua and other Central and South America locations returned to the United States with drugs. This was a giant operation resembling a corporation structure such as General Motors.

# Naiveté of Paying for Hostages

It can only be guessed if the selling of arms to Iran in exchange for the American hostages seized in Lebanon was the primary intent or simply an excuse for the Iran-Contra operation. It is difficult to believe that intelligence agency renegades thought the hostage situation could be solved by paying for their release, thereby encouraging a continuation of the hostage taking. It appeared that for every hostage returned upon the payment of money or arms, additional hostages were seized. A "cottage industry" flourished. Its sole purpose was seizing American hostages in Lebanon. American hostages seized in Iran as part of October Surprise showed that profits could be made from hostage taking, especially if they were Americans.

# **Ugly Side of the Contra Connection**

The ugly side of the Contra connection was carefully kept from the American public by the establishment media and Congress. Oliver North and others involved sought to place a humanitarian cloak over their activities with the Contras. They claimed U.S. involvement in Nicaragua was humanitarian by helping an oppressed people fight communism. But the CIA, representing the American people, traded arms for drugs. Aircraft carrying arms from the United States to Central America often returned with the drugs that were used to pay for the arms. The logistics used in the war against the Nicaraguan government and people facilitated the CIA-DEA drug smuggling into the United States. In the CIA's Vietnam War the logistics associated with sending arms to fight the Vietnamese people were used on the return trips into the United States to smuggle drugs. Enormous profits resulted, and many CIA operatives did quite well financially.

It wasn't only the Contras to whom the CIA furnished arms. The CIA, joined by Israel, arms merchants, and others, were selling and de-

livering arms to the opposition Sandinistas. One CIA operative said to me, "How else could we keep the fighting going!"

Drug trafficking from Central and South America into the United States by the CIA, DEA, and the Mossad was well underway in the 1960s. The CIA's stirring of the pot in Nicaragua greatly aided this by providing a great increase in aircraft availability and an excuse for the trafficking. Various code names were given to these arms and drug flights, as described in later pages.

As in any CIA operation, there were terrible brutalities inflicted upon innocent people. The Contra affair funded the intrusion by the CIA, representing the United States and the American people, into the affairs of a foreign country, using the same tactics and excuses as in Vietnam. The CIA prepared an assassination manual on torturing and killing people in Central America, resulting in the deaths of thousands of villagers, similar to the infamous Phoenix program in Vietnam that assassinated over 40,000 South Vietnamese villagers.

Numerous books have been written depicting these atrocities.<sup>65</sup> An October 19, 1992, *New York Times* article showed pictures revealing the 1981 massacre of almost 800 villagers at El Mozote, El Salvador. Reporters from the *Times* and *Washington Post* were in agreement that the killings were perpetrated by groups financed and supplied by the White House gang and the CIA. Searchers found many bodies, including those of children, under the floor of a parish house.

Most of the media discredited these assassination reports when they first came out, even though the media knew the reports to be true. The CIA infiltration of the media and the government's furnishing of much of what passes as news, along with the money dispensed to the media by the CIA, made this cooperation quite easy.

The arms sales to Nicaragua or any other Central American country violated U.S. law and specifically the 1984 Boland Amendment. Those involved in the sale of arms, including the trading of arms for drugs, deliberately continued violating the law. If the arms trafficking stopped, so would much of the drug trafficking into the United States on the return flights.

# Congress Forced to Conduct an "Investigation"

Several events caused the American public to become aware of at least peripheral segments of the Iran and Contra operations. One event was the shooting down of a CIA proprietary aircraft<sup>66</sup> over Nicaragua in

<sup>66</sup> The aircraft was owned by Southern Air Transport, a CIA proprietary. Three crew

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> Dangerous Liaison, Andrew and Leslie Cockburn; The Politics of Heroin, Alfred McCoy; Cocaine Politics, Peter Dale Scott and Jonathan Marshall; Everybody Had His Own Gringo, Glenn Garvin.

1986. This was the highly publicized shooting down of the C-123 aircraft with three crewmembers on board, and the survival of one of them: Eugene Hasenfus. Despite instructions for all evidence of CIA involvement to be removed from the aircraft and in the crew's possession, there was much evidence that the arms-carrying flight was a CIA operation.

Nicaraguan authorities put Hasenfus on television, during which he admitted that he was working for the CIA. As U.S. media stopped publicity on that event, other events occurring in Europe and the Middle East focused attention on the Iran segment of Iran-Contra.

An Iranian politician, incensed about his opponent's participation in the Iranian arms deals, distributed thousands of leaflets in Iran exposing these dealings, followed by an article in the Lebanese newspaper *Al Shiraa*. Israeli arms dealers who were taken out of the loop by direct arms sales from U.S. officials to Iran sought to eliminate the American competition, and they caused publicity to be generated.

This combination of publicity forced the U.S. media and Congress to focus on at least the outer fringes of the Iran and Contra affairs. Congress conducted one of their "investigations," and then requested that U.S. Attorney Edwin Meese recommend to the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington appointment of an Independent Counsel (December 1986) to investigate further.

# **Authority for Independent Prosecutor**

Authority for the appointment of an independent prosecutor to investigate misconduct, criminal and treasonous activities of high officials in the executive branch was granted in 1978, following the Watergate affair. Congress passed the Independent Counsel Act, <sup>67</sup> providing for the appointment of an independent prosecutor to investigate crimes by high federal officials, *but exempted themselves from being investigated*. The mechanics of the legislation provided that the Judiciary Committee of either the House or Senate must request the U.S. Attorney General to submit a request to three judges on the Washington, D.C. Court of Appeals for the appointment of an Independent Counsel.

The Attorney General then decides whether to comply with the request. If the Attorney General does submit a request to the three-judge panel, the panel then decides what law firm or lawyer will conduct the investigation. There are several judges on the Washington Court of Ap-

1

members were killed after the plane was hit by a ground-to-air missile. The cargo-pusher, Eugene Hasenfus, whose job was to push the military equipment from the aircraft while airborne, had carried a parachute with him, and parachuted from the falling aircraft. He survived, was captured, and testified to Nicaraguan authorities about his CIA connections.

tions.

67 Legislation was enacted in 1978.

peals who played key roles in October Surprise and the Iran and Contra operations. One of these judges is Lawrence Silberman.

A disadvantage of the Independent Prosecutor is that the lawyer selected may be unqualified and without sufficient experience to conduct a criminal investigation. The lawyer selected to act as Independent Prosecutor may be biased or have hidden interests, and often has profitable ties to the Justice Department, CIA, or other government entity. The lawyer will rarely jeopardize these lucrative ties. The lawyer selected may be a former Justice Department employee still loyal to the mindset of that agency.

### **Limiting the Risks**

Meese made the request, limiting the investigation to determining which of the people who gave testimony to Congress had either lied or withheld evidence. Meese himself was implicated in the Iran and Contra operations and had a vested interest in insuring cover-up of the sordid operation. Court of Appeals judges selected former head of the American Bar Association, Lawrence Walsh, an 80-year-old Oklahoman, to conduct a limited investigation as Independent Counsel. The investigation focused on personnel assigned to the White House, the National Security Council, and the CIA.<sup>68</sup>

Walsh eventually filed charges against many of them. Caspar Weinberger was indicted on June 16, 1992, on charges of obstruction of justice and of Congress, perjury, and false statements to Iran-Contra investigators. Duane Clarridge was indicted on November 26, 1991, on charges of perjury and making false statements to Congress. Oliver North was found guilty on May 4, 1989, of altering and destroying government documents, aiding and abetting, and obstruction of Congress. This case was dismissed on the technicality that he was immune against prosecution on the basis of testimony given to Congress.

Claire George was indicted and found guilty on December 9, 1992, of making false statements and perjury before Congress. Elliott Abrams was indicted and pled guilty on October 7, 1991, to withholding information from Congress. Alan Fiers, Jr., pleaded guilty on July 9, 1991, to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> Among those who were investigated were Caspar Weinberger (Secretary of Defense); George Schultz (Secretary of State); George Bush (Vice President of the United States); Edwin Meese (Attorney General); Donald Regan (White House Chief of Staff); John Poindexter (National Security Advisor); William Casey (CIA Director); Alton Keel (Poindexter's deputy); Robert McFarlane (National Security

Advisor); Elliott Abrams (Assistant Secretary of State); Duane Clarridge (CIA Chief of European operations); Clair E. George (CIA); Alan G. Fiers, Jr. (Head of CIA Central American Task Force); Richard V. Secord (retired Air Force Major General); Thomas G. Clines (CIA contract agent); Joseph F. Fernandez (CIA station chief in Costa Rica); Oliver L. North (Marine Corps officer and staff member of the National Security Council); among others.

withholding information from Congress. Robert McFarlane was indicted and pled guilty on March 11, 1988, to withholding information from Congress. Thomas Clines was charged and found guilty on September 18, 1990, of tax-related crimes and sent to prison.

Richard Secord was charged and pled guilty on November 8, 1989, to making false statements to Congress. Albert Hakim was charged and pled guilty on November 21, 1989, to supplementing the salary of Oliver North. Carl Channell pled guilty on April 29, 1987, to conspiracy to defraud the United States. Richard Miller pled guilty on May 8, 1987, to conspiracy to defraud the United States. John Poindexter was found guilty on April 7, 1990, of conspiracy, obstruction of justice, and making false statements to Congress. Joseph Fernandez was charged but the case dismissed on November 24, 1989, after the CIA refused to turn over documents relevant to his defense.

Vice President George Bush denied any knowledge of the Iran-Contra affair until it was made public in the American mainstream media in December 1986, just as he denied his involvement in October Surprise. My CIA contacts described Bush's heavy involvement in Central America operations in which drug trafficking constituted a major role. Testimony and numerous books describe Bush's long-time involvement in the Central America operations. Felix Rodriguez, known to be involved with the entire sordid operation, reported regularly to Bush in the White House. Many of North's notes referred to the drug trafficking, relying upon the drug profits to fund other elements of the operation.

The large-scale smuggling of arms out of the United States to Central America and return flights loaded with drugs surely were not unknown to Justice Department officials, to the CIA, to Customs, or the Drug Enforcement Agency in the Justice Department. My CIA contacts that were part of the operation detailed how they continued in their CIA-related drug trafficking unmolested.

Secord and others ran a private company selling arms to Iran, making huge profits, which they put into private bank accounts in Europe. My CIA contacts state that many in this same group managed CIA drug trafficking operations in Central America and in the Golden Triangle area. Poindexter was charged with obstructing and conspiring to obstruct justice, and making false statements to Congress. North was convicted of aiding and abetting obstruction of Congress, destroying Secu-

<sup>70</sup> Burma, Laos, Thailand.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> Statements made to the media by Americans and Israelis involved with the operation; highly documented books, including *Honored and Betrayed*, by former Air Force Maj. General Richard Secord; Felix Rodriguez, a former CIA operative, was in frequent telephone contact with Bush, and described these contacts.

rity Council documents and accepting an illegal gift.

Aside from the cover-up of the sordid aspects of the so-called Iran-Contra affair there are some contradictions to the prosecution of these people, arising out of their withholding of information from Congress and false statements. For example:

- Members of Congress have engaged in cover-ups, obstruction of justice, falsification of hearing records, and other crimes for years.
- Members of Congress have obstructed the reporting of federal crimes involving key federal officials and covert government operations as a standard practice. I repeatedly petitioned Congress to introduce my testimony and evidence and that of our group of CIA and DEA whistleblowers.
- Members of Congress routinely cover up for serious crimes discovered during closed-door hearings and then issue reports omitting the criminal and even treasonous misconduct established by the testimony of insiders.

# **Criminal Cover-Up by Independent Prosecutor**

Walsh spent over \$40 million focusing on the relatively minor issues of who knew about the arms for hostages and who withheld information from Congress. Walsh focused for six years on these trivial issues, while covering up for the hard-core drug trafficking into the United States as part of the Contra operation. He also covered up for the genesis of Iran-Contra: the October Surprise scandal. Walsh committed acts far more serious than the people he charged with federal crimes. He covered up for treasonous and criminal activities.

In early 1992, I mailed several petitions to Independent Prosecutor Lawrence Walsh including transcripts of sworn declarations by some of the CIA and DEA whistleblowers, requesting that he receive our testimony and evidence, which he was required to receive as a matter of law. He never answered.

The petition and declarations exposed corrupt activities by federal officials including the Iran and Contra operations, October Surprise, CIA and DEA drug smuggling, looting of savings and loans, Chapter 11 corruption, and the criminal activities in the federal courts where he was once a federal judge and federal prosecutor. He ignored it all, covering up for crimes against America.

### **Presidential Pardons**

Casper Weinberger, former Defense Secretary, was scheduled to stand trial in January 1993 on charges of perjury, making false statements to Congress, and obstructing Congressional investigators. His testimony would implicate President George Bush and other high federal officials. Shortly before the trial was to start, Bush executed a Christmas Eve par-

don for Weinberger, forestalling that risk. He also pardoned Duane Clarridge; Clair George; Robert McFarlane; Elliott Abrams; and Alan Fiers, Jr

# **Repercussions if Pardons Not Issued**

If Bush had not issued these pardons, the danger existed that the sordid parts of the Contra operation would surface, including the drug trafficking into the United States. Further, former President Ronald Reagan's involvement would probably have surfaced.

After Bush issued his pardon, I sent another certified letter and petition to Walsh, again putting him on notice of the criminal activities associated with the Contra operation, attaching copies of secret government documents supporting some of the charges.

I should have saved my time; many state and federal investigators sent boxes of evidence to Walsh showing crimes far worse than those that he identified and prosecuted. He was simply repeated the practice of prior independent prosecutors in addressing only the minor issues and insuring that the hard-core criminal activities involving high-level government figures remain hidden. IRS investigators, and state investigators in Arkansas, sent boxes of evidence to Walsh proving that the Iran-Contra figures were involved in criminal and subversive activities against the United States.

The following is a copy of part of the petition that I sent to Walsh:

December 27, 1992

Mr. Lawrence Walsh, Independent Prosecutor Office of Independent Counsel, Suite 701 West 555 Thirteenth Street, NW Washington, DC 20004 Certified: P 888 324 857

Dear Mr. Walsh:

This letter and the enclosures address the Iran-Contra affair that you were hired and paid to investigate. I had several times offered to present evidence to you concerning the hard-core criminal acts associated with Iran-Contra, and you refused to receive the evidence. In your investigation you chose to limit your investigation, similar to limiting the investigation of Murder Incorporated to parking ticket violations.

While you deserve credit for objecting to President Bush's pardons, you share blame for cover up of the serious Iran-Contra violations of federal law, the arms and drug trafficking into and out of the United States by the network, and of the treasonous and subversive October Surprise operations which you chose to cover up, and which were the genesis of Iran-Contra.

This letter, and the attachments, again puts you on notice and under federal

criminal statutes and constitutional right to petition government, demands that you receive the testimony and evidence of myself and the parties who have knowledge of the criminal activities of which Iran-Contra and October Surprise are only a part. (I won't hold my breath waiting for you to meet your duty.)

The enclosed documents include Secret Service agent reports as received by the CIA, prior to their alterations to accommodate the cover-up. The information that I have is that the Secret Service reports were routed through deep-cover CIA officer Gunther Russbacher, who then placed the initials of one of his CIA-provided aliases on many of them: RAW, standing for Robert Andrew Walker, who also operated a number of cover CIA financial proprietaries.

The documents not only support the charges that October Surprise did in fact occur, but also provide information on the Iran-Contra affair.

### Significance of Dates on the Secret Service Reports

The correct dates and aircraft have great significance:

- 1. If Bush arrived by aircraft at Washington National Airport on Sunday, October 19, 1980, it would indicate Secret Service personnel lied (as well as George Bush) when reporting that Bush never left the Washington area on the December 19, 1980 weekend. (Wouldn't the false statements also be shown by an October 18, 1980, arrival by aircraft in the Washington area?)
- 2. If Bush arrived via a United Arab Emirates BAC 111, and several CIA operatives and contract agents testified (and declared in sworn declarations) that Bush and others departed Washington for Paris in a UAE BAC 111 on October 18, 1980, it appears that Bush returned to Washington on the same aircraft.
- 3. It would indicate that the several dozen people who testified before Congress and in federal court; CIA operative Gunther Russbacher who made sworn declarations that I have in my possession; and those who described to investigative journalists and book authors particulars of the October Surprise operation, were truthful about the October Surprise operation.
- 4. If the hard-core October Surprise conspiracy and its implications were exposed to the public, the consequences would be endless. Other criminal activities arising from the operation would surface. The felony persecution of whistle-blowers and informants would be exposed, as well as the perennial cover-up and obstruction of justice by members of Congress. Key personnel in all three branches of government would be shown implicated in the October Surprise and related criminal enterprises, culminating in a political disaster of unknown consequences.

#### **Determining the Validity of the Disputed Reports**

It is very important to the United States to determine the truth in this matter. A cover-up will simply escalate the criminal mindset that has escalated in the federal government. Numerous people have copies of the Secret Service reports that I sent to you, showing George Bush arriving at Washington National Airport on the evening of October 19, 1980 in a UAE BAC 111. These reports have the initials, RAW, in the upper right hand corner.

My investigation indicates that the initials "RAW" stand for Robert Andrew Walker, an alias provided by the CIA to Gunther Russbacher, reportedly a deep-cover CIA and Office of Naval Intelligence officer. I recently questioned Russ-

bacher about these reports, whether the initials were his, and whether the October 19, 1980 dates and the United Arab Emirates BAC 111 information were the same as when he first initialed the reports. He confirmed that the facts on my reports are the same as when the reports came to him.

Russbacher stated that he placed the initials, RAW, in the upper right hand corner of the Secret Service reports when the reports came to him at the Central Intelligence Agency at Langley, Virginia. Apparently the reason the reports came to him was that he was present at several activities related to the October Surprise operation. I have previously sent to Congressman Hamilton partial transcripts of Russbacher's sworn declarations describing the October Surprise activities in which he participated.

If Secret Service agents were on board that flight, then it would indicate further that a coup against the United States did take place, and that the Secret Service (and many others) are now trying to deny that fact. The only way to establish which Secret Service reports are correct and which are forgeries is to have Russbacher testify in open hearings before the Senate October Surprise committee. Russbacher has advised me that he is willing to testify how and when he received these Secret Service reports; that the October 19, 1980 date was on these reports when he first saw them at the CIA; and the role that he played in the October Surprise operation.

If the hearings are closed to the public, then the usual Congressional coverup will prevail. If you remember, I'm a former federal investigator who is well familiar with the pattern of cover-up, obstruction of justice, altering documents and reports. I have reported these crimes for years, with the felony cover-ups escalating in frequency and severity. Based upon my knowledge over the past thirty years, lying, perjury, obstruction of justice, are routine practices by many in federal government. I describe these acts in my various books and in prior federal court filings.

#### **Russbacher's Credibility**

Russbacher's credibility has been established to my satisfaction, and can be established in numerous ways:

- He has given me many hours of sworn declarations in deposition-like questioning relating to the specific October Surprise operation in which he was ordered to participate by his superiors (in addition to other CIA operations that have inflicted great harms upon the United States). During the past two years I have questioned Gunther Russbacher extensively, during a minimum of 200 hours of deposition-like questioning, uncovering facts supporting the criminal activities against the United States.
- Russbacher has tried to give testimony to Congress concerning some of his CIA activities, including the October Surprise operation, and is willing to do so at this time. These efforts have and are being made with full recognition that if he commits perjury the present Justice Department staff and the past three U.S. Attorney generals (all of whom are implicated in the crimes) would promptly charge him with criminal perjury. The Senate and House October Surprise committees had a duty to obtain his testimony, rather than fabricate excuses for not doing so.

- The tone, the conditions under which Russbacher gave me the sworn declarations, and the specifics in these declarations, strongly suggests the truthfulness of these sworn statements. The sworn declarations contain data on the October Surprise activities that have never before been exposed. The declarations coincide with facts that came out a year and two years later, including those in Gary Sick's October Surprise and Ari Ben-Menashe's Profits of War.
- Locations of meetings that have never before been exposed. Ari Ben-Menashe confirmed the meeting site when I told him of the meeting in Barcelona at both a hotel and the PepsiCo International Headquarters building. It is my belief that most if not all of Russbacher's statements and sworn declarations made during the past two years are true, and coincide with statements made to me by Ari Ben-Menashe and by numerous investigative journalists and authors.

# Federal Crimes Against U.S. Reported By Russbacher

In numerous deposition-like sessions, Gunther Russbacher had declared under oath the following activities related to the October Surprise operation (and much more):

- Description of several of the secret October Surprise meetings by a deepcover CIA officer who was present, including the key Barcelona meetings that have not been publicized before. When I made reference to the PepsiCo meeting site it refreshed the memory of Ben-Menashe and he confirmed the meeting site.
- The people who were on board the flight to Paris on the October 19, 1980 weekend were identified as including four or five Secret Service agents, <sup>71</sup> George Bush, William Casey, Donald Gregg, Robert McFarlane, and others. <sup>72</sup> If Secret Service agents were on board that flight, as Russbacher's sworn declarations state, it would be understandable that Treasury Department officials are desperately trying to discredit the Secret Service reports allegedly received at the CIA showing that Bush flew into Washington National Airport on Sunday evening, when he and the Secret Service claim he never left the Washington area.

#### Prima Facie Evidence Of October Surprise Operation

- Specific statements by dozens of witnesses interviewed by investigative journalists and authors, detailing segments of the October Surprise operation, who have nothing to gain by their statements.
- Testimony given to the House and Senate October Surprise committees by people who were in a position to know; who had nothing to gain; and who risk prison through criminal perjury charges if the testimony was false.

The other passengers reportedly on the BAC 111 to Paris included, among others, Senators John Tower (Iran-Contra cover-up chairman); John Heinz; Congressman Dan Rector level in John Fitzgers 14.

Rostenkowski; Jennifer Fitzgerald.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> If Secret Service agents were actually on board that flight, the coup against the United States takes on wider dimensions, explaining the discrepancy between the Secret Service reports showing Bush flying into Washington National Airport on the evening of October 19, 1980, in contradiction to Bush's arrival the night before.

- Refusal by certain individuals to deny their role in the October Surprise operation when I questioned them in writing. These people and firms include PepsiCo International Corporation; PepsiCo official Peter Van Tyne; Pierre Salinger, who has copies of the French Secret Service report of the Paris October 19, 1980 meetings; French President Francois Mitterrand, who refused to provide copies of the French Secret Service reports; refusal of members of Congress to receive testimony and evidence offered by me in petitions, relating to the multiple criminal activities.
- Outright misstatement of facts by the House and Senate October Surprise committees, and using phony reasons to discredit people testifying to what they saw.
- Obstructing a thorough investigation by members of Congress, Justice Department officials, U.S. Attorney generals, including threatening and prosecuting informants.

#### Pattern of Cover-Up

- Pattern of felony persecution<sup>73</sup> of informants and whistleblowers by corrupt Justice Department prosecutors and federal judges, as felony retaliation is inflicted upon people offering testimony. The pattern of felony retaliation by a conspiracy of federal prosecutors and federal judges have been inflicted upon:
- CIA contract agent Richard Brenneke, charged with perjury when he testified to his role in the October Surprise operation and having seen George Bush and Donald Gregg at the Paris meetings.
- CIA contract agent Michael Riconosciuto, threatened by Justice Department
  officials if he testified before Congress concerning the Inslaw corruption
  and October Surprise. The threats were then carried out against him and his
  wife, as threatened. Importing a CIA prosecutor specifically for the purpose,
  Justice Department personnel prosecuted Riconosciuto and caused him imprisonment. As warned by Justice Department official Videnieks, Riconos-

<sup>73</sup> Title 18 U.S.C. § 1512. Tampering with a witness, victim, or an informant—

<sup>(</sup>b) Whoever knowingly uses intimidation or physical force, or threatens another person, or attempts to do so, or engages in misleading conduct toward another person, with intent to—

<sup>(1)</sup> influence, delay or prevent the testimony of any person in an official proceeding:

shall be fined...or imprisoned...or both. [1988 amended reading].

Title 18 U.S.C. § 1513. Retaliating against a witness, victim, or an informant. (a) Whoever knowingly engages in any conduct and thereby causes bodily injury to another person or damages the tangible property of another person, or threatens to do so, with intent to retaliate against any person for—(1) the attendance of a witness or party at an official proceeding, or any testimony given or any record, document, or other object produced by a witness in an official proceeding; or (2) any information relating to the commission or possible commission of a Federal offense....

Title 18 U.S.C. § 241. Conspiracy against rights of citizens. If two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having so exercised the same;...They shall be fined...or imprisoned...or both.

ciuto's wife lost custody of her three children and she was imprisoned for removing them to a safer location.

- CIA operative Gunther Russbacher, falsely charged with money offenses while operating covert CIA financial proprietaries and given 21 years in prison for a \$20,000 offense in which no monetary loss was suffered by anyone, in which he pleaded nolo contender, and in which there was never a trial; 18 months in prison for [misuse of government purchase orders while a CIA operative.] Arrested at Castle Air Force Base for allegedly impersonating a Naval Officer, after debriefing his CIA superiors concerning a secret flight of SR-71s to Moscow on July 26, 1990.
- Informant and whistleblower Rodney Stich, repeatedly threatened and imprisoned since mid-1987, as corrupt federal judges<sup>74</sup> and Justice Department prosecutors retaliated against me for filing federal actions reporting the federal crimes (in which their group and they were implicated).
- Ari Ben-Menashe, high-ranking officer in the Mossad, possessing information concerning the October Surprise operation and other corrupt acts against the United States in which present federal officials were implicated. He was falsely charged by Justice Department officials in an attempt to silence and discredit him.

The criminal mindset of those now in control of the Justice Department, and in control of the federal judiciary, is reflected by these repeated prison sentences inflicted upon informants and whistleblowers, in retaliation for reporting the criminal activities previously brought to your attention, to Congressman Hamilton's attention, and to every senator in the U.S. Senate. Since 1987, and continuing at this very moment,<sup>75</sup> corrupt federal judges and Justice Department prosecutors are threatening to put me in federal prison in retaliation for filing a federal action reporting certain segments of the criminal activities that I have repeatedly brought to the attention of your committee and others via petitions.

#### My Credibility

My findings and determinations have considerable credibility:

- Former federal investigator holding federal authority to make such determinations, possessing evidence supporting many of my charges, including judicial records which establish the felony persecution of informants and victims by Justice Department prosecutors and federal judges.
- Private investigator for many years expanding my investigations into other and related areas of criminal activities against the United States and its citizens.
- Author of several books exposing government corruption through specific examples, based upon hard evidence and judicial records, having devoted thousands of hours and many years of investigations to this cause.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>74</sup> Including District court judges David Levi; Milton Schwartz; Raul Ramirez; Garcia; Marilyn Patel; Samuel Conti; the entire Ninth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals; Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court who knew and aided and abetted the corrupt and criminal acts of the judges over whom they have supervisory responsibilities and duty to act.
<sup>75</sup> U.S. District Court, N.D. Cal. Nr. 90-0636 VRW.

- Victim of the criminal activities seeking to obstruct justice, as rogue Justice Department personnel, federal judges, cooperating law firms and lawyers, targeted me for the past decade, misusing the judicial process, blocking my reporting of the crimes, and retaliating against me for exposing the criminal activities of which they were a part. These crimes were committed while a majority of the U.S. Senate and House withheld their duty to act, and thereby became accomplices.
- Statements and sworn declarations given to me by deep-cover CIA operatives and contract agents, describing the pattern of criminal activities that I have made reference to in prior petitions to members of Congress and which I have entered into judicial proceedings.
- Over 1,800 radio and television appearances since 1978, in which my reports of corruption have been given major credibility.
- Judicial records confirm many of my charges, especially relating to criminal
  acts related to a series of airline crashes; the pattern of corruption in Chapter
  11 courts; the pattern of felony cover-up and felony persecution of informants by Justice Department personnel and federal judges.

### **Obstructing Justice And Misstating the Facts**

Federal crime reporting statutes make it a federal offense if any person, knowing of a federal crime, does not promptly report it. <sup>76</sup> Justice Department personnel and federal judges have perverted this requirement by retaliating against informants, whistleblowers and victims who seek to report aspects of these various criminal activities.

It is a federal crime if anyone retaliates against an informant or victim, as Justice Department prosecutors and federal judges have done. It is a federal crime for a federal officer, such as a member of Congress or a Congressional committee, to refuse to receive evidence offered by an informant or victim.

- It is a federal crime to refuse to provide relief to an informant or victim who
  is suffering such retaliation, especially when the retaliation is perpetrated by
  a federal employee and agency over whom members of Congress have
  oversight responsibilities.
- It is a federal crime to misstate the facts in a federal report, and this includes Congressional committees, and that includes the House and Senate October Surprise Committees. As a former federal investigator, it is obvious that these Committees are engaging in a felony cover-up, withholding of evidence, misstating the evidence.

### **Determination Of Which Secret Service Report Is Correct**

As part of the long-time effort to expose the escalating pattern of criminal activities against the United States by corrupt federal officials, I have repeatedly discovered federal officials falsifying documents, covering up for documents, misstating the facts, showing that perjury by federal personnel and falsified fed-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> Title 18 U.S.C. § 4 (misprision of felony). Whoever, having knowledge of the actual commission of a felony cognizable by a court of the United States, conceals and does not as soon as possible make known the same to some judge or other person in civil or military authority under the United States, shall be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.

eral documents are normal cover-up tactics. In evaluating whether Congressmen Hamilton's copy of the Secret Service reports, or my CIA related Secret Service reports, are accurate, the following actions should be taken:

- Obtain the testimony of Gunther Russbacher concerning these reports, in open hearings, and giving the media access to him before and after his testimony.
- Allow the CIA operatives to testify, 77 and compare their testimony, as it relates to October Surprise and peripheral activities.
- Obtain the sworn testimony of the Secret Service agents who were with Bush from October 18 through October 20, 1980, in open hearings, making it clear that the Justice Department (in the next administration) and an independent prosecutor (if the statute is renewed) will prosecute for criminal perjury if the statements are false.
- Consider the overwhelming pressures upon Secret Service agents (and others), to lie, concerning their observation of Bush's activities from October 18, 1980 to October 20, 1980, and their knowledge of the October 19, 1980 report date.
- Obtain CIA records and testimony relating to the routing of the Secret Service report that Russbacher initialed.

### **Obstruction Of Justice By House "Investigative" Committee**

It is my evaluation that Congressman Hamilton's October Surprise Committee will continue to cover up and obstruct justice in relation to the October Surprise matter:

- Agent Pedersen, on loan from the Treasury Department, seeks to protect the Secret Service's involvement in the October Surprise operation.
- Credible witnesses such as former Mossad staff officer Ari Ben-Menashe, CIA contract agents Richard Brenneke and Michael Riconosciuto, who testified under risk of criminal perjury charges, were dismissed by simply calling them not creditable, and giving sham reasons that only a gullible public could swallow.
- Credible deep-cover CIA whistleblowers, such as Gunther Russbacher, are
  not given the opportunity to testify, eliminating one of the primary sources
  of establishing the existence of the October Surprise operation and its many
  tentacles.
- Conducting closed hearings to prevent the public discovering the crimes against the United States on the basis of testimony offered, or the refusal to ask questions that would result in the answers establishing the crimes. This is a standard Congressional tactic of many years.
- Aiding and abetting the felony persecution of informants by corrupt Justice
  Department officials and federal judges, as a part of the pattern of felony
  obstruction of justice by Congressional "investigative" committees.
- Refusing to receive testimony and evidence relating to the petition that I submitted, including the declarations of Russbacher and myself, describing the criminal activities that both of us discovered while we were federal em-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>77</sup> Gunther Russbacher; Michael Riconosciuto; Richard Brenneke.

ployees.

### Cover-Up By Senate "Investigative" Committee

As a former federal investigator my evaluation of the November 19, 1992 Senate October Surprise report is that it is a blatant and felonious cover-up, misstating the facts, omitting key facts, refusing to have key witnesses testify, for the purpose of cover up and of course, obstructing justice.

The report discredits the many witnesses who testified to what they witnessed in their participation in the October Surprise operation. They had nothing to gain by their testimony and risked imprisonment on charges of perjury. Many knew the fate of Richard Brenneke and Michael Riconosciuto when they testified, and yet they had the courage to come forward. Deep-cover CIA officer Gunther Russbacher is suffering greatly from his attempts to report the great crimes committed against the United States in the October Surprise and other criminal activities.

I have been stripped of my multi-million dollar assets and have been subjected repeatedly, and at this time, to criminal contempt of court in retaliation for seeking to report the crimes that you cover-up, and for seeking relief from the great harms inflicted upon me by criminal misuse of the agencies over which you have oversight responsibilities. These criminal acts and outrages reflect the subversive activities rampant in the United States and made possible by your cover-up.

My book describes the felony cover-up by members of Congress, Justice Department personnel, others, including Independent Prosecutor Walsh, and describes the criminal aiding and abetting of activities that are destroying the United States form of government from within.

#### **Responsibilities Of Members Of The Committee**

- Obtain Russbacher's testimony in open hearings. He has repeatedly stated, and reconfirmed it today, December 26, 1992, that he is ready to testify concerning:
- The CIA origin of the Secret Service reports that I mailed to Congressman Hamilton.
- The specific details of the October Surprise operation in which Russbacher was ordered to participate by his CIA superiors, including meetings in Barcelona and Paris; the shipment of arms after the Barcelona meetings; where the arms were obtained; how they were shipped; names of people involved in the shipping of the arms; names of those on the BAC 111 to Paris on the October 19, 1980 weekend.
- With immunity, he would be willing to testify to other activities in which he was ordered to participate, that have inflicted great harms upon the United States. These activities include looting of financial institutions (many of the participants still escape prosecution because of CIA and Justice Department involvement, and especially in the Denver area, involving the many financial institutions related to Metropolitan Development Corporation); CIA drug trafficking in the United States (and the cover-up of these activities at Mena, Arkansas, by president-elect Bill Clinton); the CIA role in the BCCI banking scandal; and others.

- Obtain my testimony and evidence in open hearings, relating to the direct and indirect knowledge that I have of these criminal activities.
- Obtain the testimony of other CIA operatives, whose testimony would reinforce that of other informants.
- Include as part of your "investigation" the contents of my manuscript which shows the intricate relationship between the various criminal activities.

This is a request that you include in the final report of your October Surprise "investigation" the comments made in this and earlier letters.

Sincerely,

#### Rodney Stich

#### Enclosures:

October 3, 1980 CIA: "Proposal to Exchange Spare Parts With Hostages." October 9, 1980 Department of State: "Approach on Iranian Spares." October 21, 1980 Department of State: "Talk with Mitch Regovin." October 29, 1980: "Two Related Items on Iranian Military supply." October 1980 Secret Service reports: Bush's security detail. June 3, 1983(?) CIA: Release of Hostages. July 5, 1985: "New Developments on Channel to Iran." August 19, 1985: "Status of Hashemi-Elliot Richardson Contact."

# Continuing Cover-Up and Public Relations "Investigation"

Walsh refused to receive my testimony and evidence, and that offered by Gunther Russbacher. He also refused to act, or even make reference to boxes of documents sent to him by Arkansas and congressional investigators proving the existence of massive drug trafficking into the United States as part of the Contra operation.

# Silencing the Christic Institute

The public-service-oriented Christic Institute based in Washington, D.C., investigated the atrocities associated with CIA activities in Central America and filed a federal lawsuit against White House officials who were implicated. Their complaint stated numerous federal causes of actions invoking mandatory federal court jurisdiction. But the Christic Institute encountered the same judicial obstruction of justice that I had encountered, and similar retaliatory actions.

The U.S. District Judge unlawfully dismissed the case and then ordered the Christic Institute to pay one million dollars damages for having exercised their constitutional and statutory right to file the action and report the criminal activities. The Christic Institute filed an appeal and was ordered to pay additional sanctions for exercising that right. The Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court approved this judicial misconduct by refusing to provide relief, just as the Supreme Court Justices had done to me.

### **Eliminating the Independent Prosecutor**

Toward the end of 1992, as the number of crimes directly involving federal officials escalated to an unprecedented number threatening Justice Department and White House officials, as well as members of Congress, the Independent Prosecutor authority was allowed to expire. Congress refused to renew it. Republicans were under great threat of exposure from a decade-long pattern of corruption and they threatened to filibuster if a vote was taken to renew the legislation. Democrats were also threatened for their role in numerous scandals and didn't press the matter. Further, the legislation carried a provision that an independent prosecutor could also investigate members of Congress.

# Final Report by Independent Prosecutor Walsh

The final report by Independent Prosecutor Walsh was sent on August 5, 1993, to a special tribunal of the federal appeals court in Washington, D.C. Copies of the report were sent to the parties named in the report with an opportunity to object. The special tribunal, headed by Judge David B. Sentelle, gave these parties until December 3, 1993, to raise objections to Walsh's findings.

Walsh's report, avoiding the ugly nature of the ongoing criminality, did identify some of the parties. The report stated that President Reagan, former Attorney General Edwin Meese, and former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger engaged in a "broad conspiracy" to conceal the criminal activities.

Walsh avoided revealing to the American people the ugly side of the Iran-Contra affair, including the massive drug trafficking into the United States by U.S. intelligence agencies and the Mossad. The CIA-DEA drug smuggling into the United States has greatly contributed to the worst crime wave America has ever experienced.

# **Documentation Relating to Operation Magg Pie**

The secret, unlawful arms-for-hostages conspiracy carried the codename Operation Magg Pie. One CIA document dated May 20, 1986, signed by CIA Director Bill Casey, and related to a flight from Tel Aviv to Teheran that received considerable Congressional attention. This was the flight carrying a cake and dueling pistols for Iranian officials. A key reference was to the two pilots who would fly the plane from Israel's Ben-Gurion Airport to Teheran. These two pilots were John Robert Segal (CIA) and Gunther Karl Russbacher (ONI). The memorandum, written six months before the U.S. press publicized the Iran-Contra activities,

showed George Bush as receiving a copy. Bush repeatedly denied knowing anything about the arms-for-hostages until after the November 1986 media publicity.

Another document from the National Security Agency dated May 30, 1986, relating to Operation Magg Pie, written by Oliver North to Admiral John Poindexter, NSA, showed Vice President George Bush being advised of the operation.

Still another document, this one from the Israeli government, identified Gunther Russbacher as one of the pilots on Operation Magg Pie. The Israeli letter listed the names of U.S. personnel who were at Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion Airport in May 1986.

There was also the record from Offutt Air Force Base at Omaha, Nebraska describing Russbacher's stay at that high-security base, listing him as captain in the U.S. Navy and showing the authorizing government agency as CincPac, along with his serial number, 441 40 1417.

Members of Congress who stated Russbacher was a phony knew almost all these documents, showing Russbacher as a key officer with the Office of Naval Intelligence. The prosecutors and officials in the U.S. Department of Justice, who continued to prosecute Russbacher, knew of them. I brought them to the attention of state officials in Missouri who had caused Russbacher's imprisonment on the sham charge that he was impersonating a naval officer. The establishment press knew about the documents and maintained their usual duplicity of silence.



Russbacher in France, 2003, prior to his death on August 10, 2005

The August 22, 1985, document from National Security Agency's John Poindexter to Robert McFarlane refers to the sale of missiles to Iran. Gunther Russbacher and Robert Hunt, two of my contacts, are named in the document.



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

August 22, 1985

Robert C. McFarlane National Security Advisor Old Executive Office Bldg. Rm. 306 Washington, D.C. 20506

CONFIDENTIAL

Re: MAGG PIE

Dear Mr. McFarlane:

The first transaction on August 17, 1985 involved the sale of 100 Tow missiles. In return for the release of an undetermined number of United States citizens held hostage in Lebanon. The missiles were to be provided from the weapons stock of the Israeli Defense Forces.

We have agreed to replenish the Israeli weapons stock after the transaction with Iran is completed.

As of August 20, 1985, our DC-8 transport aircraft, piloted by Gunther K. Russbacher (ONI) and John R. Segal (CIA), along with Robert Hunt (ONI), Oliver North (NSC) and George Cave (CIA), flew from Israel to Iran loaded with 96 TOW missiles. (Rather than the agreed upon 100).

Contrary to the agreement as you know, none of the hostages were released.

Manucher Ghorbanifer contended that the TOWS were mistakenly delivered to the commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard rather than to the Iranian faction for whom they were intended.

Please respond to any clarifications.

John Fornolder John M. Poindexter Deputy Director National Security Council

cc: V-P Bush William Casey The September 20, 1985, document describes the arms-for-hostages scheme showing Israeli involvement, and identifying as ONI personnel Gunther Russbacher and Robert Hunt, and informing Vice President Bush of the scheme.



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-8000

September 20, 1985

Robert C. McFarlane National Security Advisor Old Executive Office Bldg. Rm. 306 Washington, D.C. 20506

CONFIDENTIAL

Re: MAGG PIE

Dear Mr. McFarlane:

Despite the failure of the first arms transaction, the Iran Initiative was continued. Our negotiators agreed, the United States, through Israel, would provide Iran with 400 TOW missiles. In return, the Iranians would arrange for the release of any U.S. hostage, except for Buckley.

The transaction was to take place in the same manner as the first. Israel would provide the missiles and the U.S. would later replenish the Israeli supply.

Lt. Col. Oliver North and Ltjg. Robert Hunt, on staff to the National Security Council, who in their official capacity were to make the necessary arrangement to receive any hostages who might be released.

On September 15, 1985, a DC-8, piloted by Gunther K. Russbacher (ONI) and John R. Segal (CIA) along with Oliver North (NSC) and Robert Hunt (ONI), Howard Teicher (CIA), flew to Tabriz, Iran, loaded with 408 TOWS. ON the same day, American hostage Benjamin Weir was released in Beirut on information and belief this transaction was effected to demonstrate the ability of the negotiators on each side to deliver by providing TOW missiles and releasing a hostage respectively.

On September 17, 1985, Manucher Ghorbanifer paid \$290,000 to the Israeli intermediary to cover the costs of transporting the TOWS. The following day, Iran paid \$5 million into Ghorbanifer's Swiss bank account at Credit Swiss, No. 913-216-83-7.

Any further clarifications or changes should be acknowledged.

John M. Poindexter Deputy Director

National Security Council

CC: V-P BUSH WILLIAM CASEY

JMP/sv

May 20, 1986, document from CIA Director Casey to Admiral Poindexter, listing the names of intelligence personnel involved in the arms-for-hostages scheme, including Gunther Russbacher, and showing copy sent to Vice President George Bush.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# memorandum

DATE:

20 May 1986

Bill Casey HO. CIA.

SUBJECT:

Russbacher Karl Gunther CNI. Segal Robert John CIA.

TO:

John Poindexter NSA. RE. Operation MAGG PIE.

Please be advised these men will meet with agents Robert Funt CNI. Bud McParlane NSA. Oliver North NSA. George Cave CIA. and Howard Teicher also CIA. They will give complete briefing at TelAviv Ben Gurion airport. Pilot selection is now finale. If you have any questions please call me soon. We leave Sunday the 25. Im keeping my fingers crossed.

CC. VP. Bush

May 22, 1986, document from Poindexter (NSA) to CIA Director William Casey describing receipt of money from the sale of missiles to Iran, the profits, and the deposit of funds by Oliver North (NSC) into a private bank account.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

DATE: 22 May, 1986

ATTN OF. John M. Poindexter (NSA)

BUBJECT: MAGG PIE PROFS: 31305B 89

To William J. Casey, Hq. CIA

Bill:

This is a note for the funds that Oliver North (NSC) and Robert Hunt (ONI) have worked out on behalf of the Iranians to deposit \$15 million into an Enterprise bank account, and an additional deposit of \$1.46 million was made to the Enterprise account to cover 508 additional TOWS which were to be provided to Israel as replenishment for the previous Israeli TOW shipments.

Of the approximate \$16.5 million, the Enterprise received for this hardware, the agents caused only \$6.5 million to be paid to the United States to cover the cost of the HAWK spares parts and the 508 TOWS, leaving a profit for the Enterprise of almost \$10 million. If you have any questions, please call me at the executive office building.

Yours truly John Foinderter John Poindexter

cc: V-P Bush O. North

May 27, 1986, document to Bill Casey from John Poindexter listing the bank account number of a CIA proprietary, and showing money expended for arms. Also listed were some of the author's contacts. Further, the document shows Vice President George Bush being kept informed of the operation. (Bush repeatedly denied knowledge of the unlawful scheme, becoming an accomplice to the felony acts.)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

DATE: 27 May, 1986

ATTN OF: Mr. John M. Poindexter, NSA

SUBJECT: MAGG PIE PROFS: 31305B 90

To: William J. Casey, Hq. CIA

Bi11:

. Several days after the last of Khashoggi's payment was deposited in Lake Resources account - number 386-430-22-1, Agents Robert Hunt (ONI) and Oliver North (NSC) worked on Albon Valves - a shell company for additional funding. They deposited \$26,490 to an account named "Korel." Four days later. Hyde Park Square, another account dispensed \$200,000 as capital for the Button Account set up for Robert Hunt, Oliver North, George Cave, Howart Teicher, Gunther Russbacher and John Segal and their families. We considered the personal benefits of these agents. These accounts must be kept confidential for security

Yours truly,

Solin Poindexter

John Poindexter

cc: VP Bush O. North

## 132 Iraq, Blowback, Lies, and Cover-Ups

May 30, 1986, document from Oliver North to Admiral Poindexter, showing Gunther Russbacher to be a part of ONI, with copy to George Bush. Significance is that Vice-President George Bush was not telling the truth when he denied knowledge of the arms-for-hostages actions.

united states government memorandum

DATE: 30 May, 1986

ATTHOR: Oliver L. North NSA.

SUBJECT: MAGG PIE. PROFS: 31305B86

To: John M. Poindexter. NSA.

Admiral

Their has been a problem in negotiations in Tehran. Manucher Ghorbanifar had assured us that we would be meeting with Hashemi Rafsanjani and president Ali khamenei on this trip. Instead we met with Dr. No. and the Australian. During this meeting we were told that our pilots Russbacher Gunther Karl and Segal John Robert were being brought to our hotel. Agents Hunt Robert and Cave George had spoken to Robert McFarlane and had decided to cancel negotiations due to security and nature of this trip. Please get back to me on this as soon as possible. I will call you in the morning.

Semper Fidelis,

Oliver L. No:

VP. G. BUSII CIA. W. Casey

\_\_ CC:

June 16, 1986, letter from Vice President George Bush to John Poindexter referring to the arms-for-hostages scheme. Both Ronald Reagan and George Bush are shown as being sent a copy of this document. Reagan and Bush repeatedly stated they knew nothing about the arms-for-hostages scheme until after the November 1'986 downing of a CIA aircraft in Nicaragua. This lying and the many others that followed in that and other administrations were many times worse than Richard Nixon's after-the-fact cover-up of a two-bit burglary.



#### OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON

June 16, 1986

Mr. John M. Poindexter National Security Advisor Old Executive Office Building Washongton, D.C. 20506

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Admiral Poindexter:

I would like to take this time to offer my gratitude and appreciation for your hard work and assistance in Operation MAGG PIE.

Your negotiations on our behalf have proven to be quite effective in obtaining the release of United States Citizens held hostage in Lebanon.

I would like you to personally thank Robert McFarlane for his willingness, daring and efforts in meeting with Iranian factions.

I would also like you to thank the Staff of the National Security Council, including Agents, Lt. Col. Oliver North (USMC), and Lt. Robert Hunt (USN) for their dangerous assistance and diligence, without which Operation MAGG PIE would never have been successful.

Finally, you must offer my gratitude to the C.I.A. and their Agents, George Cave, Howard Teicher, John Segal and Gunther Russbacher. These men are dedicated and blessed with the gift of courage. They to truely believe in the pursuit of freedom for all mankind. May God bless you all.

Crorge Bush

GR/fr

cc: R. Reagan W. Casey

## **Significance of the Government Documents**

Watergate has been cited as one of the biggest scandals in the United States government by the CIA-protective *Washington Post* and members of Congress. But Watergate was a two-bit burglary by CIA and White House personnel, which President Richard Nixon sought to cover up after learning about it. It took months and months of drum beating by the *Washington Post* and related hyperbole as to its seriousness to bring down a president who was hostile to the CIA. Either the Iran or the Contra portions of the Iran-Contra scandal were many times more serious than the Watergate affair.

Not only did Ronald Reagan and George Bush cover up for these criminal activities but they participated in them as the operations developed (unlike Watergate where Nixon did not learn about the break-in until after the fact). Tens of thousands of people died as a result of the U.S. arming of Iran. The Contra operation included CIA-funded assassination squads intruding into the affairs of a foreign country and massive drug trafficking into the United States. Where were the *Washington Post* and the many other newspapers that exaggerated the Watergate affair? Where were members of Congress who piously condemned President Nixon? They were engaging in felony cover-up and obstruction of justice, and the public has paid and is still paying the price for the crimes of their leaders.

## **Stealing Aircraft**

One of the little-known criminal activities involved with the arms and drug trafficking aspect of Iran-Contra was the theft of single and twin-engine general aviation aircraft. After the aircraft were stolen the registration numbers would be altered and then would be used for hauling arms to Central America and drugs on the return trips.

Gunther Russbacher had first told me about this operation. A former Federal Aviation Administration security investigator, Curt Rodriguez, also described the practice. He had discovered that many of the crashed drug-carrying aircraft had their manufacturer's identification plates removed, and then installed on aircraft stolen.

Rodriguez discovered this problem as he discovered single and twinengine aircraft involved in drug trafficking. He told me that his FAA supervisors ordered him to stop investigating this matter, and not to make any reports relating to it. Rodriguez stated that when he ran an aircraft search through the FAA registry in Oklahoma City, on certain aircraft, Justice Department personnel would be notified of the check. He would then be ordered to halt his investigation. He felt that these aircraft were used by the CIA and other "intelligence" agencies for drug trafficking.

Oklahoma City investigative reporter and talk show host Jerry Bohen

also discovered the practice of stolen aircraft used by the CIA. Former CIA asset Terry Reed, who conducted flight training in Arkansas of Contra pilots, also writes about the practice, and that Oliver North and Attorney General William Barr were either aware of it or were involved in ordering the operation to occur. The CIA used their inside contacts with the FAA to determine what substitute aircraft registration numbers to use.

## **Project Donation**

In some cases the theft of the aircraft occurred with the owner's permission. The scheme worked like this: The CIA would instruct people owning insured airplanes to report them as stolen, after allowing CIA personnel to take the aircraft. The owner would report the "theft" to the insurance company and then collect the insurance proceeds. This plan appealed to aircraft owners who had trouble selling their aircraft and wanted their equity out of it. This was called Project Donation. I remember seeing advertisements in various aircraft newspapers such as *Trade A Plane* seeking people who wanted to donate their aircraft. Reed describes how Oliver North explained the operation to him in 1983 when they met in Oklahoma City.

In some cases an insurance company that was a front for the CIA would carry the insurance directly or indirectly for the agency. When the donated aircraft disappeared the "theft" would be reported to the insurance company holding the original policy and then charged to the CIA-controlled insurance company that had earlier purchased the theft portion of the original policy. It is a common practice among insurance companies to buy the insurance coverage from an unsuspecting insurance company that issued the original policy.

# Secretly Funding Iraq's Arms Buildup

The Reagan-Bush administrations' secret funding and arming of Iraq's military made possible Iraqis invasion of Kuwait. If it weren't for these covert activities, and those who aided and abetted the scheme by covering up, Iraq would not have acquired the huge amount of military equipment to invade Iraq.

During the war between Iran and Iraq, that continued from 1980 to 1988, White House politicians secretly funded and armed both countries. Starting in 1982, the Reagan-Bush administrations engaged in numerous unlawful and covert activities that knowingly built up Iraq's war machine, far beyond what was necessary for defensive purposes. They did this at a time when Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein, was known to have hostile interest in neighboring countries.

The Reagan-Bush team provided training to Iraq's military, provided intelligence information, and shared other military secrets. These efforts enabled the Iraqi military to learn secrets of U.S. military and intelligence operations that undermined America's military defenses. The weapons that the U.S. directly and indirectly provided to Iraq would later be called "weapons of mass destruction" by U.S. leaders.

# Who Really Had Weapons of Mass Destruction

The United States has an arsenal of nuclear weapons; bombs weighing several tons; planes to deliver them; chemical and biological weapons; cluster bombs; landmines, all of which take huge complexes to manufacture. Iraq was a relatively poor country, made worse due to the sanctions imposed after the 1991 invasion of Kuwait. The United States had satellites with the reported ability to read headlines on a newspaper. Obviously Iraq had no such facilities. Further, Iraq knew that if it even tried to launch a military weapon that it would suffer great harm.

The chemical weapons that Bush claims Iraq had and which have been referenced as weapons of mass destruction were mostly World War I type of military weapons, which hardly met the definition of weapons of mass destruction. Using the misleading term had good PR results. Most of the weapons that Iraq did have were acquired during the 1980s through secret funding and assistance of the Reagan-Bush administrations. The United States provided military training, military equipment, and satellite information to Iraq during Iraq's war with Iran—while the U.S. was secretly arming Iran!

# **U.S. Providing Iraq With Deadly Cluster Bombs**

One of many weapons developed by the United States, and made available to Iraq, was the cluster bomb that kills or maims everyone within an area the size of a dozen football fields. These cluster bombs consisted of a single unit packed with hundreds of small bombs, about a foot long. When the main container explodes above the ground, it throws out hundreds of small explosive devices over a wide area, killing or maiming anyone within their reach.

The cluster bombes, designed by the United States, were produced for the U.S. military by the Marquardt Armament Company in California and called Rockeye cluster bombs.

# **Violating the Arms Export Control Act**

The Reagan-Bush administrations were violating the Arms Export Control Act. The Arms Export Control Act barred the United States from shipping weapons to Iraq. The Reagan-Bush administrations circumvented the act by using cutouts or front companies. Working through the CIA, the Reagan-Bush team provided a small munitions plant in Chile, operated by Carlos Cardoen, with plans, specifications, machine tools, chemicals, and other help. Cardoen then shipped the weapons to Iraq.

The Reagan-Bush administrations arranged for two weapon manufacturing plants in New Orleans and Los Angeles to be sold and shipped to Chile, circumventing U.S. laws preventing the transfer of equipment designed for military use; the like-new machinery was reclassified as scrap metal.

Former CIA asset Robert Johnson later acknowledged that the technology for Cardoen's manufacture of the cluster bombs had been supplied by the United States, including technical specifications and manufacturing equipment. CIA agent Robert Gates also assisted in getting cluster bomb technology to Cardoen.

The United States provided Cardoen with tons of metal zirconium that was a key ingredient in the construction of the cluster bombs. The zirconium increased the incendiary effect, thereby increasing the viciousness of the wounds inflicted upon the bomb's victims. The zirco-

nium was shipped to Cardoen on the pretense of it being used in mining activities rather than weapon production.

After production of the cluster bombs started, the Cardoen plant in Chile was visited by U.S. representatives from the U.S. consulate in Santiago, the CIA, and other U.S. government personnel. There was no secret to the production of the weapons and their shipment to Iraq.

Assisting with the clandestine cluster bomb operation was another company working closely with the CIA; International Signal Company (ISC), of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. As is common in undercover operations or front companies, ICS was comprised of numerous former military and intelligence personnel. ICS had purchased Marquardt Armament Company in California that produced the Rockeye cluster bombs for the U.S. military. A key official in ICS was a CIA asset, James Guerin.

# Reagan-Bush Team Supplying

# Iraq's Chemical Weapons Program

The Reagan-Bush administrations secretly provided material to Iraq for its chemical weapon arsenal. Two people closely related to the production of chemical weapons going to Iraq provided me with considerable evidence of these activities. Both of them had warned federal agencies of the practice and then experienced Justice Department retaliation to silence them.

## **Champon Flavors**

Louis Champon owned and operated Champon Flavors, a Florida company making flavoring, including bitter almond oil, a cherry flavoring, made from fruit pits. Champon had developed a technique for extracting a cyanide by-product out of the fruit pits, and this fact became known to Iraq and Libya.

Champon was approached by a Dr. Ihsan Barbouti and his son, Haidar Barbouti, in February 1988, with a proposal to form a joint venture for the purpose of extracting the cyanide by-product. They stated that a company in Europe would use the cyanide for industrial purposes.

Unknown to Champon at the time, the Barboutis had ties to the Central Intelligence Agency and were procuring agents for military supplies destined for Iraq and Libya. They had frequent business dealings with Iran-Contra figure and CIA asset Richard Secord.

Champon entered the partnership with Barbouti, forming a new company called Product Ingredient Technology (PIT). The Barbouti side of the partnership brought in the CIA-related Wackenhut Corporation to provide security at the plant.

# **State Department Officials Covering Up**

Champon later discovered that his partner was shipping the cyanide to a CIA-affiliated weapon manufacturer in Chile, Cardeon Industries, and that the cyanide was used to manufacture weapon-grade cyanide. Champon reported these facts to a State Department official, a Mr. Cabelly, on December 20, 1988. State Department officials refused to act upon the sensitive information.

The following January, Champon saw press reports stating that Dr. Barbouti was the designer and builder of a Libyan chemical weapons plant located near Rabta, Libya, causing Champon to again call the State Department (February 1989). Again, no reaction.

In July 1990, shortly before Iraq invaded Kuwait, a Mr. Pucillico of the State Department called Champon, advising him to contact U.S. Customs agent Earl Miller in Miami. Champon called, and Miller put him in contact with Customs agents Jack Bigler and Martin Schramm in Houston. They advised Champon not to divulge the information to anyone, that the matter was highly political, and that there would be no investigation or prosecution of the matter.

#### **Destroying the Business of Concerned Citizen**

Champon disclosed his information to investigative reporters for the *Dallas Morning News* and *NBC*. The story was then aired nationally by *NBC*. Officials at U.S. Customs, Internal Revenue Service, and the U.S. Department of Justice, then took action that caused Champon to lose his business. Shortly thereafter Champon received death threats if he did not remain quiet.

## Peter Kawaja and Security Company

A year after Champon provided me with this information, another insider contacted me, Peter Kawaja, with similar information. He had operated a security company called International Security Group, ISG, and a computer database company that became involved with U.S. intelligence agencies and the plant making the cyanide. His computer company was asked to install a computer-based system for Product Ingredient Technology (PIT), and become prime security for Ihsan Barbouti International (IBI), including providing bodyguards.

# Evidence of U.S. Funding Cyanide to Iraq

Kawaja was asked to install a hydrogen cyanide detection system at IBI. During these activities, Kawaja made recordings of telephone conversations and data transmissions that disclosed, among other things, letters of credit between the government's loan guarantee program, CCC, and the funding provided to Iraq by the Atlanta branch of the Italian bank known as BNL. The letters of credit related to the shipment of weapongrade cyanide to Iraq. Kawaja reported these matters to the FBI and Customs. He encountered the same cover-ups as Champon.

# Standard Reaction to Exposing U.S. Corruption

The illegal shipments of war material and funding for Iraq continued.

Kawaja's wife, Eileen, suddenly died under mysterious circumstances. Kawaja received death threats over the phone. The local police started harassing him. The IRS harassed him with what Kawaja claimed were unfounded liens and levies, followed by CalFed Bank foreclosing on his business. He was joined the many others who discovered the vast powers of federal, state, and local authorities to destroy anyone seeking to expose corruption in government offices.

The plant producing the weapon-grade cyanide was eventually shut down, and a company called Century Arms International occupied the building. Kawaja said as late as 1995 he saw missiles and bombs in the building, suggesting another covert operation.

## Iraq's Use of Gas Approved by U.S. Leaders

In widely publicized reports, Iraq's Saddam Hussein ordered the use of poison gas against Iranians during the 1980-1988 war and against militant Kurds in the northern part of Iraq. Despite this information, U.S. officials continued to assist and protect those who provided chemical weapons to Iraq.

Under-Secretary of Defense for personnel and readiness, Edwin Dorn, stated that the Pentagon had concluded that Iraq did not use chemical or biological weapons during the war. To say otherwise could have precipitated an investigation that threatened to expose the major role played by White House politicians and U.S. intelligence agencies in the arming of Iraq, including the sale of chemical and biological weapons

During a limited congressional investigation, Michigan Senator Donald Riegle said that exposure to chemical and biological agents was widespread during the Persian Gulf War. In response to the denials by government officials, Riegel stated, "I've seen our government lie to us before in other war situations. This is not going to be an issue that gets swept under the rug." But it *was* swept under the rug by virtually every government and media check and balance.

# Kissinger's Role in The Gulf War

A *Spotlight* article (November 9, 1992) stated that as early as 1984 Kissinger Associates were involved in arranging some of the loans from the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) to the Iraqi government to finance its arms acquisitions from a little-known subsidiary of Fiat corporation. Referring to a confidential report prepared for the Economic Planning Group of the European Community by the Centre Des Etudes Transatlantiques (CETRA), *Spotlight* reported that the deal set up by Kissinger Associates involved the secret sale of five million land mines and other war material.

BNL was used for this transaction, funneling over one billion dollars

through a small BNL branch in Brescia, Italy. At the same time, the U.S. taxpayers were saddled with billions of dollars in debt to finance arm sales to both sides in the Iran-Iraqi war. Profiting from these secret deals were U.S. and foreign arms manufacturers, the arms merchants, Israel, and those in the United States who aided and abetted the activities.

Brent Scowcroft and Lawrence Eagleburger were employed by Kissinger Associates. Scowcroft would become President Bush's National Security Adviser and Eagleburger acting Secretary of State.

The *Spotlight* article stated: "CETRA's data prove the scheme for financing and supplying Iraq's military purchases was set up by Kissinger Associates long before BNL's Atlanta branch became involved." The article continued: "[It is] time we forgot those scapegoats in Atlanta [and] focus on the real culprit: Kissinger Associates."

Referring to Charles Barletta, a former Justice Department investigator, *Spotlight* wrote:

Barletta added that federal probers had collected dozens of such incriminating case histories about the Kissinger firm. But Henry Kissinger seems to possess a special kind of immunity. I'm not sure how he does it, but Kissinger wields as much power over the Washington national security bureaucracy now as in the days when he was the Nixon administration's foreign policy czar. He gets the payoff; others get the blame. Kissinger will remain unscathed until Congress finds the courage to convene a full-dress investigation of this Teflon power broker.

# **Assisting Iraq to Build Missiles**

Information surfaced showing U.S. government personnel secretly provided help for Iraq to build the Condor II missile, which was capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. Reports were being made by people in U.S. Customs, in September 1989 that BNL loans were funding Iraq's acquisition of nuclear missile technology for Iraq's Condor II project.

Iraq's work on nuclear weapons was well known to U.S. politicians and the various intelligence agencies throughout the 1980s. Despite the blowback potential of this assistance, the U.S. continued to assist Iraq's buildup of chemical, biological, nuclear, and chemical weapons.

An April 1989 report by Bryan Siebert to Admiral Watkins stated, "Recent evidence indicates that Iraq has a major effort under way to produce nuclear weapons." Shortly thereafter, Iraq fired a intermediaterange ballistic missile, capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

Helping to build the plants for production of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons was the Bechtel Corporation of California, including one plant that produced ethylene oxide, an ingredient for the manufacture of mustard gas, as used in World War I. Involved in these efforts

were Bechtel people who periodically held key positions in the U.S. government, including Casper Weinberger and George Shulz.

#### **Falsified End-User Certificates**

Phony end-user certificates were used to make a false record that the military equipment the United States knew was going to Iraq would be shown as going elsewhere, or that the military equipment was mislabeled as some form of civilian equipment.

# Familiar Figures From the Past Were Implicated

Involved in these activities were some who had been implicated in other unlawful activities, such as October Surprise and Iran-Contra. Promoting the funding of Iraq's war machine were President Ronald Reagan; Vice-President and then President George Bush senior; National Security Adviser Richard Allen; National Security advisor James Baker; former California judge William Clark; deputy national security advisor Robert C. "Bud" McFarlane; Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld; Donald Gregg; Robert Gates; Richard Allen; and Howard Teicher,

# Funding Buildup of Iraq's War Machine

The increasing buildup of Iraq's war machine required an evergrowing need for money that exceeded Iraq's ability to pay. Without funding from outside Iraq, Iraq's war machine buildup could not have occurred. The Reagan-Bush administrations initially provided funds for Iraq's war machine through the government's Export-Import Bank, Eximbank. American taxpayers were guaranteeing that companies supplying Iraq with war material—later called weapons of mass destruction—would be paid if Iraq did not pay. As expected, the blowback resulted in U.S. taxpayers saddled with billions of debt from the original loans and subsequent interest payments, and then funding the 1990 Gulf War after Iraq invaded Kuwait with military equipment supplied through the United States, and then the invasion of Iraq a decade later.

# **State Department Involvement**

The U.S. State Department pressured the Export-Import Bank, Eximbank, to guarantee loans for Iraq to purchase items from U.S. companies. Eximbank balked because Iraq was a bad credit risk. President Reagan's Secretary of State, George Shulz, pressured Eximbank to make the loans despite the fact that they were to be used to build up Iraq's acquisition of military, nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. Numerous other U.S. agencies opposed the loan guarantees, including the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve Board. Eventually, with White House pressure, loan guarantees were approved by Eximbank and funded by Morgan Guaranty Bank.

## **Removing Iraq From List Of Nations Harboring Terrorists**

Providing government-guaranteed loans to Iraq required removing Iraq from the list of nations harboring terrorists. President Reagan did this, even though Iraq, along with Syria and Iran, among other nations, still harbored or supported terrorist groups. In Iraq's case, this included the Abu Nidal group.

# Massive Military Buildup Required Other Loan Sources

Iraq's huge military buildup required a great increase in money sources. After Eximbank refused to provide additional funding, the Regan-Bush team used the loan guarantee program set up by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to assist the sale of U.S. farm goods to foreign buyers. This program was run by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). Huge loan amounts were guaranteed for Iraq by the United States to allegedly purchase U.S. farm products. By the end of 1983, over a half billion dollars of loans to Iraq were made, guaranteed by the United States, and this would eventually exceed two billion dollars.

## U.S. Guaranteed Funds Used for Military Buildup

Iraq wanted military equipment far more than it needed farm produce. By tactics easily understood, the loans guaranteed by the United States for the purchase of farm produce were used to purchase chemical, biological, nuclear, and conventional weapons. One tactic was for the sellers of U.S. farm produce to price their products two or three times the going rates, and then kick back the excess to Iraq. These kickback funds were then used to purchase war material. Another tactic was to trade the farm produce for war material.

All of these tactics were widely known in the banking, shipping, and weapons industries and certainly known to U.S. intelligence agencies such as the CIA, DIA, NSA, and DIA, which had thousands of agents and all types of electronic monitoring methods. Monitoring these financial transactions was the National Security Agency (NSA) with its advanced electronic surveillance. They could break into codes used by the banking industry to discover what was *really* happening with the loans for Iraq. They all knew, and they all covered up for the illegal schemes of the White House politicians.

# Morgan Guaranty Bank Funding Iraq's War Machine

Morgan Guaranty Trust in New York also made loans, and these loan sources would be expanded in 1984 by the small Georgia branch of the Italian bank, Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL). Eventually, over two billion dollars of U.S. guaranteed loans were made by this Atlanta bank branch, which was managed by a young employee named Christopher Drogoul. BNL's Rome office had been guaranteeing loans for Iraq prior to the involvement of its Atlanta office.

## Secrets Known as Perugina

The scheme required secret telexes, separate sets of books, phony taxes, and other devices to escape detection by bank examiners. Bank employees knew the fraudulent program as Perugina, the name of an Italian candy factory.

## **British Involvement in the Fraudulent Scheme**

Britain was also involved in the diversion of funds that made it possible for Iraq to invade Kuwait. Matrix Churchill, a machine tool company in England, purchased by Iraq, secretly supplied military equipment to Iraq during this period. As usual, it appeared that the only people in the western hemisphere who didn't know about the scam were the American people.

## U.S. Leaders Contempt for U.S. Navy Personnel Killed by Iraq

In May 1987, Iraq military attacked the U.S. navy ship, U.S.S. Stark, killing three dozen U.S. navy personnel. As with Israel's attack upon the U.S. Liberty, U.S. leaders excused the attack as an error; U.S. military personnel were again shown as expendable.

## **Outrage Over Illegal Funding Escalated**

In 1989 the illegal funding of Iraq's war machine was becoming more widely known, threatening the administration with a major scandal. Bush, now president, and his staff, were fully aware of Iraq's fraudulent misuse of the U.S. loan program, the buildup of its chemical, biological, nuclear, and conventional weapon programs.

#### War With Iran Ended, Eliminating Need For Iraq Military Buildup

The war between Iraq and Iran had ended in 1988, eliminating the need for further buildup of Iraq's war machine. However, President Bush continued to push for further U.S. loan guarantees to Iraq, which continued the clandestine furnishing of chemical, biological, nuclear, and other weapons.

# A Few Courageous Government Agents Broke Ranks

Foreign Service officer Frank Lemay prepared a report exposing many of the irregularities involving the U.S. funding and arming of Iraq, which top U.S. officials sought to cover up. As routine as the sun rises in the morning, Lemay's career took a turn for the worse.

# CIA Reports What It Knew For Years: A CYA Report

A CIA report later presented to the White House and State Department was titled, "Iraq-Italy: Repercussions of the BNL-Atlanta Scandal." The acquisition of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons by Iraq was again described, but congress covered up the implications, and the America public was, as usual, not interested. They would, however, soon feel the ripple effects of the corrupt White House activities, unaware of where it all started.

## **Bush's Violation of Congressional Restrictions**

Congress had imposed a restriction against further funding for Iraq but President Bush signed a January 17, 1990, waiver violating that restriction. Despite the probable blowback consequences, President Bush signed a secret order known as National Security Directive 26 that continued helping the buildup of Iraq's war machine. Iraq's war with Iran had ended the year earlier, in 1988, and Bush was inexplicably determined to go ahead with further funding of Iraq's burgeoning war machine.

## "Iraq Has Set a High Standard on Issues of Integrity."

In one letter to Iraq foreign minister Tariq Aziz on October 21, 1989, James Baker, writing for President Bush, wrote: "The government of Iraq has set a high standard on issues of integrity of public officials and corruption." Baker pressured U.S. agencies, including the Federal Reserve, Treasury Department, Agriculture Department, and State Department, to approve further loan guarantees to Iraq of \$1 billion. The loans would be through the same CCC program that they knew had been misused to build up Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs.

## **Bunker and Herd Mentality**

The usual bunker and herd mentality existed as the key players holding controlling government positions kept the lid on the scandal. False testimony, misleading testimony, altered or withheld records, retaliation against those who testified truthfully, were standard cover-up tactics. In addition, the sham excuse of national security, executive privilege, and political motivation, were cited by the White House team. The consequences of the misconduct and the cover-up would come back to haunt American interests a decade later.

# Massive Cover-Ups by Greenspan and Others

Federal Reserve Chairman Allan Greenspan, most of the lapdog media, and others, kept the lid on the scandal. When asked, Greenspan said he knew of no links between the BNL scandal and Iraq, a statement that was contradicted by the vast amount of information known to the Federal Reserve. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney covered up for the illegal arming of Iraq that made possible Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

# On the Eve of War, More Weapons Help From U.S. Leaders

In November 1989, White House officials guaranteed the payment of loans made by banks to Iraq for the purchase of U.S. farm products under the program run by the U.S. Agriculture Department's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). The approval of these loans occurred after the Bush White House knew of the misuse of prior loans to build up Iraq's military machine.

#### **Expected Consequences: War!**

Burdened with huge debt and lack of funds for its purchases, Iraq's Saddam Hussein made demands upon Kuwait, claiming that Kuwait was really a part of Iraq and that Kuwait's oil wells were taking oil from under Iraq. In July 1990, U.S. intelligence observed a massive buildup of Iraq military along the Iraq-Kuwaiti border, signaling an impending invasion of Kuwait. Instead of sending a strongly worded warning to Saddam Hussein, Bush's weak message to Iraq stated, "Let me reassure you that my administration continues to desire better relations with Iraq."

Further support for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait came from U.S. ambassador to Iraq, April Glaspie, as she assured Saddam Hussein that the United States had no interest in its controversy with Kuwait.

# **Invading Iraq With Weapons and Funding By the Reagan and Bush Administrations**

As expected, Iraq's war machine invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990. This invasion was followed by United Nations sanctions against Iraq, prohibiting any military supplies to be sent to that country. But this restriction was quickly violated by Jordan and President Bush. The long-known practice of military equipment to Jordan being diverted to Iraq from the Gulf of Aqaba, continued. President Bush's State Department approved the shipment to Jordan of military equipment between August and October 1990. These shipments included parts for missiles, helicopters, and other military uses.

In lockstep with the United States, Britain continued sending large quantities of ammunition to Jordan weeks after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, knowing that the ammunition would probably be transported to Iraq. Britain's involvement would require the country's support of subsequent U.S. actions against Iraq.

# BNL Employees Reported BNL Involvement to U.S. Attorney

In 1989, two BNL employees reported the BNL irregularities to the local U.S. Attorney in Atlanta, causing the U.S. Attorney to raid BNL's Atlanta office and seize incriminating documents. The U.S. Attorney discovered that bank officials in BNL's home office in Italy knew of the scheme, directed it, and ordered the local bank manager in Atlanta to carry it out. But Justice Department officials in Washington, seeking to protect the criminal acts of White House politicians and CIA people, did not want Italian officials blamed, which would implicate U.S. officials.

# **Obstruction of Justice by Justice Department Officials**

The U.S. Attorney discovered the diversion of farm produce, the overpricing and kickbacks, and the purchase of Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapon programs with U.S. guaranteed loans.

McKenzie's investigation was repeatedly stymied by Justice Department personnel in Washington and by the White House.

The evidence showed that this had become a scandal far beyond the actions of a young manager of a small Atlanta branch bank. The scandal involved the Reagan and Bush administrations, the Italian government that owned BNL, and powerful U.S. banking and defense corporations.

# **Justice Fraudulently Charging Drogoul to Protect White House**

To divert attention elsewhere, Justice Department prosecutors charged the young BNL branch manager, Christopher P. Drogoul, with defrauding his bank by disbursing \$5 *billion* in loan proceeds without home office knowledge and approval. The Justice Department's indictment was based upon charges that the bank manager acted alone, disbursing \$5 *billion* in funds without the knowledge and approval of BNL's home office in Italy, and therefore committed fraud.

If the home office *had known* and approved of the scheme, the bank manager and employees could not be charged with defrauding the bank. Further, if home office officials were aware of the scheme, it would have serious political implications in Italy. Additionally, if BNL officials in Rome knew of the fraud associated with disbursing the funds guaranteed by the U.S. taxpayers, the liability of U.S. taxpayers to pay the billions of dollars that were fraudulently diverted would not exist. For the U.S. taxpayers to be liable, the young bank manager had to be held solely responsible for the gigantic fraud.

In separate indictments, the prosecutor charged five BNL employees with conspiracy to commit the crimes.

# **Lawyer Pleasing Justice Department Prosecutors**

Following a standard pattern, Drogoul's court-appointed lawyer, seeking to protect the Justice Department and other federal officials, urged Drogoul to plead guilty; but Drogoul wanted to go to trial to clear his name. By pleading guilty, he faced twenty years in prison. The court-appointed lawyer had assured Drogoul that if he pled guilty he would receive a suspended sentence. A week before trial, on September 2, 1993, Drogoul reluctantly pleaded guilty to something that he had not done, thereby avoiding a trial that would have exposed White House politicians and many others in the U.S. government.

Often, the person's lawyer, wishing to maintain good relations with the Justice Department and the judges, will pressure their client to plead guilty—even if innocent.

# **Drogoul Replacing Lawyers**

Fearing a long prison term instead of the suspended sentence promised him by his lawyer and the federal prosecutor, Drogoul obtained other legal counsel to vacate his earlier plea agreement. The new lawyer,

Bobby Lee Cook, moved to have Drogoul's guilty plea rescinded on the basis that the BNL bank manager was improperly instructed to plead guilty to an offense that he did not commit. Judge Shoob, not following the usual practice of federal judges protecting high-level corruption, granted the motion and rescinded the guilty plea, over the protests of Justice Department prosecutors.

Cook demanded documents from the CIA and Justice Department officials that would show federal agencies had prior knowledge of the fraudulent BNL activities, and knew that high-level Italian officials in Rome had approved the activities that were apparently sanctioned by the Bush Administration.

Also charged by the prosecutor were five BNL employees, who were being prosecuted in a separate case before Judge Shoob.

# **Unprecedented Judicial Integrity**

After analyzing the evidence presented during trial, and after the jury returned a guilty verdict for all five defendants, U.S. district judge Marvin Shoob, departed from the usual actions of federal judges protecting high-level corruption. During an August 23, 1993, sentencing hearing for the five BNL employees, Judge Shoob stated he would not sentence any of them to prison because the Justice Department's contention that they defrauded the parent bank in Rome was too incredible.

He added that they were merely "pawns and bit players in a far more wide-ranging conspiracy," and that there were too many circumstances that made it implausible that the conspiracy involved only the Atlanta bankers. Shoob added: "Smoke is coming out of every window. I have to conclude the building is on fire." He then stated:

Based on the information that I have seen and that has been revealed, that kind of conclusion could only come about in never-never land.

Congressman Gonzalez had argued for an independent prosecutor to investigate the BNL affair. As in the Inslaw and BCCI case, the Attorney General appointed one of its own to investigate itself, former U.S. District Judge Frederick B. Lacey, to conduct a Justice Department investigation. Judge Shoob said of the Lacey report: "If Judge Lacey had investigated the Teapot Dome scandal," referring to the 1922 scandal which almost caused removal of President Warren G. Harding, "he would have given out a medal instead of a jail sentence."

Justice Department officials didn't care for this type of honesty and lack of control over the judge; they moved to disqualify him from presiding over the trial for BNL bank manager Drogoul, which was set to start on September 8, 1993. Another judge was then selected to conduct the trial.

Before the case was removed to another judge,

Judge Shoob wrote a memorandum for inclusion in the trial of the five BNL employees to support his decision eliminating any prison time:

#### **ORDER**

This manner is before the Court on the motions of each of the defendants for a downward departure from the sentencing guidelines. Earlier the Court considered and ruled on the various objections to the presentence reports and determined the appropriate offense level for each defendant. Because of the absence of any prior criminal record, each defendant is in Criminal History Category I.

On August 19, 1993, the government in a sentencing memorandum advised the Court that it will move for a downward departure pursuant to § 5K1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines for defendants Von Wedel, New, and DeCarolis, and reserved the decision whether to make a similar motion on behalf of defendants Fiebelkorn and Barden. The government also advised the Court that it does not oppose a downward departure for defendant Barden based on her extraordinary family situation.

While the government's new position makes this Court's task of imposing a fair and appropriate sentence far less burdensome, the extent of any downward departure is governed by considerations which go beyond defendants' cooperation or individual family circumstances.

The Court has reviewed considerable material, including National Security Agency reports; CIA documents prepared by the Directorate of Information and the Directorate of Operations; the book of 29, which includes 29 documents from these agencies determined by the government to be discoverable by defense; the so-called black book, which consists of a series of State Department memoranda, National Security Council reports and memoranda, and Defense Intelligence Agency confidential and unclassified cables and information (the black book was not furnished to defense counsel as the information is substantially a duplicate of that furnished in the form of summaries and the book of 29); ...

The several reports of the Italian Senate Commission involving this matter; the diary of P. Di Vito, an official at BNL; the CIA report of the investigation of its handling of BNL-related matters; the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence staff report on the involvement of United States intelligence agencies in the BNL affair; the summaries of classified information prepared by the government and furnished to defense counsel;<sup>78</sup> the testimony during the three-week sentencing hearing of de-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> These summaries represent information from the NSA and CIA documents that

fendant Christopher Drogoul; and the various exhibits introduced during that proceeding.

The preponderance of the evidence well supports this Court's conclusion that BNL-Rome was not a victim in this case. The evidence of CIA knowledge of the activities of BNL-Rome and BNL-Atlanta prior to the August 1989 raid of BNL-Atlanta is less persuasive but clearly troublesome. Either the CIA knew of the activities or the CIA failed to detect a five-year international deception and large-scale illegal financing of arms for Iraq through a small branch bank in Atlanta, Georgia.

That determination is not necessary or appropriate for this Court. The Court does conclude that this is an appropriate case for a downward departure as to each defendant and will grant defendants' motion in part and will also grant the government's motion for a downward departure for substantial assistance and will consider defendant Barden's extraordinary family situation.

## Background

This case arises out of a loan scheme stretching across continents and cultures, involving weapons merchants and multi-national banks, and implicating governments. In February 1991, Christopher Drogoul, the branch manager of BNL-Atlanta and the alleged mastermind of the scheme, was named, along with an Iraqi bank, some foreign nationals, and several of the above-named defendants, in a 347-count indictment. The indictment centered on charges that Mr. Drogoul, the branch manager, defrauded BNL over the course of several years by engineering billions of dollars in unauthorized loans to Iraq and other nations. A number of these loans were backed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation ("CCC").

Since the raid on BNL's Atlanta office in 1989, the scandal has sparked investigations across the Western world. Several committees of the United States Congress opened investigations into this matter, commissions of the Italian Parliament have explored the scandal, and aspects of this case were raised at a trial in England.

In September 1992, this Court presided over Mr. Drogoul's three-week sentencing hearing, which followed his guilty plea to sixty counts of the indictment. The Court heard detailed testimony on the loan scheme, international money markets, and the organization of BNL. The hearing ended during Mr. Drogoul's testimony when the Government announced that it did not oppose Drogoul's motion to withdraw his plea. The Court granted Drogoul's motion and later granted the Government's motion that the Court recuse itself. Mr. Drogoul is scheduled to go to trial before the Honorable G. Ernest Tidwell on September 8, 1993. These defen-

dants, each of whom has pleaded guilty, have been awaiting a resolution of their involvement since the summer of 1989, four years.

#### Evidence and Standard

While the information and evidence reviewed by the Court are of uneven reliability and occasionally recount the hearsay statements of unknown informants, the Court has sifted through the information to make reliability findings and has considered only that information which it has found to contain "sufficient indicia of reliability to support its probable accuracy." U.S.S.G. § 6A1.3(a). In sentencing, the Court is permitted to rely on information that would not be admissible under the rules of evidence in a trial. "Reliable hearsay evidence may be considered. Out-of-court declarations by an unidentified informant may be considered where there is good cause for the nondisclosure of his identity and there is sufficient corroboration by other means." Id. Policy Statement (quoting United States v. Fatico, 579 F.2d 707, 713 (2d Cir. 1978)).

The Court also notes that while no single piece of information or evidence standing on its own would support the Court's conclusions, when taken as a whole, even in light of the Government's conflicting information and argument, the information more than adequately and credibly supports the Court's conclusion that the defendant employees of BNL-Atlanta with their personal agendas and paltry rewards were pawns or bit players in a far larger and wider-ranging sophisticated conspiracy that involved BNL-Rome and possibly large American and foreign corporations, and the governments of the United States, England, Italy, and Iraq.

It would be the height of hypocrisy to sentence these defendants as if this were a simple case of wrongdoing by a branch bank's employees, the sort of fraud contemplated by the sentencing guidelines. The Court's conclusions are supported by the following credible evidence.<sup>79</sup>

Evidence Supporting Court's Conclusion That BNL Was Aware Of the Activities Of the Atlanta Branch

1. BNL's relationship with Iraq.

<sup>79</sup> At request of the Government agencies that produced this information, the Court, for security reasons, has not identified the specific document and source of the information from which it has drawn the facts set out below. The Court will provide the appropriate authority under seat at the request of the parties.

Also, defendant Von Wedel filed motion under the Classified Information Procedures Act ("CIPA") § 6(e)(2)(B) requesting a finding against the Government as to the truth of certain information in the classified materials because the Government has refused to produce the name of the sources. For the purposes of the downward departure, the Court is finding that this information is credible and accordingly denies as moot defendant Von Wedel's motion.

- BNL is one of the largest banks in Italy, and the bank has a long-standing relationship with Iraq.
- In the early 1980s, BNL financed a number of Italian exports to Iraq, and Iraq helped BNL during a liquidity crisis in the 1970's.
- In late 1987, BNL-Rome helped finance a transaction for construction of a sewage plant in Iraq.
- BNL was well known, as were many Italian institutions, for its political spoils system. Members of the Italian parliament believed that U.S., Italian, and Iraqi officials received kickbacks from these deals. At the bank, commissions sometimes amounted to five percent of any deal. Other sources said that BNL officials received eight percent kickbacks.
- 2. BNL continued to do business with Iraq after the Iraqis were implicated in the scandal.
  - BNL-Rome honored several letters of credit issued by the Atlanta branch to companies for carbide cutting tools (often used in the manufacture of weapons), and BNL-Rome participated in the financing of an Iraqi petrochemical plant.
  - It remained Iraq's correspondent bank for Italy.
  - Intelligence sources stated that the BNL-Atlanta loan scheme was only a continuation of this long-term relationship.
  - 3. Evidence of BNL's knowledge
  - A branch of BNL in Udine, Italy referred an Italian steel company to BNL-Atlanta for financing of an Iraqi project. An official from the Rome office of BNL had personally handled the matter, advising the company to use BNL-Atlanta, because that branch handled the bank's Iraqi business.
  - In 1989, General Motors sought financing for an automobile deal with Iraq from BNL in Rome and Toronto. BNL-Atlanta extended credit for \$154 million to finance the transaction. The financed automobiles were sold at almost double the unit price. No explanation is available as to the \$75 million overcharge or who benefited from it.
  - In January 1990, a CIA employee concluded, based on general intelligence reports and publicly available material, that managers at BNL-Rome were involved in the scandal.
  - A source from the legal department at the bank is quoted as saying that the transactions from BNL-Atlanta were authorized and directed by the Italian government and under instructions to make it appear that the transactions were controlled exclusively by BNL-Atlanta.

- Others speculated that the loans could not have been made without the tacit approval of the BNL Rome office, and Western bankers assumed that BNL's headquarters knew of the loan scheme under way in Atlanta.<sup>80</sup>
- The BNL affair was considered by some sources to be part of an acknowledged cooperative strategy to support Iraq to ensure its victory in the Iran-Iraq war.
- Italian treasury secretary Carli reported to the Italian Senate Commission that three BNL-Rome employees may have known about the unauthorized lending in Atlanta. He also said that the information of BNL-Atlanta activities should not have slipped through the bank's controls.
- Senior BNL officials were indicted and later convicted for their involvement in arms sales to Iran.
- The Italian embassy in Iraq was under suspicion of complicity in the BNL matter. The military attaché committed suicide shortly after the raid, and he was rumored to be related to the scandal.
- An Italian parliamentary commission member stated that the investigation showed that Drogoul was "no lone wolf."
- The former head of BNL's North American operations, Dr. Luigi Sardelli, provided credible testimony that senior officials in Rome approved or had knowledge of Mr. Drogoul's activities.
- Sardelli's letter criticizing defendant's activities was never delivered by the auditor to officials in Rome.
- Instead of auditing or investigation BNL-Atlanta, BNL-Rome officials elected to investigate Dr. Sardelli, who appears to this Court to be the only "straight shooter" in the organization.
- BNL-Rome was an extremely political organization, operating more as an agency of the Italian government than as a bank.
- Dr. Sardelli voiced his frustration with BNL-Rome in testifying that the BNL-Rome officials sent to the United States to investigate the Atlanta branch after the raid were the officials who should have been investigated.
- Co-defendant Paul Von Wedel and Jean Ivey, a BNL-Atlanta employee who was granted immunity, testified at Drogoul's hearing that they believed that officials in Rome were aware of BNL-Atlanta's involvement with Iraq, testimony the Court found creditable. Mr. Von Wedel also testified that Mr. Drogoul had regular access to Dr. Giacomo Pedde, the director general of BNL, that

 $<sup>^{80}</sup>$  A U.S. intelligence source found that this information confirmed press reports about BNL knowledge of the scandal.

Mr. Drogoul met with Mr. Monaco, a senior BNL official, in Baghdad, and that Mr. Florio, another senior BNL official, orally approved early CCC loans to Iraq.

- Senior officials in Rome signed onto some of the loans made by BNL-Atlanta to Iraq, at the request of the Iraqis.
- From early in the investigation, BNL's lawyers and Italian officials urged that be case be raised to a political level.

#### Connections with the weapons network

Matrix-Churchill, an Iraqi front company and a major component of the arms procurement network, was a major participant in the BNL-Atlanta scheme. The CIA became aware that Matrix-Churchill was an Iraqi front company in 1987. No CIA reports indicated a relationship with BNL-Atlanta. Later, in a criminal proceeding in Great Britain, it was confirmed that two employees of Matrix-Churchill, one of whom was a director, Paul Henderson, were sources for British intelligence. The charges against the two men were dropped.

BNL-Atlanta was reported to have provided financing for major parts of the Iraqi procurement network, involving such companies as Space Research Corporation, Lear Fan, the Italian Endeco Barazuol, and Matrix-Churchill. BNL-Atlanta was reported to have helped finance large parts of the Condor II missile program, a joint program of Iraq, Egypt, and Argentina.

## Awareness of U.S. Intelligence community

The CIA had non-public information from various sources<sup>81</sup> about BNL and BNL-Atlanta lending activities, though not information that they were unauthorized.

# Miscellaneous Government Information

In the fall of 1989, shortly after the raid on BNL-Atlanta, there were a number of contacts between the prosecutors in the case and the federal agencies involved in the decision to approve new agricultural loan guarantees for Iraq. The Atlanta prosecutors met directly with representatives of the Agriculture Department. There were at least two telephone calls from a junior lawyer in the White House counsel's office to the chief prosecutor in this case; the calls sought information concerning the case in connection with the decision to approve loan guarantees.

In the spring of 1990, the prosecutors and investigators were invited to Washington on at least tone occasion to discuss the case with National Security Council staff members and other administration officials concerned about the approval of a second tranche of loan guarantees. Later, in September 1990, the chief prosecutor and chief investigator on the

 $<sup>^{81}</sup>$  At the request of the Government intelligence agencies, the Court does not identify these sources.

case were part of a Justice Department delegation which met with the Italian ambassador to the United States, who argued that BNL was the victim of a "terrible fraud."

During a November 1989 meeting of the National Advisory Deputies Committee, certain officials reported that Iraq had not been implicated and that the scandal appeared to involve internal BNL matters. Some high-level members of the Executive Branch wanted to continue the CCC program with Iraq, arguing it was essential to the U.S. relationship with Iraq.

- Following the execution of the search warrant and the implication of the Iraqis, the United States government, particularly its foreign policy branches, continued to push for granting agricultural credits to Iraq.
- A generally reliable source believed that BNL-Atlanta could not have operated without the knowledge and acquiescence of the Federal Reserve Board, the Department of Agriculture, and the Commodity Credit Corporation.
- After 1985, the Exim bank maintained a rotating, short-term \$200,000,000 facility for Iraq; it was the only listed country receiving Exim coverage. In January 1990, President Bush signed a waiver of sanctions to permit the Exim program for Iraq to continue through 1990. The United States also determined to release \$500 million in CCC guarantees with the possibility that another \$500 million would be released later.
- A U.S. Government memorandum prepared for the Executive Branch urged continued approval of the CCC program for Iraq, but acknowledged the improbability that Iraqi bank officials were unaware of kickbacks, deeply discounted interest rates, and other gross irregularities in the program. The U.S. Government was also aware that there were allegations of double and triple overpricing of some commodities, diversion and transshipment of commodities, and that CCC financing has been used for goods that did not originate in the United States.

# Di Vito Diary

Attorney General Richard Thornburgh met with the Italian ambassador at a White House dinner. The ambassador pushed the idea that BNL was a victim and said incriminating BNL would be seen as san insult to Italy.

Overruns by BNL-Atlanta from 1986 were signaled to the North American office of BNL by the foreign credit office of the bank.

A number of new transactions, after the raid, between BNL-Rome and Iraq totaled more than \$228,000,000 as outlined in the July 31, 1990, confirmations.

## Specific Findings

These factual findings support the Court's downward departure for the following reasons:

One, the Court finds that there is substantially reliable evidence that the alleged victim in this case, BNL-Rome, encouraged defendants to act as they did and superiors at the bank were in fact complicit in the scheme. The defendants saw their superior, Mr. Drogoul, rewarded for his acts, and could reasonably conclude that the bank approved of their acts or was deliberately ignored of their activities.

Section 5K2.10 of the Sentencing Guidelines provides:

If the victim's wrongful conduct contributed significantly to provoking the offense behavior, the Court may reduce the sentence below the guideline range to reflect the nature and circumstances of the offense.

U.S.S.G. § 5K2.10. Downward departures relying on this section usually involve cases of a physical assault and policy statement provides that the section is usually not "relevant in the context of non-violent offenses." Id. Neither the guideline nor the commentary, however, prohibits the section's application to a fraud case, and the fraud guideline clearly contemplates that the victim of the fraud was not complicit with the alleged fraud. See § 2F1.1.

The court has considered the Government's argument that § 5K2.11 applies only to victim conduct that provoked a defendant's offenses. The Court finds, however, that it is within this Court's discretion to consider the victim's conduct throughout the course of this scheme in departing downward, and the Court concludes that this conduct permitted and encouraged the scheme. This conduct does not fit neatly in the category set out in § 5K2.11, but clearly this was not a pattern of conduct considered by the Commission in formulating the guidelines.

The evidence of BNL officials' knowledge of these loans and of the loans' role in international finance suggests that these defendants were merely functionaries in a scheme that benefited the management of BNL, and furthered the foreign policy of the United States and Italy. CCC loans to Iraq continued to be approved at the highest levels of the United States Government long after the scheme was uncovered, and BNL-Rome continued to do business with the Iraqis and other entities who had participated in the scheme "to defraud" the bank. The Di Vito diary lists in detail a total of \$228 million in new loans by BNL-Rome to Iraq following a July 26, 1990 conversation. (Di Vito Diary, July 31, 1990.)

Two, departure is proper because the offense level is exaggerated by the dollar value involved in the scheme. There is little evidence that defendants' activities were the factual or proximate cause of the loss. <sup>82</sup> As recounted above, defendants' roles were a minuscule part of the offense, and the offense level "bears little relation to" defendants' role in the offense. United States v. Restrepo. 936 F.2d 661 (2d Cir. 1991). Indeed, it is difficult to pinpoint the cause of the "loss" in this action.

Until the Gulf War intervened, Iraq had continued to make payments on many of the loans extended. On other loans, however, Iraq had defaulted. The amount of loss caused by these defendants then, "is complicated by considerations of multiple causation." United States v. Gregorio, 956 F.2d 341 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 1992)(permitting a downward departure for "multiple causation"); United States v. Schneider, 930 F.2d 555 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1991); United States v. Kopp, 951 F.2d 521 (3d Cir. 1991).

More important, the role of these defendants was trivial in relation to the scope of this scheme. Also, as recounted above, the victims' conduct likely led to an increase in the amount loaned and the amount lost. This combination of causes takes the defendants outside the "heartland" of the fraud guideline and makes these cases appropriate for a downward departure.

Finally, the Court concludes that a downward departure is appropriate because there is simply no way the Sentencing Commission could have considered the vast range of conduct that is relevant to this case, dwarfing these individuals' involvement. Neither this Court nor the public is likely to know the underlying motivations and purposes of the scheme that touched the branch bank, but it is clear that this case and all its permutations are unlike any set of facts covered by the mathematical formulas of the sentencing guidelines. Accordingly, a downward departure in this case is appropriate.

The Court grants the motions for downward departure. It is so ordered this 23d day of august, 1993.

Marvin H. Shoob, Senior Judge United States District Court Northern District of Georgia

# **Court Hearing for Drogoul**

At Drogoul's pre-sentencing hearing, Judge Shoob asked Drogoul to

<sup>82</sup> The Court notes that several of the defendants objected to the amount of the loss as stated in presentence reports. Others, inexplicably, did not.

explain what had actually happened. Shoob had determined from the papers filed by Justice Department prosecutors and Drogoul's lawyer that Drogoul was being made the scapegoat for the crimes of BNL home office and of the White House, and said so in open court.

During one hearing, Shoob said:

I think the government entered into an effort early to support Iraq as a matter of national policy. They used the CIA and Italy to effectuate that purpose. Many of the things that were done were in violation of acts of Congress and U.S. arms export laws. They were aware of the law, and they skirted it. It was an effort to arm Iraq, and then, when things got out of hand, they didn't want that information to come out.

## "Only in Never-Never Land"

The prosecutor sought to deny that BNL's home office was implicated, to which Shoob responded: "Only in never-never land would a combination of circumstances such as I have seen indicate that all this happened by chance."

# Changing the Outcome of the Teapot Dome Scandal

In response to a Justice Department prosecutor quoting the decision by another judge, Frederick Lacey, that the BNL home office was not involved, Shoob stated, "If Judge Lacey had investigated the Teapot Dome scandal he would have awarded medals rather than jail terms."

During the hearing in the Justice Department's prosecution of Drogoul, <sup>83</sup> Judge Shoob issued an order dated October 5, 1992, that revealed much of the scandal:

This case involves billions of dollars raised and loaned in international finance. It involves allegations of an international bank fraud that may have helped pay for Iraq's military build-up. But the more important issue before this Court involves a man's liberty and serious questions about the integrity of our justice system and the almost unreviewable powers of prosecutorial discretion. The Court's judgment and decisions throughout the hearings and motions before it have been guided by its belief that there is a moral component to the Court's involvement in this case, the responsibility to do the right thing.

From the evidence presented during the hearing, this Court has reach and voiced certain preliminary conclusions and concerns about this case and the Government's conduct in investigating and prosecuting defendant that may, from the prosecution's viewpoint, interfere with this Court's ability to her evidence with an open and impartial mind.

<sup>83</sup> Criminal action # 1:91-CR 078-MHS

This court will set forth some of the tentative conclusions it has reached in hearing this matter and its reasoning in arriving at those conclusions. Set forth below are the bases for the granting of the motions to withdraw the plea and to recuse:

## A. The knowledge of officials at BNL Rome

The Court concludes that officials at BNL-Rome were aware of and approved Mr. Drogoul's activities. At the very least, BNL-Rome chose to ignore what were obvious signs of Mr. Drogoul's extraordinary relationship with Iraq and his unusual lending practices. In support of this conclusion, the Court notes:

Classified reports from the CIA conclude, in part, that a number of high-level BNL-Rome officials supported Mr. Drogoul's activities.<sup>84</sup>

- A senior BNL official, Mr. Monaco, referred an Italian company seeking financing for a major construction project in Iraq to BNL-Atlanta.
- The former head of BNL's North American operations, Dr. Luigi Sardelli, provided credible testimony showing that senior officials in Rome approved or had knowledge of Mr. Drogoul's activities.
- Sardelli's letter criticizing defendant's activities was never delivered by the auditor to officials in Rome.
- Instead of auditing or investigating BNL-Atlanta, BNL-Rome officials elected to investigate Dr. Sardelli who appears to be the only "straight shooter" in the organization.
- BNL-Rome was an extremely political organization operating more as an agency of the Italian government than as a bank.
- Dr. Sardelli voiced his frustration with BNL-Rome in testifying that the BNL-Rome officials sent to the United States to investigate the Atlanta branch after the raid were the officials who should have been investigated.
- Dr. Sardelli testified that he believes officials at BNL-Rome knew of Mr. Drogoul's activities.
- There is evidence that documents may have been shredded by BNL officials shortly after the raid and that some files and documents are missing.
- BNL branches in Germany, England, and Canada were aware of BNL-Atlanta's substantial financing of Iraqi purchases and projects.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>84</sup> The Court will not reveal the contents of these documents because they remain classified. However, as the Court will discuss below, the Court is unable to see how they relate to national security and why they should remain secret from the defense counsel and the public.

- The Government's witnesses from Morgan Guaranty and the Bank of New York and confidential CIA reports concluded that it was well-known in international banking circles that BNL-Atlanta provided substantial financing for Iraq's purchase of agricultural, Military and non-military products.
- The Italian parliament's extensive report on the "BNL scandal" concludes that Mr. Drogoul was not a "lone wolf" and that BNL-Rome's failure to adequately supervise the Atlanta branch permitted the continued illegal activity.
- Mr. Drogoul's co-defendant Paul Von Wedel and Jean Ivey, a BNL-Atlanta employee who was granted immunity, testified that they believed that officials in Rome were aware of BNL-Atlanta's involvement with Iraq, testimony the Court found credible. Mr. Von Wedel also testified that Mr. Drogoul had regular access to Dr. Giacomo Pedde, the director general of BNL, that Mr. Drogoul met with Mr. Monaco, a senior BNL official, in Baghdad, and that Mr. Florio, another senior BNL official, verbally approved early CCC loans to Iraq.
- Mr. Drogoul's first lawyer, Theodore Lackland, testified credibly that several individuals involved with the allegedly fraudulent transactions told him that officials in Rome were aware of the transaction and in fact had in their possession one of the allegedly fraudulent loan agreements (MTL-4).
- As the "victim" in this matter, BNL-Rome may be able to recover \$1-2 billion in unpaid CCC-backed loans to the Iraqis.
- When notified of the August 4, 1990, raid, Mr. Drogoul returned immediately to the United States, leaving his family in France. He met with BNL officials in New York, was furnished an lawyer who was to be paid by the bank, and continued as manager of the Atlanta branch for a week.
- Mr. Drogoul's chief mentor at BNL in 1986-87 retired from BNL in 1987 and became a consultant at Entrade, a defendant in this case and a participant in the scheme.

# B. The Investigation and Prosecution of Mr. Drogoul

The Court has also come to a number of preliminary conclusions about the Government's investigation of this case. Primarily, the Court concludes that prosecutors failed to investigate seriously whether BNL-Rome knew of defendant Drogoul's activities. This failure, coupled with or provoked by the involvement of other departments of the United States Government, indicates an effort to absolve BNL-Rome of complicity in the Atlanta branch loans to Iraq. The Court Notes:

- 1) High-level officials in the Justice Department and the State Department met with the Italian ambassador to discuss the case. They appeared to help steer this case and gave support to BNL-Rome's position that it was a victim in this matter, assuring the ambassador that there "would be no surprises" for the Italians.
- 2) The Justice Department cancelled investigators' necessary trip to Italy and Turkey, where they intended to interview bank officials and others with knowledge of the transactions and scheme.
- 3) The Italian ambassador met with then-Attorney General Richard Thornburgh in Spring 1990 and told him that incriminating BNL-Rome in these transactions would be tantamount to "a slap in the face" of the Italians and would not be understood by the government of Italy.
- 4) The local prosecutor in this matter received one or more highly unusual and inappropriate telephone calls from the White House Office of Legal Counsel about this case, indicating the potential embarrassment level of the case.
- 5) The draft indictment was delayed by the Justice Department from early 1990 until the end of the Gulf War, February 1991, almost one year. Also, the plea bargain in which Mr. Drogoul agreed to plead guilty to only 60 courts rather than 347 and initiated by an assistant prosecutor when the chief prosecutor was out of the city effectively silenced Mr. Drogoul who had announced his intention to make a full disclosure at the plea hearing.
- 6) The Government failed to produce and, apparently, made no effort to bring in any knowledgeable bank officials from Rome, including Pedde, Guadagnini, Monaco, Florio, for the sentencing hearing.
- 7) The Government failed to interview Wafai Dajani, despite evidence of his substantial involvement with the scheme, when he was in Atlanta and had agreed to meet with the prosecution. Mr. Dajani, who has ties to the King of Jordan, was not indicted.
- 8) Investigators were blocked by the Department of Agriculture from interviewing Iraqi officials who were in the United States negotiating CCC guaranties and later were prohibited from traveling to Iraq to interview potential co-conspirators and witnesses.
- 9) In early 1990, Atlanta prosecutors met with BNL-Rome lawyers, discussing the bank's position as a victim.
- 10) The American Ambassador to Italy notified the Secretary of State, Justice Department and others in the Fall 1989 that BNL's management was worried about the prosecution of the case and wanted it raised "to a political level" and to achieve "damage control."

- 11) Matrix Churchill, an Iraqi front company that was a clearing-house for weapons procurement, was not indicted, although one of its officers was.
- 12) The Government has provided no credible explanation for its failure to indict Wafai Dajani, matrix Churchill, Enka, and the Central Bank of Iraq.

## C. Intelligence agencies

The Court also tentatively concluded during the course of the hearings that it is likely that the United States intelligence agencies were aware of BNL-Atlanta's relationship with Iraq. For example:

- 1) The Central Intelligence Agency did not respond to repeated requests from the Court concerning CIA knowledge of and involvement in the activities of the Atlanta branch. The agency's earlier response to the carefully crafted September 1, 1992, request from the Acting United States Lawyer was evasive and concerned only knowledge of and involvement in unauthorized funding. The CIA continues to be uncooperative in attempts to discover information about its knowledge of or involvement in the funding of Iraq by BNL-Atlanta.
- 2) The raw intelligence reports indicate an awareness of extensive funding of Iraq by BNL-Atlanta.
- 3) There was no explanation as to the intelligence community's awareness or lack of BNL-Atlanta's role in funding the Iraqi military build-up despite extensive cable traffic between Baghdad and Atlanta and several trips to Baghdad by Drogoul, including one to an Iraqi military fair attended by U.S. officials, such as the U.S. Ambassador.

# D. Classified Information

The court is also concerned that the local prosecutors lacked access to classified information, which may have provided evidence on important elements of this case. The September 17, 1992, letter from the CIA to the local prosecutors shows that the CIA was not forthcoming with information it may have about the transactions at issue in this case, the one area of classified information made available to the court supports Mr. Drogoul's contention that his superiors approved of his activities.

While the court is well aware that there may be classified information in support of the Government's theory of this case, the Court is concerned that the prosecutors may have been blocked by agencies with political agendas from developing a full picture of this affair. This is particularly troubling in light of the fact that this information no longer seems relevant to national security and that, even if it is, there are procedures through which the CIA, and other agencies, can make classified information available without revealing sources and methods.

#### IV. Conclusion

There are grave questions as to how the prosecutors made their decisions in this case, both as to the nature of the charges and whom to prosecute. It is apparent that decisions were made at the top levels of the United States Justice Department, State Department, Agriculture Department and within the intelligence community to shape this case and that information may have been withheld from local prosecutors seeking to investigate the case or used to steer the prosecution. Furthermore, the Attorney General's exceptional refusal to grant the Congressional request for an independent counsel in itself raises concerns for the Court about the Government's impartiality in handling this case.

Accordingly, this Court again strongly recommends that an independent prosecutor be name to investigate this matter. The Court also recommends that the trial of Mr. Drogoul and the sentencing of the other defendants in this case be postponed to enable the United States Government to employ its full resources to obtain all the facts rather than to continue with the prosecution's acceptance of BNL-Rome's version that BNL is a victim to avoid embarrassing a foreign government or to contain criticism of a failed foreign policy. The naming of an independent prosecutor in this matter would be an appropriate response to the 1990 Federal Reserve memorandum, commenting that the Iraqis are willing to sacrifice one individual to the vagaries of the United States criminal justice system.

The Court GRANTS defendant's motion to withdraw his plea of guilty and GRANTS the Government's motion to recuse.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1992.

Marvin H. Shoob, Senior Judge United States District Court Northern District Of Georgia

# The Replacement Judge Was a "Team Member"

The new judge, Ernest Tidwell, was more amenable to the Justice Department cover-up. Drogoul's lawyer, Robert Simels of New York, stated that the judge issued two rulings refusing to allow the bank manager to give evidence showing that President George Bush and White House officials acted to carry out the fraud. He said that the judge blocked him from introducing evidence concerning the role of U.S. intelligence agencies in making the sham loans to Iraq, and the Italian government's efforts and pressures upon the Bush Administration to avoid indicting BNL. Judge Tidwell stated that this evidence was not related to

the charges against Drogoul. That statement was a farce used by the judge to protect high-level corruption in government offices.

This judicial strategy is repeatedly used against CIA personnel who for various reasons are charged with criminal offenses for carrying out their orders. The "cooperating" judge renders orders barring the defendant from showing his CIA employment and that he was carrying out orders. They are barred from introducing CIA documents and barred from having CIA personnel appear. It happened to almost every CIA operative named in these pages. A typical case was Ronald Rewald, the head of a secret CIA operation based in Honolulu, which I detail in *Defrauding America* and *Disayow*.

#### Clinton's PR Rhetoric

While on the campaign trail, Clinton stated he would recommend the appointment of an independent prosecutor to investigate U.S. involvement in the BNL fraud. But upon assuming the presidency, and through Attorney General Janet Reno, the position reversed. The Clinton Administration, including Attorney General Reno, argued that there was no U.S. involvement in the BNL corruption and that the BNL headquarters in Italy and the Italian government were not involved. Attorney General Janet Reno and President Bill Clinton were lying.

# **Cover-Up Cost American Taxpayers Billions**

Attorney General Janet Reno refused to appoint a special counsel to investigate the BNL scandal and in February 1995 agreed that U.S. tax-payers had to pay BNL the loan guarantees that made possible the arming of Iraq. She was stating in effect that the manager of a small BNL bank branch in Atlanta approved \$5 billion in loans without the knowledge of bank officials in Italy. That, of course, was a blatant lie.

# Italian Exposure of U.S. Culpability

A 340-page report by an Italian parliamentary commission<sup>85</sup> said that the illicit loans to Iraq from BNL were part of a U.S. policy to channel military aid to Iraq, under the direction of President George Bush. The report stated in part:

That the political direction of the whole operation was always firmly based in Washington is evident. Personalities in the Italian government and of BNL were aware of what was happening, or had received authoritative advice not to look too closely at the Atlanta branch operations....It is now evident...that the affair constituted an American political scandal.

# Part of Bush's White House Staff Spoke Out

One of President George Bush's White House staff who was more honest, Alexander Haig, was reported to have said, after the fact, that the

<sup>85</sup> Wall Street Journal, January 27, 1994.

White House policy brought "Saddam Hussein to the belief that he would not be challenged in Kuwait. The consequences were a Gulf war and the outcome that the threat of Saddam is still here."

# **Maverick Congressman Exposing One Segment of Scandals**

While other members of Congress engaged in the usual cover-up of the scandal, Congressman Henry Gonzalez of Texas, chairman of the House Banking Committee, started conducting an investigation into BNL's activities in 1990. He had to surmount the cover-up by other members of Congress, the CIA, Justice Department personnel, and the White House. BNL first attracted his attention when he learned that the small Atlanta branch of BNL had made over \$5 billion in loans to Iraq.

Gonzalez's requests for documents from the White House were repeatedly ignored; a standard practice. Acting for the Bush White House, Nicholas Rostow refused to provide requested documents, using the timeworn excuse of national security and executive privilege.

Gonzalez requested documents from the Justice Department. At first, Justice Department officials denied having such reports. Gonzalez, who had been exposing the BNL corruption for months on C-SPAN, submitted a CIA document to the court showing that Italian officials in Rome had knowledge of the multi-billion-dollar transactions and fraud.

Several days later, CIA officials sent a letter to Justice Department prosecutors omitting the fact that the CIA had evidence that Rome officials were cognizant of the scheme. CIA officials then accused Justice Department officials of trying to get the CIA to provide misleading information to the court in an attempt to support Drogoul's imprisonment. As Gonzalez released more documents, it became obvious that the CIA possessed numerous documents showing that BNL officials in Rome knew of the loans and the diversion of the funds from farm products to military supplies. Further, that the CIA deliberately withheld this evidence from the court.

It also turned out that federal officials had altered a list of high technology items that were sent to Congress to obtain approval for the illegal shipments to Iraq. The evidence indicated that high federal officials knew about the fraud being perpetrated by BNL and Iraq against the United States and had not only deliberately covered up for it, but also enlarged upon it.

Among the documents that surfaced was one written by Secretary of State James Baker, warning the White House that Iraq was secretly using technology provided by the United States to build up its chemical, nuclear, biological and ballistic missile capabilities.

# **Congressional Hearings**

During Congressional testimony before the House Banking Commit-

tee on November 10, 1993, Christopher Drogoul was brought from federal prison to testify about the BNL scandal. He testified that he tried to report the criminal activities involving Iraq, his bank, and U.S. officials, but that the U.S. Attorney's office in Atlanta repeatedly barred him from telling the truth. They wanted to protect the U.S. officials, Italian officials, and Iraqi officials, and to blame *him* for making loans totaling about five-and-a-half billion dollars, that were beyond his authorization to make.

Drogoul testified, and the facts indicated, that he was merely a pawn in the scheme involving the United States, Iraq, Italy, Britain, and Germany to secretly arm Iraq. Not only did this conspiracy result in thousands of needless deaths, but the American public would pay this amount and the interest that will surely triple the original figure before the money is repaid somewhere in the twentieth-first century.

Regardless of his innocence, the federal judge who replaced Shoob sentenced Drogoul to federal prison in 1994, on the basis that his superiors did not know his small branch was dispensing five billion dollars, and that the United States government did not know of the scheme.

#### Covering Up for U.S. Britain and Italy Complicity

U.S. Congressional hearings, hearings in Britain, and defense lawyers, uncovered large amounts of evidence showing that the Reagan-Bush administration, and Britain's Margaret Thatcher, were fully aware of the funding and arming of Iraq with chemical, biological, nuclear, and conventional weapons. They were now misusing facilities, circling the wagons, to protect each other; an age-old game. Foreign media exposed the truth concerning the secret arming of Iraq, while most U.S. media people kept the lid on the scandal.

Altering the Truth to Protect the System "Administrators"

Robert Gates, Director of the CIA, and other government officials, told the House Banking Committee that the CIA knew nothing about the huge loans to Iraq. Congressman Henry Gonzalez, Chairman of that committee, produced evidence showing they were lying.

A rift developed between Attorney General William Barr and his Justice Department people, the CIA, and FBI Director William Sessions. It followed this schedule:

CIA officials submitted a document to an Atlanta district court that
contained misleading information, conveying false information covering up the real facts. The document was intended to deceive,<sup>86</sup> to
deny that the CIA had knowledge of the BNL fraudulent loans for
several years. The CIA would have been highly incompetent if, with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>86</sup> Submitting documents knowingly stating wrong facts and wrong conclusions, or withholding facts that would show a different conclusion, is a crime under federal law.

all its agents worldwide, it did not know of the fraud that required participation of many people.

- Senator David Boren, Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, conducted a partial "investigation" slanted to divert attention from the actual facts and participants.
- The CIA then acquiesced to the Justice Department's demands to continue the cover-up. But the next day, the CIA prepared a document for Justice Department officials to sign that would protect the CIA's lying. Justice Department officials refused to sign this document.
- CIA officials then testified in a closed-door Senate Intelligence Committee hearing about what happened. CIA lawyers placed the blame for their cover-up on pressures from Justice Department officials. (Remember this about CIA director Tenet false information to President Bush prior to invasion of Iraq—providing the false information that contradicted information known by the CIA—but stating what Bush wanted to hear.

#### "Never in the History of the Republic"

*New York Times* syndicated columnist William Safire stated (October 12, 1992), "Never in the history of the Republic...has the nation's chief law enforcement officer been in such flagrant and sustained violation of the law." Safire stated in a mild way what was normal conduct in the Justice Department, which I continuously observed for the past 30 years.

# **Another Congressional "Investigation"**

Congressman Sam Gejdenson also conducted a low-key investigation. Several witnesses testified that they had repeatedly warned the White House of the huge military buildup by Iraq, and its funding by the Reagan and Bush administrations.

## **Learning Consequences of Protecting U.S. Interests**

One of several key witnesses was State Department employee Dennis Kloske. He testified to warning numerous Bush administration people of these problems, including Robert Gates who had chaired the National Security Council, and Robert Kimmitt, the undersecretary of State. After giving this testimony to Congress, President Bush ordered Sununu to have Kloske fired (for revealing the truth).

Chairman Gejdenson reacted to Kloske's firing: "Firing a government official because he was willing to tell the truth to congress is an outrage and represents a bastardization of the way our government is suppose to work." But these crocodile tears did nothing to help Kloske

### Defaulting on U.S. Guaranteed Loans: U.S. Taxpayers Pay

Iraq's August 2, 1990, invasion of Kuwait caused it to default on its loans, which were guaranteed by the U.S. taxpayers; thanks to the cor-

rupt actions of White House politicians and the many others who made the scheme possible.

Making matters worse, Iraq had part ownership interest in some of these banks and stood to gain not only from receipt of the initial \$5 billion, but also gain when the United States paid the various banks that loaned the money. Again, the U.S. taxpayers were stuck, which the younger generation will have to pay in the coming years.

## Sham Prosecution of Innocents to Divert Attention From Other Parts of the Scheme to Arm Iraq

The Miami U.S. Attorney's office filed criminal charges against Carlos Cardoen in 1992, charging Cardoen with violating the law against exporting cluster bombs and other weapons to Iraq. A trial on these charges would reveal major fraud and violations of law by the Reagan and Bush administrations.

### Appointing Cardoen's Lawyer to be U.S. Attorney

In 1992, it was learned that President Bush was to appoint Cardoen's lawyer, Roberto Martinez, to be U.S. Attorney in Miami. This was an obvious attempt to control the prosecution and trial so as to protect the White House and those involved in the felony complicity.

Cardoen's next lawyer, Robert Simels, filed papers arguing that government personnel know of, approved, and even solicited the conduct for which they were now charging him. Cardoen's lawyers produced writings, and pictures of him with U.S. government personnel at his weapons plant in Chile, all of which showed that Cardoen was acting with the approval, knowledge, and direction of U.S. government personnel.

#### **Prosecution of Matrix Churchill**

Matrix Churchill was charged with criminal violations by the Miami U.S. Attorney's office for sending weapons to Iraq. The Bush administration appointed Matrix Churchill's Atlanta lawyer, Joe Whitley, to the position of U.S. Attorney. This contradiction was "resolved" by Martinez dropping his client and thereby claiming there was no conflict of interest. What a system!

### **Controlling the System**

Robert Barr, U.S. Attorney in Atlanta, was a former CIA employee working with CIA director George Bush. This relationship obviously affected Barr's Assistant U.S. Attorney, Gale McKenzie, in her investigation and prosecution of matters that would reflect badly upon President Bush. That same U.S. attorney's office was also "investigating" the Iraq front company responsible for coordinating many of the arms shipments to Iraq.

When Barr left, President Bush quickly appointed Joe Whitley to replace him. An excellent choice to halt the investigation into BNL.

# 170 Iraq, Blowback, Lies and Cover-Ups

Whitley had been a lawyer with the Atlanta law firm that was representing the Iraq front company, Matrix Churchill. Going from a protector of Matrix Churchill into a position that could block an investigation of the company was smart politics!

# **Invading Iraq on Basis of Serial Lying**

fter ten years of illegally funding Iraq's military machine under Presidents Reagan and the senior George Bush, and years of United Nations inspections from 1991 to 1998, the young President George Bush suddenly charged Iraq with all forms of misconduct that allegedly threatened the United States and Iraq's neighbors.

Virtually out of the blue, Bush and his group started charging Iraq and Saddam Hussein with offenses to justify the United States invading the country. These charges included:

- Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.
- Iraq was moving weapons of mass destruction before UN inspectors arrived.
- Iraq was funding and arming terrorists.
- Iraq played a key role in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.
- Iraq was working with Al Qaeda.
- Iraq was a threat to the United States.
- Satellite pictures showed Iraqi missile-testing structures.
- Satellite pictures showed an Iraqi chemical weapon-producing site.
- Iraq was building nuclear weapons.
- Iraq was acquiring raw material for nuclear weapons from the African nation of Niger.
- Iraq had aircraft capable of delivering WMD to the United States.
- Iraq was a threat to its neighbors.
- Removing the threat to the region will lead to a better, more peaceful world in which Iraqi people would have a better life.
- Removing Saddam Hussein would make the world more peaceful.
- Iraq was not cooperating with United Nations inspectors.

- Iraq had not proven a negative, that it had no weapons of mass destruction.
- Iraq was not disarming as required by the United Nations after Iraq's defeat in 1991 and had no intention of disarming.
- Sooner or later the United States would have to go to war with Iraq, and delaying the war would hurt the United States.
- A change of leadership in Iraq would correct these problems.

#### Bush's Companion in Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair

Copying and enlarging on Bush's statements was Britain's Prime Minister, Tony Blair, who even added that Iraq could mount an attack using weapons of mass destruction within 45 minutes. These statements were, or should have been, insulting the intelligence of the American and British people, as overwhelming evidence existed that these statements were bold-faced lies.

#### **Parroting These Accusations**

Most television panelists and Bush administration spokespeople repeated these charges despite the total absence of any supporting evidence and despite the evidence showing them to be false. The constant repetition of these charges, and the blind repetition by most of the television media, manipulated the American public into thinking that Bush's statements were true.

Bush provided no evidence that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. Iraq is about the size of California, and most of the country is desert, making it difficult to hide facilities to build and store weapons that were barred by UN sanctions.

### Bush repeatedly said: "Iraq was Building Nuclear Weapons."

To produce nuclear weapons in the United States takes huge facilities, which would be readily detected by U.S. satellites that can read little details from outer space. Further, UN inspectors were continuously combing through Iraq's facilities from 1991 to 1998, and then again from 2000 to 2003, and found no prohibited weapons or facilities to manufacturer them.

For the United States to call Iraq a threat to the United States would put the US in the position of being afraid of its own shadow. Not only didn't Iraq have any such weapons, or facilities to produce them, but they didn't have the long-range missiles or the long-range aircraft to deliver them. Further, Iraq, or any other country, would be utterly stupid to attempt mounting an isolated attack upon the most militarily powerful country in the world, especially with a single or very few possible weapons. The retaliation would be devastating for any small country to even try to mount such an attack upon the United States.

#### **United Nations Confidential Report Showed No WMD**

A 15-page confidential United Nations report described the findings of UN inspection teams showing the destruction of almost all of Iraq's entire nuclear weapons program. The report stated Iraqi General Hussein Kamal gave the testimony and evidence to UN Executive Chairman of the Special Commission Professor M. Zifferero, (IAEA), N. Smidovich (UNSCOM), and a person from the King of Jordan's court. General Kamal had defected from Iraq and was revealing the truth about Iraq's absence of prohibited weapons, stating that all chemical, biological and nuclear weapons had been destroyed shortly after the ending of the Gulf War in 1991. The United Nations report included a transcript of questions given to Kamal by the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, Professor Zifferero and Kamal's response, along with UN conclusions. Portions of the report follow:

#### UNSCOM/IAEA Sensitive

In the evening of 22 August 1995, the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission met with General Hussein Kamal in Amman. The meeting was attended by Prof. M. Zifferero (IAEA), N. Smidovich (UNSCOM), and a person from King of Jordan court who served as an interpreter. The meeting started at 1950 hrs and lasted approximately three hours

#### Nuclear Weapons Issues

Original Iraqi documents indicated that the programme had been terminated in January 1991 due to damage by coalition raids.... This site was destroyed. ... The activity was stopped by the war. ... It was destroyed during and after the war; ... It was a fake document ... we are of the same conclusion [referring to document claiming that Iraq was seeking uranium]; weapons and agents were destroyed ... nothing remained ... after visits of inspection teams. The report stated that the engine for long-range missiles was destroyed, buried, and examined by UN inspectors. ... Referring to these long-range missiles, General Kamal stated, "They were all destroyed."

# Reference to Chemical and Biological Weapons

Referring to whether Iraq considered using chemical weapons during the Gulf War, General Kamal stated: "During the Gulf War, there was no intention to use chemical weapons as the Allied force was overwhelming." Referring to Iraq's source of chemical and biological weapons, General Kamal stated: "Iraq also had mustard and sarin and they used mustard in small quantities. Some of the chemical components came from the United States to Iraq. Even Iran bought some components from the US but when they arrived, the Iranians discovered they were water."

Responding to a UN question whether Iraq "restarted the VX pro-

duction after the Iran-Iraq war," General Kamal stated: "We changed the factory into pesticide production. Part of the establishment started to produce medicine. [Samarra Drug establishment]. Samarra started to produce medicine with workers from Muthanna. Muthanna itself started production of pesticides and insecticides. We gave instructions not to produce chemical weapons. There was no decision to use chemical weapons for fear of retaliation. They realized that if chemical weapons were used, retaliation would be nuclear. All chemical weapons were destroyed. I ordered destruction of all chemical weapons. All weapons, biological, chemical, missile, nuclear were destroyed."

UN questioner Smjdovich asked, "Why missiles and chemical weapons were kept in part while biological weapons were all destroyed?" General Kamal responded: "In the nuclear area, there were no weapons. Missile and chemical weapons were real weapons. Our main worry was Iran and they were against them."

# Newsweek Reported Weapons of Mass Destruction Destroyed

A *Newsweek a*rticle (March 3, 2003) made reference to a copy of the United Nations 1995 debriefing given by Iraqi general Hussein Kamel who defected from Iraq. He was the chief Iraqi official responsible for Iraq's stockpile of chemical and biological weapons and banned missiles. In that report Kamel reported to officials from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the UN inspection team known as UN-SCOM, "that after the Gulf War, Iraq destroyed all its chemical and biological weapons stocks and the missiles to deliver them. All that remained were hidden blueprints, computer disks, microfiches and production molds." He reported that the weapons were destroyed secretly.

Kamel was Saddam Hussein's son-in-law. When he defected, he carried crates of secret documents relating to Iraq's weapons program. These documents provided further confirmation that the banned weapons had been destroyed. Kamel's defection was a major event that confirmed that Iraq had in fact destroyed the banned weapons.

Kamel foolishly returned to Iraq in 1996 and was killed upon his return for having divulged that information.

The *Newsweek* article stated that the CIA and British MI6 were given the same information and that CIA analysts received the report in August 1995. The article stated "a military aide who defected with Kamel backed Kamel's assertions about the destruction of WMD stocks." That document was obtained by Cambridge University analyst Glen Rangwala, who also revealed that British Prime Minister Tony Blair's "intelligence dossier" contained false statements to support Blair's desire to invade Iraq.

#### Bush's Selected Use and Cover-up of Report's Information

The White House repeatedly cited Kamel's assertions about the prior existence of the banned weapons, but withheld the remainder of his statements that the weapons had been destroyed.

Secretary of State Colin Powell vouched for Kamel's credibility during a speech on February 5, 2002, but omitted Kamel's assertion that all prohibited weapons were destroyed:

It took years for Iraq to finally admit that it had produced four tons of the deadly nerve agent VX. The admission only came out after inspectors collected documentation as a result of the defection of Hussein Kamel, Saddam Hussein's late son-in-law.

Chaney stated in August 2002 that Kamel "should serve as a reminder to all that we often learned more as the result of defections than we learned from the inspection regime itself." While praising Kamel's honesty, Chaney withheld from the American people that Kamel described the destruction of all chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. Chaney's deception would be deadly for many people, both Americans and Iraqis.

#### **Media People Complicit in Deception Affecting Americans**

Much of the media, especially the television media, engaged in this deception. For instance, *New York Times* editorials repeatedly cited Kamel's statements about the production of the chemical and biological weapons but omitted the statement that they were all destroyed.

Even *Newsweek* was tainted as it buried that story in a miscellaneous section with the bland sounding title of "The Defector's Secrets." Virtually every U.S. media refused to print that story that undermined the primary reason cited by the Bush administration for invading Iraq.

Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting, FAIR, addressed media deception in a February 10, 2003, article:

In reporting on Secretary of State Colin Powell's February 5 presentation to the United Nations Security Council, many journalists treated allegations made by Powell as though they were facts. Reporters at several major outlets neglected to observe the journalistic rule of prefacing unverified assertions with words like "claimed" or "alleged."

This was of particular concern given that over the last several months, many Bush administration claims about alleged Iraqi weapons facilities have failed to hold up to inspection. In many cases, the failed claims—like Powell's claims at the U.N.—have cited U.S. and British intelligence sources and have included satellite photos as evidence.

In a report on Powell's presentation, the *New York Daily News* (2/6/03) accepted his statements at face value. "To buttress his arguments, Powell

showed satellite photos of Iraqi weapons sites and played several audiotapes intercepted by U.S. electronic eavesdroppers. The most dramatic featured an Iraqi Army colonel in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Republican Guards Corps ordering a captain to sanitize communications." The *Daily News* gave no indication that it had independent confirmation that the photos were indeed of weapons sites, or that individuals on the tapes were in fact who Powell said they were.

In Andrea Mitchell's report on *NBC Nightly News* (2/5/03), Powell's allegations were given as actual capabilities of the Iraqi military: "Powell played a tape of a Mirage jet retrofitted to spray simulated anthrax, and a model of Iraq's unmanned drones, capable of spraying chemical or germ weapons within a radius of at least 550 miles."

Dan Rather, during an interview with Powell (60 Minutes II, 2/5/03), shifted from reporting allegations to describing allegations as facts. "Holding a vial of anthrax-like powder, Powell said Saddam might have tens of thousands of liters of anthrax. He showed how Iraqi jets could spray that anthrax and how mobile laboratories are being used to concoct new weapons." Powell stated that the mobile laboratories producing anthrax were actually operating when he knew his charges were false.

Commentator William Schneider on *CNN Live Today* (2/6/03) dismissed the possibility that Powell could be doubted: "No one disputes the findings Powell presented at the U.N. that Iraq was essentially guilty of failing to disarm." When *CNN's* Paula Zahn (2/5/03) interviewed Jamie Rubin, former State Department spokesperson, she prefaced a discussion of Iraq's response to Powell's speech thusly:

You've got to understand that most Americans watching this were either probably laughing out loud or got sick to their stomach. What was it for you?

Journalists should always be wary of implying unquestioning faith in official assertions; recent history was full of official claims based on satellite and other intelligence data that later turned out to be false or dubious. After Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, the first Bush administration rallied support for sending troops to Saudi Arabia by asserting that classified satellite photos showed the Iraqi army mobilizing on the Saudi border.

This claim was later discredited when the St. Petersburg Times obtained commercial satellite photos showing no such build-up. The Clinton administration justified a cruise missile attack on the Sudan by saying that intelligence showed that the target was a chemical weapons factory; later investigation showed it to be a pharmaceutical factory (London Independent, 5/4/99).

Following a CIA warning in October that commercial satellite

photos showed Iraq was "reconstituting" its clandestine nuclear weapons program at Al Tuwaitha, a former nuclear weapons complex, George W. Bush told a Cincinnati audience on October 7 (New York Times, 10/8/02): "Satellite photographs reveal that Iraq was rebuilding facilities at sites that have been part of his nuclear program in the past."

When inspectors returned to Iraq, however, they visited the Al Tuwaitha site and found no evidence to support Bush's claim. Since December 4 inspectors from Mohamed El Baradei's International Atomic Energy Age, IAEA, have scrutinized that vast complex almost a dozen times, and reported no violations, according to an Associated Press report (1/8/03).

#### Flimsy Drones made of Wood: Weapons of Mass Destruction?

"Iraq shows balsa drone Powell called dangerous," was the headline on an *Associated Press* article (March 13, 2003), stating:

Iraq on Wednesday displayed a drone aircraft that resembled a large model plane, disputing U.S. claims that it represents a grave danger. The Bush administration long has said that Iraq is developing weapons of mass destruction, and U.S. officials have cited as proof what they called an undeclared drone that Iraq was developing to spread chemical and biological weapons.

But Iraq showed journalists Wednesday what it said was the drone. Made mostly of balsa wood and held together with screws and duct tape, it had two small propellers attached to what looked like the engines of a weed whacker. Ewen Buchanan, spokesman for chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix, said after inspectors examined photographs of the drone: "Yes, it would appear to be the drone that was discovered by inspectors recently."

### A Washington Post article referred to the same flimsy drone, stating:

The black and white drone appeared to have been fashioned from cannibalized aviation parts and standard craft-shop fare. The wings were constructed with cloth-covered balsa wood. Patches of aluminum foil were used for reinforcement. ... an inelegant flying machine. John Negroponte, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, suggested that the drone could travel beyond U.N.-imposed limits, which Secretary of State Colin Powell said it could dispense biological and chemical weapons and thus "should be of concern to everybody."

### MSNBC Protecting Bush's Lies on Iraq-Terrorist Connection

An initial MSNBC.com report relating to the tape of Osama bin Laden stated: "At the same time, the message also called on Iraqis to rise up and oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who is a secular leader." The Bush team must have seen that broadcast and probably immediately

told MSNBC to remove that section. It then disappeared from the remainder of the statements made by Osama bin Laden. In its place was the statement: The taped statement reflected Saddam, a secular leader, but made it clear that Saddam was not the immediate target.

#### **False Claims Iraq was Resuming Missile Production**

In September and October, U.S. officials charged that conclusive evidence existed that Iraq was preparing to resume manufacturing banned ballistic missiles at several sites. In one such report the CIA said, "The only plausible explanation" for a new structure at the Al Rafah missile test site was that Iraq was developing banned long-range missiles (Associated Press, 1/18/03).

But CIA suggestions that facilities at Al Rafah, in addition to sites at Al Mutasim and Al Mamoun, were being used to build prohibited missile systems, were found to be baseless when U.N. inspectors visited each site (*Los Angeles Times*, 1/26/03).

British and U.S. intelligence officials said new building at Al-Qaim, a former uranium refinery in Iraq's western desert, suggested renewed Iraqi development of nuclear weapons. But an extensive survey by U.N. inspectors in December reported no violations (*Associated Press*, 1/18/03).

Last fall the CIA warned that "key aspects of Iraq's offensive biological weapons program are active and most elements are more advanced and larger" than they were pre-1990, citing as evidence renewed building at several facilities such as the Al Dawrah Vaccine Facility, the Amiriyah Serum and Vaccine Institute, and the Fallujah III Castor Oil Production Plant. By mid-January, inspectors had visited all the sites many times over. No evidence was found that the facilities were being used to manufacture banned weapons (*Los Angeles Times*, 1/26/03).

# **United Nations Inspectors Found No Evidence**

The Associated Press concluded in its January 18 analysis: "In almost two months of surprise visits across Iraq, U.N. arms monitors have inspected 13 sites identified by U.S. and British intelligence agencies as major 'facilities of concern,' and reported no signs of revived weapons building."

Following Powell's U.N. presentation, former U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Iraq Hans von Sponeck told the British newspaper *The Mirror* (2/6/03):

The inspectors have found nothing which was in the Bush and Blair dossiers of last September. What happened to them? They are totally embarrassed by them. I have seen facilities in pieces in Iraq which U.S. intelligence reports say are dangerous.

The Institute of Strategic Studies referred to the Al Fallujah three

castor oil production unit and the Al Dora foot and mouth center as "facilities of concern." In 2002 I saw them and they were destroyed, manipulating allegations, allegations being converted into facts.

Hoax: Iraq Building and Hiding Weapons of Mass Destruction Bush stated (February 26, 2003) in a speech before the American Enterprise Institute in Washington:

In Iraq, a dictator is building and hiding weapons that could enable him to dominate the Middle East and intimidate the civilized world, and we will not allow it. This same tyrant has close ties to terrorist organizations and could supply them with the terrible means to strike this country, and America will not permit it.

The danger posed by Saddam Hussein and his weapons cannot be ignored or wished away. The danger must be confronted. We hope that the Iraqi regime will meet the demands of the United Nations and disarm fully and peacefully.

The safety of the American people depends on ending this direct and growing threat. Acting against the danger will also contribute greatly to the long-term safety and stability of our world. The current Iraqi regime has shown the power of tyranny to spread discord and violence in the Middle East. A liberated Iraq can show the power of freedom to transform that vital region by bringing hope and progress into the lives of millions. America's interest in security and America's belief in liberty both lead in the same direction—to a free and peaceful Iraq.

We will not allow the triumph of hatred and violence in the affairs of men. Our coalition of more than 90 countries is pursuing the networks of terror with every tool of law enforcement and with military power. We are winning and we're showing them the definition of American justice. And we are opposing the greatest danger in the war on terror—outlaw regimes arming with weapons of mass destruction.

We will also lead in carrying out the urgent and dangerous work of destroying chemical and biological weapons. We will provide security against those who try to spread chaos or settle scores or threaten the territorial integrity of Iraq.

The world has a clear interest in the spread of democratic values, because stable and free nations do not breed the ideologies of murder. They encourage the peaceful pursuit of a better life. And there are hopeful signs of the desire for freedom in the Middle East.

The passing of Saddam Hussein's regime will deprive terrorist networks of a wealthy patron that pays for terrorist training and offers rewards to families of suicide bombers.

For its part the new government of Israel, as the terror threat is removed and security improves, will be expected to support the creation of a viable Palestinian state and to work as quickly as possible toward a final status agreement. As progress is made toward peace, settlement activity in the occupied territories must end.

In confronting Iraq, the United States is also showing our commitment to effective international institutions. We're a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. We helped to create the Security Council.

We believe in the Security Council so much that we want its words to have meaning. The global threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction cannot be confronted by one nation alone.

If war is forced upon us by Iraq's refusal to disarm, we will meet an enemy who hides his military forces behind civilians, who has terrible weapons, who is capable of any crime. These dangers are real, as our soldiers and sailors, airmen and marines fully understand.

Members of our armed forces also understand why they may be called to fight. They know that retreat before a dictator guarantees even greater sacrifices in the future. They know that America's cause is right and just: the liberty for an oppressed people and security for the American people.

We go forward with confidence because we trust in the power of human freedom to change lives and nations. By the resolve and purpose of America and of our friends and allies, we will make this an age of progress and liberty. Free people will set the course of history and free people will keep the peace of the world.

## **Bush's Definition of Weapons of Mass Destruction**

Included in Bush's bag-of-tricks to portray Iraq as a danger to the United States was the repeated charge that Iraq had "weapons of mass destruction." Included in these so-called WMD were World War I chemical weapons that produced harsh but limited effects, certainly not as brutal or dangerous as the weapons in the U.S. arsenal. In Iraq's rather primitive facilities, true weapons of mass destruction could not have been produced. Massive facilities were needed to build the type of weapons the United States possesses, which Iraq did not have.

The United States, however, did have weapons of mass destruction:

- Arsenal of nuclear weapons numbering into the tens of thousands.
- Arsenal of tactical nuclear weapons.
- Arsenal of suitcase nuclear bombs that can be easily carried and capable of destroying the center of a major city.
- Arsenal of chemical and biological weapons that it had initially developed in the 1960s.

- Huge bombs, one type weighing 20,000 pounds, that could level an area many blocks in radius.
- Massive bombers such as the B-52.
- Thousands of fighter aircraft capable of firing multiple weapons, any one of which could inflict far greater harm and death upon large numbers of people than anything Iraq could develop.
- Cluster bombs, developed in the United States, that could kill and inflict devastating injuries to people within thousands of feet from the center of the blast.

## **Coordinating False Charges For U.S. Consumption**

President Bush, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Colin Powell, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, and White House spokesman Ari Fleischer, repeated over and over again the charges that informed people knew to be false. To get maximum mileage with their unproven charges, they repeatedly used the term, weapons of mass destruction, which sounded more ominous than, for instance, Iraq had World War I mustard gas.

When Bush II made these false statements he often hesitated, as if he was waiting to see if his claims were challenged. When they weren't, he proceeded to the next false statement, which went on and on, determined by whatever arose in his fertile figment of imagination.

#### **Another Canned Speech**

In a speech at Miami shortly before the November 2, 2004, election, President Bush stated his goals, which could be expected to result in continuing hostilities throughout the world:

And over the next four years, we will continue to press hard and ensure that the gift of freedom finally reaches the men and women of Cuba. We will not rest; we will not rest. We will keep the pressure on until the Cuban people enjoy the same freedoms in Havana they receive here in America. I strongly believe the people of Cuba should be free from the tyrant.

I believe that everybody yearns to be free. Freedom is not America's gift to the world; freedom is the Almighty God's gift to each man and woman in this world. My fellow citizens, these are h historic times, and a lot is at stake in this election. The future safety and prosperity of America are on the ballot. Ultimately, this election comes down to who can you trust. I offer a record of leadership and results in a time of challenge, and I ask for your vote.

## **Appointing People With Compatible Backgrounds**

Upon entering office, young President Bush made appointments that were highly questionable, bringing people into his administration that

had a questionable past, or lacked experience and competency for the type of responsibility needed. However, other presidents have done similar, appointing political contributors or people who helped in the election campaign.

President George Bush, Jr. selected numerous people into his administration that had a history of aiding and abetting human rights violations, lying, engaging in drug smuggling, and other crimes. On January 16, 2001, Bush disclosed that the deputy secretary of state, under General Colin L. Powell, would be former (or current) CIA officer Richard Armitage, who was identified in numerous books with CIA drug smuggling and other CIA operations.

One of the people who knew Armitage in the Vietnam War theater was Rosemary Conway. She worked with CIA people in Vietnam during the Vietnam War and her position put her in frequent contact with key people, including Armitage. Rosemary told me that when Powell was in Vietnam, he worked under Armitage and that Armitage used Powell to carry out certain projects. Powell, a young black West Point graduate, welcomed the attention. She explained about the drug smuggling by CIA people and how it was known to most of the U.S. personnel in Vietnam.

After the end of the Vietnam War, Rosemary was imprisoned in Laos and charged with numerous crimes for her role in CIA operations. Senator Barry Goldwater became involved in bringing about her release, which she said involved payment of \$1.2 million that was furnished by the CIA

Another friend that I contacted was the head of the secret CIA financial operation based in Hawaii that took over from the Nugan Hand Bank when its cover was blown. Ronald Rewald had provided me with confidential documents from the CIA's BBRDW's operation showing secret accounts opened for various well-known politicians. Armitage was one of these people with secret bank accounts, as was President George Bush. During one communication with Rewald, he wrote:

Armitage had a close relationship with William Casey. I recall that we/CIA/BBRDW, had an account in which we moved funds in and out that was for Armitage. We did the same for Bush, Casey and a number of others as well.

In his book, *Called To Serve*, highly decorated Green Beret Colonel James "Bo" Gritz described his knowledge of Richard Armitage:

When he was forced to resign from government service, Richard Armitage was quickly appointed by George Bush as a special envoy to the Philippines and the Middle East.

If Richard Armitage was, as Khun Sa avowed, a major participant in parallel government drug trafficking, then it explained why our efforts to rescue POWs had been inexplicably foiled, time after time. The Shan people don't have television or telephones, and I honestly don't believe that Khun Sa knew that Richard Armitage was at that time the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense.

I think that he was doing exactly as he indicated, having his secretary read from logs that they had maintained, intelligence files about Americans that they had dealt with in the past. But if it was true, Richard Armitage would be the last man in the world who would desire to see prisoners of war come home alive.

Almost continuously since the end of U.S. military involvement, in Vietnam, it had been the responsibility of Richard Armitage, in one capacity or another, to account for our MIAs and bring home American POWs while they are still alive. If what Khun Sa said was true, Armitage had violated his office and used it as a cover, to traffic in arms and drugs to promote covert operations that bypassed the congressional and constitutional system we all swore to uphold and defend. Financed by drugs, assassinations and unsanctioned arms deals—if Khun Sa and the 25 officers present were rights—Armitage and his cronies provided the Executive Branch their "unilateral option" in Southeast Asia, when Congress would not allow us to expand the war into Laos and Cambodia.

Following the termination, in 1975, of official U.S. involvement in Vietnam, Richard Armitage, according to Christie Institute affidavits, was reported by U.S. Embassy co-workers in Bangkok to have been engaged in arms trafficking and drug smuggling. According to the affidavits, Armitage was required to resign by Morton Abramowitz, the U.S. Ambassador to Thailand, following complaints by Embassy personnel that he had totally misused his office and authority. If true, Richard Armitage would be unmasked by the investigations following the safe return of any U.S. POWs, America will want to know why it took so long to return our heroes.

The words of John Heyer, a friend from the past, echoed in my mind: "Our POWs won't come home because they are inextricably intertwined with government drug operations."

Richard Armitage has been named consistently by investigators in Thailand, Australia and both coasts of the United States as a man who has helped the drug warlords market their crops.

An article about H. Ross Perot in the May 4, 1987, issue of *Time* magazine stated that Richard Armitage was an arms dealer and drug smuggler. By October of 1986, H. Ross Perot received police reports that indicated Richard Armitage was guilty of wrongdoing, and of misusing his office and his authority.

#### **Implications of Naming**

## **Armitage to a Key Government Position**

Armitage's past CIA activities could not have been unknown to the incoming Bush administration. The senior President George Bush was earlier a director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and in the loop with drug smuggling during the Contra operation.

More troubling was the fact that not only were George Bush senior and Armitage heavily involved in the drug smuggling, but other contacts that I have had over the years described the involvement into drugs by Jeb Bush—who later became governor of Florida. I've described the reports by Darlene Novinger who discovered this relationship while she was doing investigative work as a contract operative for the FBI and DEA.

#### **Corruption Involved Both Political Parties**

The evidence acquired over the years makes it clear to me that corruption in government covers both political parties, and neither party wants any of the real hard-core corruption to become known to the public. Possibly this is one reason why congressional "investigations" of misconduct in government always hide the real serious corruption. This occurred in the October Surprise matter, the savings and loan scandal, the Iran-Contra affair, the CIA drug smuggling, and many others.

The *New York Times* ran an article on Armitage (February 13, 2001) entitled, "A Longtime Friend Of Powell Is Tapped to Be His Deputy." The article stated in part:

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell once said of his friend, Richard L. Armitage, "I would trust him with my life, my children, my reputation, everything I have." Mr. Armitage advised Mr. Bush in the campaign and was an architect of Mr. Bush's major speech on military matters at the Citadel, the military college in South Carolina, in 1999.

The early betting had Mr. Armitage returning to the Pentagon as the No. 2 official there, eager to help reshape the military's post cold-war strategy. ... From 1983 to 1989, Mr. Armitage was assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs. In 1989, Mr. Bush's father, President George Bush, said he would nominate Mr. Armitage to be assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, and then changed his mind and chose Mr. Armitage for secretary of the Army. But Mr. Armitage withdrew from consideration. His withdrawal avoided a confirmation hearing at which he probably would have been asked whether he had met with an Israeli official to discuss the Iran-contra affair.

#### Lawsuit by Christic Institute Exposing Widespread Corruption

The Christic group filed an affidavit in a lawsuit that charged Armitage with being a key member in the State Department and CIA group involved in drug activities, the assassinations of Vietnamese under the CIA's Phoenix Program, the contra operation that included gun running and drug smuggling, and other crimes.

## **Pathetic Level of Competence Protecting America**

As national security advisor, responsibility for helping to protect national security was given to Condoleezza Rice, who had no practical experience in these matters. It was the typical politically-correct appointment that would help garner votes from a particular voting group.

The same responsibility for protecting the nation's aviation environment was given to another politically-profitable appointment as head of the Federal Aviation Administration: Jane Garvey. She had not experience or qualifications for the position, and some years later, during her tenure at the FAA, the results of the political appointment would be seen on September 11, 2001.

For the director of the homeland security was Tom Ridge, with no experience in that field. For the Department of Transportation with oversight of the FAA, President Bush appointed former California congressman Norman Mineta, whose principal contribution was to block the exposure of serious problems within the FAA while he had congressional oversight for the FAA.

### Lying by Former National Security Advisor Involved in Arming Iraq in the 1980s

James A. Baker III, writing in the *Wall Street Journal* (February 4, 2003) under "The Case for Military Action," stated:

The argument for disarming Iraq by force has become conclusive. In his report to the Security Council, chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix made clear—even if the words were never used—that Iraq was in material breach of Security Council Resolution 1441. Iraq's efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction and the potential for their proliferation represent a serious threat to international peace and security. That threat cannot be countered by containment, which has been tried for 12 years and has failed. On Tuesday, the president was eloquent on Saddam Hussein's intransigence: "Nothing to date has restrained him from his pursuit of these weapons—not economic sanctions, not isolation from the civilized world, not even cruise-missile strikes on his military facilities."

The case for military action was therefore compelling. It cannot be deferred indefinitely as Iraq continues to play its cat-and mouse game with U.N. inspectors. Now can it be held hostage to lowest

common denominator consensus in the Security Council.

The truth versus the lies. First, there was no evidence of weapons of mass destruction. Second, U.N. weapon inspectors did not state what Baker stated. Third, Baker was a key force in secretly funding Iraq's arms buildup during the 1980s while Baker was secretary of state under the first President Bush.

### **Fabricating Claim That**

#### Metal Shed was Used to Test Nuclear Missiles

During a television appearance in February 2003, President Bush sought to justify invading Iraq by presenting aerial photos of a small metal shed—similar to what would be found at many farms—stating it was being used to test nuclear missiles. UN weapon inspectors showed surface pictures of the same shed, containing nothing but some discarded drums. President Bush showed aerial-view pictures of sheds in the desert claiming they were a biological weapon production facility. UN weapon inspectors stated they had inspected the sites several times and found no evidence of any banned activities.

Bush stated Iraq had an aircraft that could fly to the United States and deliver weapons of mass destruction. That aircraft proved to be a small single engine aircraft not even up to the standards flown by pleasure pilots that could hardly carry enough fuel to reach much beyond Iraq's borders—while empty.

# A Washington Post article (October 22, 2002) stated:

President Bush, speaking to the nation this month about the need to challenge Saddam Hussein, warned that Iraq has a growing fleet of unmanned aircraft that could be used "for missions targeting the United States." Last month, Bush cited a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency saying the Iraqis were "six months away from developing a weapon." And last week, the president said objections by a labor union to having customs officials wear radiation detectors had the potential to delay the policy "for a long period of time."

All three assertions were powerful arguments for the actions Bush sought. And all three statements were dubious, if not wrong. Further information revealed that the aircraft lack the range to reach the United States; there was no such report by the IAEA; and the customs dispute over the detectors was resolved long ago.

#### **Aluminum Tubes: Proof of Nuclear Arms Production?**

President Bush, speaking to the United Nations on September 2002, and in documents sent to the United Nations, sought to justify war upon Iraq based upon aluminum tubes "used to enrich uranium for a nuclear weapon." This and other unsupported and contradicted charges were repeated time and again by Bush's lapdogs, Vice President Dick Cheney

and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice. Rice claimed the tubes "were only really suited for nuclear weapons programs."

"Doubt grows on Bush's evidence," was the heading on a *Washington Post* article (February 24, 2003) relating to Bush's claims that aluminum tubes found in Iraq were to develop weapons of mass destruction. That claim was contradicted by U.N. inspectors. The article stated:

When President Bush traveled to the United Nations in September to make his case against Iraq, he brought along a rare piece of evidence for what he called Iraq's "continued appetite" for nuclear bombs. The findings: Iraq had tried to buy thousands of highstrength aluminum tubes, which Bush said were "used to enrich uranium for a nuclear weapon." Bush cited the tubes in his speech before the General Assembly and in documents presented to U.N. leaders. Vice President Dick Cheney and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice both repeated the claim, with Rice describing the tubes as "only really suited for nuclear weapons programs."

It was by far the most prominent and detailed assertion by the White House of recent Iraqi efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. But according to government officials and weapons experts, the claim now appears to be seriously in doubt. After weeks of investigation, U.N. weapons inspectors in Iraq are increasingly confident that the aluminum tubes were never meant for enriching uranium, according to officials familiar with the inspection process.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the U.N. chartered nuclear watchdog, reported in a Jan. 8 preliminary assessment that the tubes were "not directly suitable" for uranium enrichment but were "consistent" with making ordinary artillery rockets—a finding that meshed with Iraq's official explanation for the tubes. The rockets were allowed under U.N. sanctions. New evidence supporting that conclusion has been gathered in recent weeks and will be presented to the U.N. Security Council in a report due to be released on Monday, the official said.

Moreover, there were clues from the beginning that should have raised doubts about claims that the tubes were part of a secret Iraqi nuclear weapons program, according to U.S. and international experts on uranium enrichment. The quantity and specifications of the tubes-narrow, silver cylinders measuring 81 millimeters in diameter and about a meter in length could not be used to enrich uranium without extensive modification, the experts said.

But they are a perfect fit for a well-documented 81 mm conventional rocket program in place for two decades. Iraq imported the same aluminum tubes for rockets in the 1980s. The new tubes it tried

to purchase actually bear an inscription that includes the word, "rocket," according to one official who examined them.

As the U.N. inspections continued, some weapons experts said the aluminum-tubes saga could undermine the credibility of claims about Iraq's arsenal. To date, the Bush administration has declined to release photos or other specific evidence to bolster its contention that Iraq was actively seeking to acquire new biological, chemical and nuclear arms, and the means to deliver them.

## White House Hoax: Iraq was Moving WMD Prior to Inspections

Bush and his team charged that Iraq repeatedly *moved* weapons of mass destruction just prior to the arrival of UN inspectors, and therefore were not cooperating in disarmament. The Bush group provided satellite pictures showing truck movements, claiming as evidence of Iraq moving weapons of mass destruction from sites prior to UN inspectors' arrival. UN inspectors said these were routine truck shipments and that UN inspectors had frequently checked these sites and found no such evidence.

## **Proof, Claimed Bush: Discovery of Empty Rocket Shells**

In February 2003, U.N. inspectors discovered 16 empty casings for short-range, 122 mm rockets scattered on the sandy ground in a desert surrounding. The Bush team claimed it was proof that Iraq was hiding weapons of mass destruction. UN inspectors said that so far they have found no proof of a banned Iraqi weapons program in searches of facilities that had been identified as suspicious in U.S. and British intelligence reports.

David Albright, a former International 'atomic Energy Agency weapons inspector who has investigated Iraq's past nuclear programs extensively, said, "In this case, I fear that the information was put out there for a short-term political goal: to convince people that Saddam Hussein was close to acquiring nuclear weapons."

The Bush administration, while acknowledging the atomic energy agency's findings on the aluminum tubes, simply repeated the same falsehoods. White House spokesman Ari Fleischer reacted to the agency's initial report on Jan. 8 by asserting that the case was still open. "It should be noted," Fleischer said, "that the attempted acquisition of such tubes was prohibited under the United Nations resolution in any case." U.N. sanctions restrict Iraq's ability to import "dual-use" items that potentially could be used for weapons." [Presumably that includes such items as ant killer!]

# Permitted Short Range Missiles as Justification for War

In February 2003, President Bush and Britain's Tony Blair stated

(February 2003) that the finding of a U.N. panel that Iraq had conducted flight tests of its al-Samoud 2 rockets exceeded the technical 93-mile limit set by the U.N. Powell said the report "shows continued Iraqi non-compliance" with the U.N. limits. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov challenged the statement, saying the missile findings were "a technical matter."

"Threats, Promises, and Lies," was the title of an article written by syndicated columnist Paul Krugman's (*New York Times*, February 25, 2003):

Mr. Bush's mendacity on economic matters was obvious even during the 2000 election. But lately it has reached almost pathological levels. Last week Mr. Bush, who has been having a hard time getting reputable economists to endorse his economic plan, claimed an endorsement from the latest Blue Chip survey of business economists. "I don't know what he was citing," declared the puzzled author of that report, which said no such thing.

What Americans may not fully appreciate was the extent to which similarly unfounded claims have, in the eyes of much of the world, discredited the administration's foreign policy. Whatever the real merits of the case against Iraq, again and again the administration has cited evidence that turns out to be misleading or worthless—"garbage after garbage after garbage," according to one U.N. Official.

Zarqawi, a Jordanian of Palestinian descent, was a shadowy figure who has recently been associated with the assassination last October of Laurence Foley, an American diplomatic officer in Jordan. Zarqawi was likely associated with al Qaeda. He did visit Iraq, but only to be hospitalized in Baghdad for wounds suffered in Afghanistan in the fighting after Sept. 11, 2001. But so far, no information has been revealed that would show that Zarqawi ever met with Iraqi officials.

The idea that Zarqawi runs a "terrorist network" of his own or that he was the No. 3 figure in al Qaeda was hyperbole. There was no information available that shows that he was anything other than a foot soldier in connection with known al Qaeda operatives. The administration hypothesis was essentially "proof by proximity." It claims that Zarqawi had a group with whom he was operating, and that group could not be functioning in Baghdad without the complicity of Hussein's government.

Washington officials also acknowledge that Zarqawi had support from a member of the Qatari Royal family, Abdul Ikarim al-Thani, who hosted him in Qatar. However, Washington officials do not claim that, as with Iraq, these facts show that the Qatari court was also connected to al Qaeda, particularly because the United States depends on Qatar to provide staging support for the U.S. Central Command.

Even if Zarqawi had been in touch with Iraqi officials, the idea that he was operating a terrorist training center in Northern Iraq was completely unproven. The training center does exist, and it does have connections to al Qaeda, but it was run by a dissident Kurdish Islamic militant group, Ansar al-Islam. This group was utterly opposed to the Iraqi regime and has no connection to it.

Thus, all the pieces in Powell's accusation—Zarqawi, Ansar al-Islam, al Qaeda and the Iraqi regime—do exist. But the crucial connection between Saddam and Zarqawi was based on supposition, and all the rhetoric in the world cannot create a true link between them.

It was worth asking why the White House was so desperate to link al Qaeda to Hussein that it would resort to deception and lies. The reasons may lie in the slipping U.S. support for the projected Iraqi war. When examined carefully, the Iraqi violations of U.N. resolution 1441 amount to scurrying around to hide questionable vehicles, along with a few furtive phone calls wondering if inspectors will find something questionable in the facilities under scrutiny. The violations are so petty, so weak that it was hard to imagine sending 200,000 troops into Iraq to correct them.

Revenge was a powerful motivator, however. Americans are desperate to punish someone for the horrible Sept. 11 tragedy. In their grief, they are primed to believe any tenuous accusation. A recent poll shows that more than 80 percent believe that Hussein was responsible. But the international community has been more measured in its judgment and more skeptical.

The arrogance of the Bush White House should now be well known to most thinking Americans, but it was disappointing that one of our most trusted public officials would go before the United Nations and equivocate about a matter so basic as this connection. Moreover, the Bush administration must be truly contemptuous of the world body, because the U.N. delegates could have read about the tenuousness of the Zarqawi connection in newspapers just days before Powell address them.

## Lying About Osama bin Laden

Secretary of State Colin Powell stated during testimony before the Senate Budget Committee on February 11, 2003 that he had a copy of a tape of Osama bin Laden that was broadcast on the Middle East news network, Al Jazeera, and that the tape showed ties between Saddam Hussein and the terrorist organization. Powell repeated certain segments of bin Laden's statements but omitted the part that proved just the opposite. That was the part of the taped statements by Osama bin Laden urging the Iraqi people to rise up against Saddam Hussein. Powell stated, "This nexus between terrorists and states that are developing weapons of mass destruction can no longer be looked away from and ignored."

#### **Repeated White House Refusal to Provide Evidence**

When asked for evidence to support Colin Powell's statement that Saddam Hussein had clear ties to Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups, White House Chief of Staff Andrew H. Card Jr. said on *Fox News Sunday* (January 26, 2003) that Saddam Hussein "has had a history of a relationship with terrorist organizations in the past, and it would be horrible if his weapons of mass destruction got into the hands of terrorists."

That reply to questions supporting prior unsupported statements was always met with other unsupported statements, and rarely challenged by the lapdog media. Card also admitted that Bush would use nuclear weapons upon Iraq if "weapons of mass destruction" were used by Iraq.

#### U.S. Intelligence Personnel Admit White House Pressure to Lie For Bush's Desire to Invade Iraq

In a *New York Times* report, sources inside U.S. intelligence agencies "said they were baffled by the Bush administration's insistence on a solid link between Iraq and Osama bin Laden's network," they were upset that "the intelligence was obviously being politicized" and that "we've been looking at this hard for more than a year and you know what? We just don't think it's there." The article continued:

All of which brings us to the most outrageous big lie of the Bush administration: that delaying an invasion to wait for the United Nations to complete inspections would endanger the United States. The fact was that for more than a decade, the military containment of Iraq has effectively neutered Hussein. It was counterproductive to transparently lie to a skeptical world and immoral to denigrate the inspection process because we are afraid it will undermine our cobbled-together rationale for going to war.

As Powell knows from his Vietnam experience, lies have a way of catching up with you. Years from now, if the United States is still spending billions trying to micromanage the Middle East and reaping its rewards in blood, Bush will be marked indelibly, like Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon before him, as a leader who went to war on a lie.

## Powell Knowledgeable About CIA Drug Smuggling

Powell was in Vietnam during the Vietnam War and surely knew of

the CIA drug smuggling and the lies denying these acts, and the lies given to the people to justify the Vietnam War. He was appointed General and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs from 1989 to 1993. Powell came out of retirement to accept the post as Secretary of State in the second George Bush presidency.

Hans Blix, the chief U.N. weapons inspector, stated (March 5, 2003) that Iraq was complying with its obligations to disarm and was cooperating with UN inspectors. Blix also stated that seven Iraqi scientists submitted to private interviews and said there were no prohibited weapons, and that they had been destroyed years earlier.

## Inspections Were Working, the World Community Stated

France held that the inspections were producing results and should continue. Russia said the same. Both of those countries were far closer to Iraq to know, and also to feel the effects if that was not so.

#### More of Powell's Blatantly False statements

"We will not shrink from war," said Secretary of State Colin Powell (*Wall Street Journal*, February 3, 2003):

President Bush warned in his State of the Union address that "the gravest danger facing America and the world is outlaw regimes that seek and possess nuclear, chemical and biological weapons." Exhibit A is Saddam Hussein's Iraq. As the president said, we need only look at how Saddam has terrorized, oppressed and murdered his own people to understand his methods. And, perhaps most critically, the president confirmed that Iraq has open channels and ties to terrorist organizations, including al Qaeda.

Last November, the U.N. Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1441, giving Iraq one last chance to disarm peacefully or "face serious consequences." However, instead of disarming, Iraq has responded to Resolution 1441 with empty claims, empty declarations and empty gestures. Just a week ago, U.N. chief weapons inspector Hans Blix told the Security Council that "Iraq appears not to have come to a genuine acceptance, not even today, of the disarmament that was demanded of it."

Indeed, the Iraqi regime is going to great lengths to conceal its weapons of mass destruction. It has removed material from sites it knew were likely to be inspected. The regime also has an active program of coaching scientists before they talk to inspectors and only permits interviews when minders are present. On top of that, thousands of pages of sensitive weapons-related documents have been found in private homes.

Resolution 1441 established two key tests: a full and accurate disclosure of Iraq's weaponry and a requirement to cooperate imme-

diately, unconditionally and actively with the inspectors. Iraq has failed both tests. Iraq's declaration of its weapons holding is incomplete and inaccurate and provides no substantive information on the disposition of its weapons of mass destruction.

In their inspections, Mr. Blix's team discovered a number of chemical warheads not previously acknowledged by Iraq. Iraq also continues to acquire banned equipment, with proscribed imports arriving as recently as last month. The inspectors also reported that Iraqi activity is severely hampering their work. For example, Iraq has refused the inspectors' request to use a U-2 reconnaissance aircraft, a critical tool for inspections. Inspectors are accompanied everywhere by Iraqi minders, are slandered by Iraqi officials as spies, and face harassment and disturbing protests that would be unlikely to occur without the encouragement of the authorities.

Together we must face the facts brought to us by the U.N. inspectors and reputable intelligence sources. Iraq continues to conceal deadly weapons and their components, and to use denial, deception and subterfuge in order to retain them. Iraq has ties to and has supported terrorist groups. Iraq has had no compunction about using weapons of mass destruction against its own people and against its neighbors.

President Bush's message has been clear from the beginning. The President eloquently and persuasively set forth the U.S. position at the U.N. on Sept. 12: A peaceful outcome to this situation is possible if Iraq cooperates with the U.N. and disarms. Unfortunately, Saddam seems to be leading his nation down another path. The U.S. seeks Iraq's peaceful disarmament. But we will not shrink from war if that is the only way to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction.

Saddam Hussein had 12 years to disarm. This statement requires that prohibited weapons had been found, when the facts show that no material weapons have been found.

While there will be no "smoking gun," we will provide evidence concerning the weapons programs that Iraq was working so hard to hide. We will, in sum, offer a straightforward, sober and compelling demonstration that Saddam was concealing the evidence of his weapons of mass destruction, while preserving the weapons themselves.

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#### No Terrorist Connection, Said Director of Middle East Studies

An article in the *San Francisco Chronicle* by William O. Beeman, director of Middle East studies at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, stated:

The Bush administration wants above all to prove a connection between the al Qaeda terrorist network and Saddam Hussein. Secretary of State Colin Powell tried to do just that in his argument before the United Nations on Wednesday. Despite his claim that his words were based on "solid sources," Powell's argument was specious and based on deceptive rhetoric.

Powell stated, "Iraq today harbors a deadly terrorist network headed by Abu Musab Zarqawi, a collaborator of Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda lieutenants." He further claimed, "When our coalition ousted the Taliban, the Zarqawi network helped establish another poison and explosive training-center camp. And this camp is located in northeastern Iraq."

Proving the link between Zarqawi and the Iraqi regime has thus far been impossible for the American intelligence community, as reported in the U.S. and foreign press.

It is worth asking why the White House is so desperate to link al Qaeda to Hussein that it would resort to deception and lies. The reason may lie in the slipping U.S. support for the projected Iraqi war. When examined carefully, the Iraqi violations of U.N. Resolution 1441 amount to scurrying around to hid questionable vehicles, along with a few furtive phone calls wondering if inspectors will find something questionable in the facilities under scrutiny. The violations are so petty, so weak that it is hard to imagine sending 200,000 troops into Iraq to correct them.

The arrogance of the Bush White House should now be well known to most thinking Americans, but it is disappointing that one of our most trusted public officials would go before the United Nations and equivocate about a matter so basic as this connection. Moreover, the Bush administration must be truly contemptuous of the world body, because the U.N., delegates could have read about the tenuousness of the Zarqawi connection in newspapers just days before Powell addressed them.

A *Wall Street Journal* editorial (February 14, 2003), addressing the absence of evidence that Iraq was in partnership with terrorists, stated:

Talk about an axis of evil! In truth, however, there is little hard evidence of such a connection, and the administration should stop peddling that line to the American people. It is hard, for instance, to buy Mr. Powell's contention that a new taped message apparently

from Osama bin Laden showed that Al Qaeda and its leader were "in partnership" with Iraq.

Mr. Bin Laden has been exhorting Muslims to attack Americans for years. Fixing on the prospect of an American invasion of Iraq as a new justification for such attacks scarcely demonstrates a firm partnership, especially in a tape larded with disparaging gibes at the "infidelity" of Iraq's "socialist" leaders.

# No WMD or Terrorist Ties, Reported Business Week Article

Referring to the inconsistencies in the actions of the White House personnel, a *Business Week* article (January 20, 2003) stated:

The Bush Administration is poised for war against Iraq to prevent it from using weapons of mass destruction. But Iraq has admitted U.N. inspectors who have yet to find any. And no evidence has been presented showing that Saddam Hussein has sold any such arms to terrorists or other nations.

Fellow Axis of Evil member North Korea, however, concedes that it is building nuclear weapons, has thrown out international arms inspectors, already has missiles that can hit Japan, South Korea—and perhaps the U.S.—and sells Scuds for cash to sustain its wretched economy. Yet the White House says it is willing to talk to North Korea and is using allies to help negotiate a peaceful accord with the country.

What is frightening is that we are witnessing the evolution of Bush foreign policy firsthand—watching the policy reversals, observing inconsistencies, hoping for the best outcomes but fearing the consequences of actions taken hastily or without adequate thought of consequences.

### **Inflaming Terrorists**

An FBI intelligence bulletin that was issued on February 19, 2003, stated that "Lone extremists represent an ongoing terrorist threat in the United States. Lone extremists may operate independently or on the fringes of established extremist groups, either alone or with one or two accomplices."

Raising doubts about these charges was a *Los Angeles Times* article (March 14, 2003) carrying the headline, "State Department report disputes Bush's claim that ousting Hussein will spur reforms in the Mideast, intelligence officials say." That report was produced by the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, the in-house analytical arm. The article continued:

A classified State Department report expresses doubt that installing a new regime in Iraq will foster the spread of democracy in the Middle East, a claim President Bush has made in trying to build

support for a war, according to intelligence officials familiar with the document.

The report exposes significant divisions within the Bush administration over the so-called democratic domino theory, once of the arguments that underpins the case for invading Iraq. [Why not invade most every country, such as those in Africa, on that domino theory!]

The report says that daunting economic and social problems are likely to undermine basic stability in the region for years, let alone prospects for democratic reform Even was some version of democracy took root—an event the report casts as unlikely—anti-American sentiment was so pervasive that elections in the short term could lead to the rise of Islamic-controlled governments hostile to the United States.

The thrust of the document, the source said, "was that this idea that you're going to transform the Middle East and fundamentally alter its trajectory was not credible."

"Middle East societies are riven" by political, economic and social problems that are likely to undermine stability "regardless of the nature of any externally influenced or spontaneous, indigenous change," the report said.

The domino theory was used by the administration as a counterargument to critics in Congress and elsewhere who have expressed concern that invading Iraq will inflame the Muslim world and fuel terrorist activity against the United States.

The theory was disputed by many Middle East experts and was views with skepticism by analysts at the CIA and the State Department, intelligence officials said.

By some estimates, 65 million adults in the Middle East can't read or write, and 14 million are unemployed, with an exploding, poorly educated youth population. Given such trends, "we'll be lucky to have strong central governments in the Middle East, let alone democracy," said one intelligence official with extensive experience in the region.

## **Every Statements Backed up by Solid Sources?**

On February 5, 2003, Secretary of State Colin Powell stated before the United Nations:

My colleagues, every statement I make today was backed up by sources, solid sources. These are not assertions. What we've giving you are facts and conclusions based on solid intelligence.

Powell and Bush were making reference to a British dossier prepared by the Blair government entitled, "Iraq—Its Infrastructure of Concealment, Deception and Intimidation." The report implied that it was the current findings of the British intelligence agency.

## It Gets Even More Preposterous!

It was discovered that most of the dossier was a word-for-word plagiarized report of a college student, al-Marashi, at the University of California at Berkeley, written twelve years earlier, in 1990. Besides plagiarizing that student's treatise, certain parts of it were altered to change its content to support the war plans by President Bush and Britain's Tony Blair.

The British dossier stated it was a current status of events in Iraq. The Berkley student treatise had 106 footnotes, of which 103 were included in the plagiarized British report. So much for British intelligence and credibility!

Channel 4 in London exposed the hoax, as later reported by the Associated Press, including the entire dossier—including spelling and punctuation errors. When al-Marashi learned of the plagiarizing of his report, he stated that he hoped the British would credit his work out of academic decency.

#### Iraq Disclosing U.S. and France Source of Biological Weapons

A lawyer managed to obtain segments of Iraq's declaration stating the absence of any prohibited weapons, that were sequestered by the Bush administration. Gary Pitts, a Houston lawyer representing ailing U.S. veterans from the Gulf War, obtained the documents as a part of discovery procedures. The documents were the subject of a *New York Times* article (March 16, 2003) titled, "Iraq Calls U.S. and France Its Bio-weapons Sources," during the 1980s. The article stated:

The document shows that the American and French supply houses shipped 17 types of biological agents to Iraq in the 1980s that were used in the weapons programs. Those included anthrax and the bacteria needed to make botulinum toxin, among the most deadly poisons known. The quantities of the agents were described in terms of ampuls, which are sealed glass or plastic containers about the size of test tubes.

Iraq has acknowledged that it used the U.S. and French germ samples to produce tons of biological weapons in the 1980s.

It has repeatedly insisted in recent years that the program was shut down, and all of the biological material destroyed, in the 1990s.

The shipments were approved by the U.S. government in the 1980s, when the transfer of such pathogens for research was legal and easily arranged. United Nations officials confirmed that the documents he obtained were authentic.

# Other Nations with Nukes Ignored by Bush Group

"Potent nuke capability seen in Iran" said a New York Times article

(February 23, 2003), with a subtitle, "U.S. says Tehran's effort has been aided by Pakistan and was far more advanced than the one mounted by Iraq." The article stated:

International inspectors visiting Iran last week were shown a network of sophisticated machinery to enrich uranium, spurring concerns that Iran was making headway in its suspected program to develop nuclear weapons, Western officials and international diplomats said on Saturday. During the visit to the Natanz site inspectors found that it includes a small network of centrifuges for enriching uranium.

The inspectors also learned that Iran has components to make a significant number of additional centrifuges. U.S. officials believe that Natanz was part of a long suspected nuclear weapons program, an Iranian project that U.S. intelligence believes has benefited from assistance from Pakistan and that was far more advanced than the [believed] effort mounted by Iraq. They say Iran's goal was to mine or purchase uranium, process the ore and enrich it to a purity suitable for making weapons—a process that would give Iran a largely indigenous capability to make nuclear weapons.

## Lying About Economic Data

In mid-February 2003, Bush gave a speech claiming an endorsement for his economic plan from the latest Blue Chip survey of business economists. "I don't know what he was citing," stated the author of that report, we said no such thing.

## Reusing Domino Theory Used for Vietnam War

In a speech (February 26, 2003) before the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, President Bush endorsed the domino theory. Prominent among the Bush administration staff pushing this domino theory were deputy defense secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz, chairman of the Defense policy Board; Richard Perle; Colin Powell; Donald Rumsfeld.

As for General Zinni, he said of the o the hawks supporting the invasion of Iraq: "I'm not sure which planet they live on, because it isn't the one that I travel." In an October speech to the Middle East Institute in Washington, Zinni stated: "If we intend to solve this through violent action, we're on the wrong course. First of all, I don't see that that's necessary. Second of all, I think that war and violence are a very last resort. Saddam may be as nasty as Hitler, but he is unable to invade his neighbors. His army has degraded even since the days when Iran fought him to a standstill, and he won't be a threat to us tomorrow; more likely, he'll be dead."

#### **Powell Joins the Liar's Club**

On February 24, 2003, Secretary of State Colin Powell delivered a resolution to the U.N. Security Council. He reversed the position he took

in the early 1990s as he developed the "Powell Doctrine" that held that the United States should never take military action unless it was a last resort, if well defined national interests were at stake, and if strong public support existed. The war he was pushing upon the people of Iraq and the United States met none of these requirements. But to retain his job, he parroted the Bush line. In Colin Powell's earlier autobiography, "My American Journey," he wrote:

I recently read Bernard Fall's book on Vietnam, Street Without Joy. Fall makes painfully clear that we had almost no understanding of what we had gotten ourselves into. I cannot help thinking that if President Kennedy or President Johnson had spent a quiet weekend at Camp David reading that perceptive book, they would have returned to the White House Monday morning and immediately started to figure out a way to extricate us from the quicksand of Vietnam. War should be the politics of last resort. And when we go to war we should have a purpose that our people understand and support.

## Standard Practice of Lying To Remain in the System

Strange, or how pathetic, the offer of a good job can cause someone to subvert national interests. In order to retain his position as Secretary of State under the Bush administration he had to reverse his previous position and join the pattern of lies. He was willing to send military people into a war upon Iraq knowing that many would be killed, knowing that thousands of Iraqi men, women, and children would be killed, and that America would suffer dire consequences. So much for his values! He was well aware of the 58,000 Americans killed in Vietnam, based upon lies, the thousands of others injured, crippled, and paraplegics, and the over one million Vietnamese who were killed.

# Lies About Gassing at Halabjah?

In a letter to chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Commission, Jesse Helms (April 7, 1998) with reference to "Iraqi use of Poison Gas," Jude Wanniski wrote:

I believe there are serious questions regarding our behavior toward Iraq that go further back. You would agree, I think, that at the very least our State Department gave a "green light" to Saddam Hussein to go into Kuwait in August 1990. The more I read of the events of the period, the more I believe history will record that the Gulf War was unnecessary, perhaps even that Saddam Hussein was willing to retreat back to his borders, but our government decided we preferred the war to the status quo ante.

In the months immediately preceding the "green light" given by our Ambassador, April Glaspie, a number of your Senate colleagues including Bob Dole had traveled to Baghdad, met with Saddam, and found him to be a head of state worthy of support. Even Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, a Jewish liberal and staunch supporter of Israel, gave him a seal of approval.

What disturbs me even now was that these meetings occurred after the Senate Foreign Relations committee had accused Iraq of using poison gas against its own people, i.e., the Kurds. Like all other Americans, in recent years I had assumed that what I read in the papers were true about Iraq gassing its own people.

A 93-page Pentagon report dated 1990, published just prior to the Iraq invasion of Kuwait, found no evidence that Iraq gassed its own people. The report, entitled, "Iraqi Power and U.S. Security in the Middle East," was authored by Stephen C. Pelletiere, Douglas V. Johnson II, and Leif R. Rosenberger, of the Strategic Studies Institute of the U.S. War College at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The part referring to the alleged gassing follows:

Chapter 5

# U.S. Security and Iraqi Power

Introduction. Throughout the war [between Iraq and Iran] the United States practiced a fairly benign policy toward Iraq. Although initially disapproving of the invasion, Washington came slowly over to the side of Baghdad. Both wanted to restore the status quo ante to the Gulf and reestablish the relative harmony that prevailed there before Khomeini began threatening the regional balance of power. Khomenini's revolutionary appeal was anothema to both Baghdad and Washington; hence they wanted to get rid of him.

United by a common interest, Iraq and the United States restored diplomatic relations in 1984, and the United States began to actively assist Iraq in ending the fighting. It mounted Operation Staunch, an attempt to stem the flow of arms to Iran. It also increased its purchases of Iraqi oil while cutting back on Iranian oil while cutting back on Iranian oil purchases, and it urged its allies to do likewise. All this had the effect of repairing relations between the two countries, which had been at a very low ebb.

In September 1988, however—a month after the war had ended—the State Department abruptly, and in what many viewed as a sensational manner, condemned Iraq for allegedly using chemicals against its Kurdish population. The incident cannot be understood without some background of Iraq's relations with the Kurds. It was beyond the scope of this study to go deeply into this matter; suffice it to say that throughout the war Iraq effectively faced two enemies—Iran and the elements of its own Kurdish minority. Significant numbers of the Kurds had launched a revolt against Baghdad and in the

process teamed up with Tehran.

As soon as the war with Iran ended, Iraq announced its determination to crush the Kurdish insurrection. It sent Republican Guards to the Kurdish area, and in the course of this operation—according to the U.S. State Department—gas was used, with the result that numerous Kurdish civilians were killed. The Iraqi government denied that any such gassing had occurred. Nonetheless, Secretary of State Schultz stood by U.S. accusations, and the U.S. Congress, acting on its own, sought to impose economic sanctions on Baghdad as a violator of the Kurds' human rights.

Having looked at all of the evidence that was available to us, we find it impossible to confirm the State Department's claim that gas was used in this instance. To Begin with, there were never any victims produced. International relief organizations who examined the Kurds—in Turkey where they had gone for asylum—failed to discover any. Nor were there ever any found inside Iraq. The claim rests solely on testimony of the Kurds who had crossed the border into Turkey, where they were interviews by staffers of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

We would have expected, in a matter as serious as this, that the Congress would have exercised some care. However, passage of the sanctions measure through the Congress was unusually swift—at least in the Senate. Further, the proposed sanctions were quite draconian (and will be discussed in detail below). Fortunately for the future of Iraqi-U.S. ties, the sanctions measure failed to pass on a bureaucratic technicality (it was attached as a rider to a bill that died before adjournment).

# [The facts concerning Iraq's gassing?]

It appears that in seeking to punish Iraq, the Congress was influenced by another incident that occurred five months earlier in another Iraqi-Kurdish city, Halabjah. In March 1988, the Kurds at Halabjah were bombarded with chemical weapons, producing a great many deaths. Photographs of the Kurdish victims were widely disseminated in the international media. Iraq was blamed for the Halabjah attack, even though it was subsequently brought out that Iran too had used chemicals in this operation, and it seemed likely that it was the Iranian bombardment that had actually killed the Kurds.

Thus, in our view, the Congress acted more on the basis of emotionalism than factual information, and without sufficient thought for the adverse diplomatic effects of its action. As a result of the outcome of the Iran-Iraq War, Iraq was now the most powerful state in the Persian Gulf, an area in which we have vital interests. To maintain an uninterrupted flow of oil from the Gulf to the West, we need to develop good working relations with all of the Gulf States, and particularly with Iraq, the strongest.

## Retired CIA Agents Say Bush's Data "Cooked"

An Associated Press article (March 15, 2003), titled, "Retired agents say data "cooked," stated:

CIA colleagues urged to come clean on Iraq. A small group composed mostly of retired CIA officers was appealing to colleagues still inside to go public with any evidence the Bush administration was slanting intelligence to support its case for war with Iraq.

Members of the group contend that the Bush administration has released information on Iraq that meets only its ends, while ignoring or withholding contrary reporting. They also say the administration's public evidence about the immediacy of Iraq's threat to the United States and its alleged ties to al Qaeda was unconvincing, and they accuse policymakers of pushing out some information that does not meet an intelligence professional's standards of proof.

"It's been cooked to a recipe, and the recipe was high policy," said Ray McGovern, a 27-year CIA veteran who briefed top Reagan administration security officials before retiring in 1990. "That's why a lot of my former colleagues are holding their noses these days."

McGovern's group, calling itself Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity, includes about 25 retired officers, mostly from the CIA's analytical branch but with a smattering from its operational side and other agencies, he said.

The administration says its information was sound. During Secretary of State Colin Powell's address to the U.N. Security Council last month, he said, "These are not assertions. What we are giving you are facts and conclusions based on solid evidence."

# American Diplomats Quit Over Bush's Iraq Policy and Lies

A *Reuter* report (March 11, 2003) described the resignations of two American diplomats from the state department to protest Bush's war plans:

One veteran diplomat, John Brady Kiesling, resigned in February 2003 in protest over the Bush administration's warmongering. Another diplomat, John H. Brown, who joined the Foreign Service in 1981, wrote in a letter of Secretary of State Colin L. Powell:

I am joining my colleague John Brady Kiesling in submitting my resignation from the Foreign Service—effective immediately, because I cannot in good conscience support President Bush's war plans against Iraq.

Throughout the globe the United States was becoming associated with the unjustified use of force. The president's disregard for views in other nations, borne out by his neglect of public diplomacy, was giving birth to an anti-American century.

I joined the Foreign Service because I love our country. Respectfully, Mr. Secretary, I am not bringing this calling to a close, with a heavy heart but for the same reason that I embraced it.

## "Worse Lying Since the Vietnam War"

In his letter of resignation to Secretary of State Colin Powell, after 20 years in government, Kiesling wrote, "We have not seen such systematic distortion of intelligence, such systematic manipulation of the American people, since the war in Vietnam." A newspaper article referred to Kiesling's resignation and stated:

Kiesling, who was political counselor in U.S. embassies throughout the Mideast, added that "until this administration, it had been possible to believe that by upholding the policies of my president, I was also upholding the interests of the American people and the world. I believe it no longer."

And this brave man is not the only one who has caught on. The entire world is astonished that our president is lying not about a personal indiscretion but about the most sacred duty of the leader of the most powerful nation in human history.

The first lie, claimed outright, was that Iraq aided and abetted the Sept. 11 terrorists. There is no evidence at all for this claim. The second lie was that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction represent an imminent threat to U.S. security. Despite the most hugely expensive but secret high-tech spy operation in human history—estimated by most at more than \$100 billion a year—and a vast network of defectors and spies, we have not been able to find their supposed weapons.

The third and most dangerous lie is that our mission now is to bring lasting peace to the Mideast by a devastating invasion of Iraq, which will end, as the president outlined last week, in U.S. dominance of the structure of government and politics throughout the region.

The construction of a new world order comes from a naïve and untraveled president, emboldened in his ignorance by advisers who have been plotting an aggressive Pax Americans ever since the Soviet bloc's collapse.

# Warnings of War Consequences

"Ex U.N. Inspector Warns of War Consequences" was the headline on a *Las Vegas Review-Journal* article (March 13, 2003):

The United States could face decades of worldwide political and economic turmoil should it take military action against Iraq without United Nation's consent, a former chief U.N. arms inspector warned a Las Vegas audience Wednesday.

"If the United States acts without such approval, then I frankly fear the consequences of such action," said Richard Butler, who from 1997 to 1999 worked to disarm Iraq as executive chairman of the United Nations Special Commission. "It will be a terrible business and its consequences incalculable in terms of the number of lives lost and the cost."

The shape of probably the first two decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century was about to be determined, probably this week," Butler told an audience of about 500 people at the International Wireless Communications Expo-Mobile Radio Technology expo. If that occurs, Butler said, he "fears the worst," including destabilization of international political relations and the United Nations, as well as "great unrest" in the Arab-Muslim world that could spark further terrörfisaq has come to be seen as much more about the question of what will the U.S. do with its great power than about the disarmament of Saddam Hussein," Butler said. "If you listen to the French, the Germans and the Russians, you could be given to thinking that they've decided the bigger problem in the world right now was the uses to which President Bush will put American power."

# [Prepping White House Reporters]

The Bush administration's "prepping" of White House reporters, requiring them to provide advance questions to Bush and taking reporters' questions in prearranged order, insured that no embarrassing questions would be asked of President Bush. This prepping was especially obvious during a White House press briefing March 6, 2003, when a reporter not on the list asked a question of President Bush

Once when a reporter asked an embarrassing question, White House Ari Fleisher told the reporter asking a challenging question that "his subordination was noted around the White House," which meant being excluded from reporters allowed to attend the White House "briefings."

The Washington Post revealed how the Bush administration knew the questions in advance: "This White House uses news conferences more sparingly than other types of presidential events, because if you have a message you're trying to deliver, a news conference can go in a different direction. In this case, we know what the questions are going to be, and those are the ones we want to an-

swer," said White House communications director Dan Bartlett.

#### **Bush's Successes with Lapdog Press**

Stated in *The Nation* with reference to White House relations with the lapdog press:

The shortage of critical challenges from the press (and from intimidated Democrats) assisted the manipulation of public thinking. By relentless repetition, Bush and his team accomplished an audacious feat of propaganda—persuading many Americans to redirect the emotional wounds left by 9/11, their hurt and anger, away from the perpetrators to a different adversary.

According to a New York Times-CBS News survey, 42 percent now believe Saddam Hussein was personally responsible for the attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. In an ABC News poll, 55 percent believe Saddam provides direct support to Al Qaeda.

#### **Consequences When Reporters Report the Truth**

Peter Arnett wrote (*Wall Street Journal*, February 27, 2003) about the consequences of reporting the truth that conflicted with White House spin:

One night in 1991, I reported on the destruction of what the Iraqis labeled a baby-milk plant, the only source of infant formula in Baghdad. When I awakened in the morning I tuned in to BBC radio and discovered that I had reported one of the most controversial stories of my career. White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater called me a liar.

President George H.W. Bush himself had watched the milk-plant report, Mr. Fitzwater declared, "and was not pleased." According to Fitzwater, the installation was not producing milk powder as the Iraqis claimed, but was actually "a production facility for biological weapons." And as for CNN reporter Peter Arnett, he was "a conduit for Iraqi disinformation."

## Typical Retaliation Against Reporter Reporting the Truth

During the 2003 war upon Iraq, Peter Arnett was reporting from Baghdad for *National Geographic Explorer*, *MSNBC*, and *NBC News*. (*NBC News* owns *MSNBC* in conjunction with Microsoft.) In 1991, while Arnett was covering the Gulf War, he felt the White House backlash when, as a CNN correspondent in Baghdad, he reported a U.S. missile destroyed a pharmaceutical facility which the White House called a chemical weapons factory. White House personnel accused him of reporting matters favorable to Iraq and unfavorable to the United States.

Lying to the American people required to represent the United States? The lying wasn't for people in foreign countries, who receive the truth rather than doctored "news" from the U.S. media.

The London newspaper, The Guardian, published an article (Febru-

ary 5, 2003) showing the deception by the first President Bush in seeking justification for invading Iraq. The article stated:

In 1990 as the US prepared for its first war with Iraq there was heavy reliance on the use of "classified" satellite photographs purporting to show that in September 1990—a month after the invasion of Kuwait—265,000 Iraqi soldiers and 1,500 tanks were massing on the border to gear up to invade Saudi Arabia. The threat of Saddam aggressively expanding his empire to Saudi Arabia was crucial to the decision to go to war, but the satellite pictures were never made public.

The photographs, which are still classified in the US (for security reasons, according to Brent Scowcroft, President Bush senior's national security advisor), purportedly showed more than a quarter of a million Iraqi troops massed on the Saudi border poised to pounce.

## [Florida Newspaper Exposed the Hoax]

When a resourceful Florida-based reporter at the St Petersburg Times persuaded her newspaper to buy the same independently commissioned satellite photos from a commercial satellite to verify the Pentagon's line, she saw no sign of a quarter of a million troops or their tanks.

Jean Heller, an investigative reporter on the St Petersburg Times, has been nominated for a Pulitzer prize five times and come second twice. Heller's curiosity had been aroused in September when she read a report of a commercial satellite—the Soyuz Karta—orbiting and taking pictures over Kuwait. She wanted to see what the only independent pictures would make of the alleged massive build-up of Iraqi troops on the Kuwait/Saudi border. Soyuz Karta agreed to provide them. But no trace of the 265,000 Iraqi troops and 1,500 tanks that the US officials said were there could be found in the photographs.

The satellite pictures were so clear that at Riyadh airport in Saudi Arabia you could see American planes sitting wingtip to wingtip," Heller says.

She took the photographs for analysis to two experts. "I looked at them with a colleague of mine and we both said exactly the same thing at exactly the same moment: "Where are they?" recalls Peter Zimmerman, a satellite expert at George Washington University.

"We could see clearly the main road leading right through Kuwait, south to Saudi Arabia, but it was covered with sand banks from the wind and it was clear that no army had moved over it. We could see empty barracks where you would have expected these thousands of troops to be billeted, but they were deserted as well." Jean Heller wrote her story for the St Petersburg Times. It opened with the words: "It's time to draft Agatha Christie for duty in the Middle East. Call it, The Case of the Vanishing Enemy."

Looking back now, Heller says: "If the story had appeared in the New York Times or the Washington Post, all hell would have broken loose. But here we are, a newspaper in Florida, the retirement capital of the world, and what are we suppose to know?"

A year later, Powell would admit to getting the numbers wrong. There was no massive build-up. But by then, the war had been fought.

#### [Lying About Iraqi Soldiers Killing Incubator Babies]

A public relations firm on a \$2 million contract from the Kuwaiti government had been surreptitiously employed to make the case for war. Hill and Knowlton's coup de grace was their fabricated "incubator baby" story. A story of how Iraqi soldiers had thrown premature babies out of incubators in the Al Adnan hospital in Kuwait City and "left them on the cold floor to die."

Hill and Knowlton's work involved coaching six witnesses to give the fake details of the attack on the premature baby unit. The story was graphically told to Congress in November 1990—before a crucial vote—by Niyirah al Sabah who, unknown to her audience, was the daughter of the Kuwaiti ambassador to the US. In her tearful testimony, she said she had witnessed the Iraqi troops' brutality when she worked as a volunteer in the maternity ward.

But Myra Ancog-Cooke, a Filipino nurse who worked in the hospital, said that none of the staff there had ever heard of Niyirah al Sabah; they had been present in the hospital throughout the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the story was untrue. A Staunch Catholic, Ms Ancog-Cooke explained that it was her duty and God's will that she stayed to care for the sick. She was assigned to the children's ward and took it in turns with the other Filipino nurse who stayed behind, Freida Contrais-Naig, to sleep in the incubator room with the babies.

"I remember someone called and said, 'Look at CNN, they are talking about us." We watched and it was strange seeing that girl telling them about the Iraqis taking the babies out of the incubators. I said to Freida, 'That's funny, we've never seen her. She never worked here.' We didn't think very much about it really. We were more excited seeing our hospital on the television," she says.

Later, Amnesty International, who had also been duped by the testimony, admitted it had got it wrong. Andrew Whitley of Middle East Watch described it as a fabrication, but it took months for the truth to come out. Meanwhile, President Bush mentioned the incuba-

tor babies in five speeches and seven senators referred to them in speeches backing a pro-war resolution.

Subsequently, Hill and Knowlton was unabashed that the media worldwide, the UN Security Council and the US Congress had been deceived by a 15-year-old girl who had been "trained" by a public relations firm. Lauri Fitz Pegado of Hill and Knowlton, who prepared six witnesses to corroborate the incubator story to Congress, told John Macarthur, author of The Second Front, a book on censorship in the Gulf War: "Come on John, who gives a shit whether there were six babies or two."

#### U.S. Spying on UN to Win Votes for War Mongering

A report issued by *Agence France Presse* (March 4, 2003) and also appearing in London's *Observer* newspaper referred to a U.S. memorandum detailing U.S. surveillance of the home and office telephones and emails of United Nations delegates. The U.S. memorandum, dated January 31, 2003, stated that heightened surveillance efforts be made of the delegations from Angola, Cameroon, Chile, Mexico, Guinea, and Pakistan at the New York City UN headquarters.

#### **Continued Lying**

During a speech on March 17, 2003 in the Azores, President Bush repeated the litany of false statements that encouraged other nations to join him in his war plans for Iraq. Bush and Blair met at a U.S. military base on the remote island in the Azores to avoid the tens of thousands of war protestors.

"U.S. Had Key Role in Iraq Buildup," was the heading on a *Washington Post* article (December 30, 2002), stating:

High on the Bush administration's list of justifications for war against Iraq are President Saddam Hussein's use of chemical weapons, unclear and biological programs, and his contacts with international terrorists. What U.S. officials rarely acknowledge was that these offenses date back to a period when Hussein was seen in Washington as a valued ally.

Among the people instrumental in tilting U.S. policy toward Baghdad during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war was Donald H. Rumsfeld, now defense secretary, whose December 1983 meeting with Hussein as a special presidential envoy paved the way for normalization of U.S.-Iraqi relations. Declassified documents show that Rumsfeld traveled to Baghdad at a time when Iraq was using chemical weapons on an "almost daily" basis in defiance of international conventions.

The story of U.S. involvement with Saddam Hussein in the years before his 1990 attack on Kuwait—which included large-scale intel-

ligence sharing, supply of cluster bombs through a Chilean front company, and facilitating Iraq's acquisition of chemical and Iraq's acquisition of chemical and biological precursors—was a topical example of the underside of U.S. foreign policy.

A review of thousands of declassified government documents and interviews with former policymakers shows that U.S. intelligence and logistical support played a crucial role in shoring up Iraqi defenses against the "human wave" attacks by suicidal Iranian troops. The administrations of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush authorized the sale to Iraq of numerous items that had both military and civilian applications, including poisonous chemicals and deadly biological viruses, such as anthrax and bubonic plague.

"It was a horrible mistake then" says Kenneth M. Pollack, a former CIA military analyst.

On Nov. 1, 1983, a senior State Department official, Jonathan T. Howe, told Secretary of State George P. Shultz that intelligence reports showed that Iraqi troops were resorting to "almost daily use of CW" against the Iranians. But the Reagan administration had already committed itself to large-scale diplomatic and political overture to Baghdad, culminating in several visits by the president's recently appointed special envoy to the Middle East, Donald H. Rumsfeld.

## **Ignoring the Evidence**

"Bush Pushes the Big Lie" was the title on a San Francisco Chronicle article by Robert Scheer:

The U.N. weapons inspectors' verification of Iraq' destruction of missiles, private meetings with Iraqi weapons scientists, visits to locations where biological and chemical weapons were destroyed in 1991 and a series of unfettered flights by U2 spy planes, have been met with a shrug and sneer in Washington.

The White House line is that even if the Iraqis destroy their slingshots, Goliath is still bringing his tanks and instituting "regime change." The arrogance is breathtaking. We have demanded that a country disarm—and even as it is doing so, we say it doesn't matter. It's too late; we're coming in. Put down your guns and await the slaughter.

Abraham Lincoln once observed that even a free people can be fooled for a time—and this mind you, was long before Fox News existed—and in his chaotic two-year presidency, Bush has pushed the Big Lie approach so far that we are seeking dramatic signs of its cracking: an international backlash, a domestic peach movement and whistle-blowing from inside our own intelligence and diplomatic corps.

"Iraq Threatens Its Neighbors," Another Bush Claim

Bush and his followers repeatedly charged that Iraq was a danger to its neighbors. But Iraq's neighbors repeatedly stated they were not threatened by Iraq, and that waging war on Iraq would definitely threaten their stability. Bush's continued repetition of this charge implied that he knew more about their dangers than they did. Actually, Iraq's neighbors were even providing Iraq with military equipment, such as night-vision goggles. That didn't indicate they were threatened.

#### **Absence of Legitimate Case**

Condoleezza Rice appeared on British *BBC* (August 15, 2002) with her usual dogmatic statements that Saddam Hussein was an "evil man who will wreak havoc on the world if nothing is done to stop him." In reporting on her appearance, the *San Francisco Chronicle* wrote (August 16, 2002):

Such arguments are being rejected by the European public and by many of its leading politicians, who say the United States has neither made a legitimate case for intervention nor thought through the implications of a war and its aftermath in the Middle East.

A Christian Science Monitor article (August 23, 2002), referred to the absence of any evidence to support Bush's charges:

It is embarrassing that, having designated Iraq as a part of an "axis of evil," the administration is unable, despite strenuous efforts, to state definitely that Iraq is involved in anti-American terrorism or that Iraq has chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons it is ready to use. The administration searches for a casus belli—a cause of war—that will sell the American public on a war in Iraq.

# Ratcheting Up Public Hysteria

"Don't wait for Saddam to get Nukes," stated U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney during a speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Nashville, Tennessee (August 2002), as if they could be produced in a Palace bedroom and avoid detection!

## Halliburton and Iraq's Military Weapons

An article in the *New York Times* (October 11, 2002) by Nicholas D. Kristof stated of the speech:

President Bush and Vice President Cheney portray Saddam Hussein as so menacing and terrifying that one might think they've lain awake at night for years worrying about him. But when Mr. Chaney was running Halliburton, the oil services firm, it sold more equipment to Iraq than any other company did.

As first reported by The Financial Times on Nov. 3, 2000, Halliburton subsidiaries submitted \$23.8 million worth of contracts with Iraq to the United Nations in 1998 and 1999 for approval by its

sanctions committee. Public Enemy No. 1 today is a government that Mr. Cheney was in effect helping shore up just a couple of years ago.

More broadly, the U.S. has a long history in which Saddam, though just as monstrous as he is today, was coddled as our monster. In the 1980's we provided his army with satellite intelligence so that it could use chemical weapons against Iranian soldiers. When Saddam used nerve gas and mustard gas against Kurds in 1988, the Reagan administration initially tried to blame Iran. We shipped seven strains of anthrax to Iraq between 1978 and 1988.

# False Charge Iraq Imported Nuclear Material from Niger

In early March 2003 the Bush team charged that Iraq was importing nuclear material from Niger, providing documents it charged supported their accusations. It was found that the documents the Bush team held to support their charges were forged documents. An *Associated Press* article (March 14, 2003) described the actions by the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee asking the FBI to investigate the forged documents provided by the Bush administration as "evidence" to wage war against Iraq. The article stated:

Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia said he was uneasy about a possible campaign to deceive the public about the status of Iraq's nuclear program. An investigation should "at a minimum help to allay any concerns" that the government was involved in the creation of the documents to build support for administration policies, Rockefeller wrote in a letter to FBI Director Robert Mueller.

In December, the State Department used the information to support its case that Iraq was lying about its weapons programs. But on March 7, Mohammed El Baradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told the U.N. Security Council that the documents were forgeries.

The documents indicated that Iraq tried to buy uranium from Niger, the West African nation that is the third-largest producer of mined uranium, Niger's largest export. The documents had been provided to U.S. officials by a third country, which has not been identified.

Rockefeller asked the FBI to determine the source of the documents, the sophistication of the forgeries, the motivation of those responsible, why intelligence agencies didn't recognized them as forgeries and whether they are part of a larger disinformation campaign.

The Niger documents marked the second time that El Baradei has challenged evidence presented by the United States meant to illustrate Iraq's nuclear weapons program. He also rejected the U.S.

position that aluminum tubes imported by Iraq were intended to make nuclear bombs. El Baradei has said his inspectors have found no evidence that Saddam has revived its nuclear weapons program.

Rockefeller said, "There is a possibility that the fabrication of these documents may be part of a larger deception campaign aimed at manipulating public opinion and foreign policy regarding Iraq."

# Top Nuclear Professionals Declare No Nuclear Facilities in Iraq

The director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency and head of nuclear inspections in Iraq, Mohamed El Baradei, stated in a *Wall Street Journal* article (March 7, 2003):

For the past three months, a cadre of highly trained inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency has been on a focused mission: to verify, through intrusive inspection, the existence or absence of a nuclear-weapons program in Iraq. The IAEA's nuclear-weapons inspectors are physicists, chemists and engineers with decades of experience in nuclear-weapons research and development, nuclear-material safeguards and intrusive international inspection.

A high percentage of the current IAEA team had experience in Iraq during 1991-98. This was a period when the IAEA successfully seized nuclear-related documents based on information provided by defectors, convinced Iraq to provide volumes of additional information describing its existing nuclear-weapons program, destroyed or neutralized Iraqi facilities and equipment related to nuclear-weapons production and confiscated and removed from Iraq its nuclear weapons-usable material.

In the past three months, they have conducted over 200 inspections at more than 140 locations, entering without prior notice into Iraqi industrial facilities, munitions factories, military establishments, private residences and presidential palaces. They have followed up inspection leads provided by other states, confiscated nuclear-related Iraqi documents for further scrutiny, interviews scientists and engineers known to have played a key role in Iraq's past nuclear-weapons program and lowered themselves by rope into abandoned underground-reactor chambers.

In recent weeks, Iraq has agreed to the use of overhead surveillance flights by American, French, Russian and German aircraft in support of the inspecting organizations and, as requested, committed to encouraging its citizens to accept interviews in private in Iraq. It has also provided lists of additional Iraqi personnel who might be relevant to verification issues. This kind of cooperation should speed up the verification process and generate additional credibility for the assurances that result. Nuclear-weapons inspections in Iraq are making marked progress. To date, we have found no substantiated evidence of the revival in Iraq of a nuclear-weapons program—the most lethal of the weapons of mass destruction.

#### Russian Legislator Disputes Bush's Charges

Speaking at the University of California at Berkeley on March 9, 2003, Alexei Arbatov, a top Russian legislator, stated the strong disagreement by informed Russians with the Bush's war plans for Iraq and the many false charges that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. He repeated what was well known throughout the Middle East, that an attack on Iraq would inspire militants throughout the Middle East to attack U.S. interests, would undoubtedly kill many people on both sides, a fact ignored by politicians who have never heard a shot fired in anger.

# **Worldwide Outrage Against Iraqi Invasion**

Throughout the world government leaders and people showed their anger at President Bush's rhetoric about invading Iraqi, which sounded like a little child totally unaware of the brutal consequences. A *Washington Times* article (August 19, 2002) titled "Morocco up in arms over Iraqi invasion talk," stated:

A business executive with close ties to the Islamist movement put it even more bluntly: "George Bush is the worst president ever, as far as the Middle East conflict is concerned."

Referring to the U.S. claim by Secretary of State Colin Powell, the head-line on a *Guardian* article (February 5, 2003) stated:

US claim was dismissed by Blix: The chief UN weapons inspector yesterday dismissed what has been billed as a central claim of the speech by US secretary of state, Colin Powell, will make today to the UN security council.

Hans Blix said there was no evidence of mobile biological weapons laboratories or of Iraq trying to foil inspectors by moving equipment before the inspection teams arrived. In a series of leaks or previews, the state department has said Mr. Powell will allege that Iraq moved mobile biological weapons laboratories ahead of an inspection.

Dr. Blix said he had already inspected two alleged mobile labs and found nothing: "Two food-testing trucks in Iraq. Iraq claimed that the trucks ere used to inspect the quality of food production."

Blix also contested the theory that the Iraq knew in advance what sites were to be inspected. He added that they expected to be bugged "by several nations" and took great care not to say anything Iraq could overhear.

#### Making Iraq Prove a Negative While Removing Evidence

When no weapons were found, as Iraq claimed, Bush and his coalition stated that it was up to Iraq to prove that they did not have any prohibited weapons. Iraq had to prove a negative, that it didn't have any prohibited weapons. Iraq provided the United Nations with a 12,000-page report to show the status of the present weapons and the disposal of prior weapons prohibited under the UN resolution, along with a list of companies in the United States and Britain that supplied these weapons.

The Bush White House seized the report and removed 8,000 pages before the United Nations could examine them. The missing pages included evidence of no prohibited weapons, and information on how the first Bush presidency provided funding and arms to Iraq during the 1980s. Also, the names of U.S. and British companies involved in supplying Iraq with the weapons that the Bush administration now claimed to justify inflicting war upon the Iraqi people.

Because Iraq did not document the destruction of its prohibited weapons, which was understandable, and what records Iraq did have were withheld by the Bush administration, Iraq could not provide hard evidence of the absence of banned weapons. Bush overlooked the fact that millions in classified property disappeared from the Los Alamos facility in the United States, and that many millions in military equipment were unaccounted for during repeated inventories of National Guard armories.

## Reasons Why U.S. Hid 8000 Pages of Iraq Report

An article in London's *Sunday Herald* (February 23, 2003) revealed the extent to which British and U.S. companies played key roles in furnishing Iraq with so-called weapons of mass destruction:

Seventeen British companies who supplied Iraq with nuclear, biological, chemical, rocket and conventional weapons technology are to be investigated and could face prosecution following a Sunday Herald investigation.

One of the companies is International Military Services, a part of the Ministry of Defence, which sold rocket technology to Iraq. The companies were named by Iraq in a 12,000-page dossier submitted to the UN in December. The Security Council agreed to US requests to censor 8000 pages—including sections naming western businesses which aided Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programme.

The five permanent members of the security council—Britain, France, Russia, America and China—are named as allowing companies to sell weapons technology to Iraq. The dossier claims 24 US firms sold Iraq weapons. Hewlett-Packard sold nuclear and rocket technology; Dupont sold nuclear technology, and Eastman Kodak

sold rocket capabilities. The dossier also says some 50 subsidiaries of foreign enterprises conducted their arms business with Iraq from the US.

It claims the US ministries of defence, energy, trade and agriculture, and the Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories, supplied Iraq with WMD technology.

The UN claims publicly naming the companies would be counter-productive. Although most of the trade ended in 1991 on the outbreak of the Gulf War, at least two of the five permanent Security Council members—Russia and China—traded arms with Iraq in beach of UN resolutions after 1991. All trade in WMD technology has been outlawed for decades.

#### [All WMD destroyed]

Foreign companies supplied Iraq's nuclear weapons programme with detonators, fissionable material and parts for a uranium enrichment plant. Foreign companies also provided Iraq's chemical and biological programmes with basic materials; helped with building labs; assisted the extension of missile ranges; provided technology to fit missiles with nuclear, biological and chemical warheads; and supplied Scud mobile launch-pads. Nearly all the weapons that were supplied have been destroyed, accounted for or immobilized, according to former weapons inspectors.

Tommy Sheridan, leader of the Scottish Socialist Party, said: "The evidence of British armament companies, with central government support, arming Baghdad lays to rest the moral garbage spewed from the British government. It exposes the fact that Britain, along with America, France and Russia, armed Saddam to the teeth.

Labour MP Tam Dalyell said: "What the Sunday Herald has printed is of huge significance. It exposes the hypocrisy of Blain and Bush. The chicken hawks who want war were up to their necks in arms deals. This drives a coach and horses through the moral case for war."

#### "What if Hunt for Evildoers is Aimed at Us?"

A Robert Scheer article (*Wall Street Journal*, December 11, 2003) titled, "What if hunt for 'evildoers' is aimed at us," stated:

The negative response from the Bush administration to the U.N. inspectors in Iraq could be dismissed as childish pique were it not so telling an evocation of the image of the Ugly American making a grab for oil. Like a playground bully, we have made it clear that thee is no answer to our verbal demands that would forestall a punishing physical assault.

# [Most Open Society in the World]

Yet, to anyone not rabid for war, the U.N. inspectors would seem

to be going well. As regards the hunt for weapons off mass destruction, Saddam Hussein's dictatorship is now arguably the most open society in the world.

Certainly no other nation has been willing to allow deeply suspicious foreign experts access to every nook and cranny, even the dictator's bedroom, to ensure that bad things are not being done. And the Bush administration acknowledges that its satellites and other means of intelligence have failed to provide a smoking gun to refute Iraq's accounting of its own program.

What if the United States were subject to such an investigation? Might U.N. inspectors find the source of the anthrax used to terrorize the nation in a nerve racking, but as yet unsolved, crime committed a year ago? Our government has said that the deadly anthrax brew was almost certainly not an imported product, so why has its origin eluded the world's most elaborate security force?

A bolder investigation would unearth the original U.S. designs for the weapons of mass destruction—chemical, biological and nuclear—that now haunt the world. If U.N. investigators were deployed here, they would discover that U.S. companies quite often supplied the materials that permitted other countries to experiment with the means of killing us all.

# Television Equivalent of Inquirer and Globe

The outlandish support for the Bush administration lies by Fox "News" Channel was like the level of truth in such supermarket publications as the *Inquirer* and the *Globe*. It misrepresented the facts to support the war, constituting a grave threat to the United States.

## Support for Lies From Many Sources

Former secretary of state under the first Bush presidency, James A. Baker III, wrote in the *Wall Street Journal* (February 4, 2003):

The argument for disarming Iraq by force has become conclusive. In his report to the Security Council, chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix made clear—even if the words were never used—that Iraq is in material breach of Security Council Resolution 1441. The Blix report showed that Iraq has defied the U.N. on all counts.

Iraq's efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction and the potential for their proliferation represent a serious threat to international peace and security. That threat cannot be countered by containment, which has been tried for 12 years and has failed. On Tuesday, the president was eloquent on Saddam Hussein's intransigence: "Nothing to date has restrained him from his pursuit of these weapons—not economic sanctions, not isolation from the civilized world, not even cruise-missile strikes on his military facilities."

We cannot be bogged down in a search for a "smoking gun" when we have the strong evidence of the Blix report itself that details Iraq's refusal to cooperate as mandated by Resolution 1441. Nor can be heed arguments that U.N. inspectors are a viable alternative to force, when the only reason they are in Baghdad today is because U.S. troops are poised for action along Iraq's border.

Continued Misstating the Facts

#### Reminders of False Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

Thomas L. Friedman's syndicated column appealing in the *San Francisco Chronicle* (February 20, 2003) stated:

I am very troubled by the way Bush officials have tried to justify this war on the grounds that Hussein is allied with Osama bin Laden or will be soon. There is simply no proof of that, and every time I hear them repeat it I think of the Gulf of Tonkin resolution. You don't take the country to war on the wings of a lie. Tell people the truth. Hussein does not threaten us today. He can be deterred.

Mr. Blix pointed out that the satellite images Mr. Powell brought before the Council were shot two weeks apart and did not necessarily show Iraqi deception. A chemical decontamination truck is present in one photo and not the other. "Routine" movements were also a possible explanation, Mr. Blix pointed out, and Mr. Powell nodded."

It didn't help Mr. Bush or Mr. Powell that the French said their intelligence agencies found no support for the American claim of a strong connection between Baghdad and Osama bin Laden's terrorism network. It also did not help that Mr. Powell's appearance on Friday came just days after Prime Minister Tony Blair's latest intelligence white paper was found to have been plagiarized from Internet sources.

#### **World Leaders Contradicted Bush**

Most of the world leaders were against Bush's plans to initiate war against Iraq, which would destabilize the entire Mid East and create havoc beyond anyone's comprehension. Former South African president Nelson Mandela was quoted in a September 2002 *Newsweek* article:

The United States has made serious mistakes in the conduct of its foreign affairs, which have had unfortunate repercussions long after the decisions were taken. Unqualified support of the Shah of Iran led directly to the Islamic revolution of 1979. The United States chose to arm and finance the [Islamic] mujahedin in Afghanistan instead of supporting and encouraging the moderate wing of the government of Afghanistan. That is what led to the Taliban in Afghanistan.

But the most catastrophic action of the United States was to sabotage the decision that was painstakingly stitched together by the United Nations regarding the withdrawal of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan. If you look at those matters, you will come to the conclusion that the attitude of the United States of America is a threat to world peace. Because what America is saying is that if you are afraid of a veto in the Security Council, you can go outside and take action and violate the sovereignty of other countries. And you will notice that France, Germany, Russia, China, are against this decision.

Scott Ritter, a former United Nations arms inspector who is in Baghdad, has said that there is no evidence whatsoever of development of weapons of mass destruction. Neither Bush nor British Prime Minister Tony Blair has provided any evidence that such weapons exist. But what we know is that Israel has weapons of mass destruction. Nobody talks about that. Why should there be one standard for one country, especially because it is black, and another one for another country, Israel, that is white.

## Retaliation Defense Barred Iraq Attack Upon United States

Throughout the Cold War the United States felt that the threat of retaliation kept the Soviet Union from launching missiles against the United States. The same thought certainly held true for Iraq, a nation the size of California, with far lesser areas developed and much of it in desert land. If they dared to fire a single missile, they knew that their entire nation would be decimated by retaliatory nuclear strikes.

# Iraq was Militarily Weakest Nation in the Area

Iraq was one of the weakest nations in the area as it related to military weapons or weapons of mass destruction. Iran was building nuclear facilities capable of building nuclear weapons. Israel, which had invaded and occupied Palestine for decades, had nuclear weapons. Pakistan had nuclear weapons. India had nuclear weapons.

Israel not only had nuclear weapons, but had invaded its neighbor and occupied its territory for over three decades, inflicting great brutality upon the people in the occupied territory. Israel had attacked the U.S. navy ship, Liberty, and killed many navy personnel.

# Bringing Peace Through Killing of Iraqi Civilians

Veteran political and investigative producer for *CBS News*, Dick Meyer, stated on *CBS News.com* (February 27, 2003):

It's become almost certain that, like it or not, war is the answer. So now is the time to start praying that the Bushies wage war better than they forge arguments and allegiances for war. This administration, with varying degrees of internal consensus, has test driven numerous justifications for war. None seem to have convinced American public opinion, world opinion, or a plurality of our major allies. The administration then tried on various justifications for military

action

#### [Title Wave Of Democracy from War—Said Bush]

The latest case for war came in the president's speech Wednesday nights, right before CBS News broadcast Dan Rather's interview with Saddam Hussein—coincidentally. "War and the vanquishing of Saddam," the president said, "would lead to peace between Israel and the Palestinians and a tidal wave of democracy washing through the Arab world. A liberated Iraq can show the power of freedom to transform that vital region, by bringing hope and progress into the lives of millions. A new regime in Iraq would serve as a dramatic and inspiring example of freedom for other nations in the region."

One syndicated article stated: "This from the presidential candidate who in 2000 made the phrase "nation-building" sound like pedophilia? It was said that conquering Iraq would also cure acne, eliminate world hunger and eradicate reality TV shows."

## **Critical Reports Rarely Reached Public Attention**

The dozens of reports exposing the lies of the Bush administration were read or heard by a very small segment of the American public, who relief on television coverage.

#### **Strange Silence of Bob Woodward**

Bob Woodward and *Washington Post* were among the many who repeatedly displayed blindness to major corruption in government and the CIA. They made a mountain out of a mole hill in bringing about the impeachment of President Richard Nixon for an after-the-fact cover-up of a two-bit political burglary, but remained silent about major government corruption and even treasonous misconduct such as the decades of drug smuggling into the United States; and the many other criminal and subversive activities described in my various books<sup>87</sup> written by and with the input from dozens of present and former government agents and other insiders

A *Christian Science Monitor* editorial addressed the practice of broadcast media people stringing "together long sentences filled with emotions but mostly devoid of content." Another *Christian Science Monitor* article (August 15, 2002) was headlined, "The elusive case for a US-Iraq war. The essence of the article was that "nothing proves that Hussein poses a direct US Threat."

# Another Subtle Way of Deceiving the American People

During a speech in December 2002, where Bush was giving a televised speech from a manufacturing plant, the Bush team quickly covered boxes marked "Made in China," that were behind Bush's pedestal. The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>87</sup> Unfriendly Skies, Defrauding America, Drugging America, Terrorism Against America, Lawyers and Judges—American Trojan horses, Disavow.

drapes, imprinted with "Made In America," covered boxes of imported material—not made in America.

Various tactics were used to protect Bush from unfavorable protesters during his televised speeches away from the White House. One tactic was to screen the people allowed to enter the area for their views. The U.S. media covered up for this deception. Another was to speak before military groups on military bases, knowing that the spectators would not dare say or do anything to reflect unfavorably on the president.

## Censoring the Questions and the "Reporters"

During a televised speech on March 6, 2003, where Bush took questions from reporters, the public was not aware that all questions must presented to Bush must be provided to him before the speech, and any sensitive questions, such as the many false statements related to invading Iraq, be deleted.

An article in *The Nation* (February 2003) stated:

The shortage of critical challenges from the press (and from intimidated Democrats) assisted the manipulation of public thinking. By relentless repetition, Bush and his team accomplished an audacious feat of propaganda-persuading many Americans to redirect the emotional wounds left by 9/11, their hurt and anger, away from the perpetrators to a different adversary.

According to a New York Times-CBS News survey, 42 percent now believe Saddam Hussein was personally responsible for the attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. In an ABC News poll, 55 percent believe Saddam provides direct support to Al Qaeda.

# Limbaugh's Pattern of Deception Protecting Republicans

Russ Limbaugh, during his August 26, 2002, show, condemned all who opposed Bush's determined invasion of Iraq. He claimed they did not have information that Bush had. In Limbaugh's thinking, the world's on-the-scene experts didn't have the information and understanding, but young George Bush, who admitted not reading books or the newspapers had, although he was never able to produce it.

# One of Few Columnists Calling a Spade a Spade

Syndicated columnist Arianna Huffington was one of the few journalists willing to call a spade a spade. In one of her articles appearing in the *San Francisco Chronicle* (Feb. 21, 2003) she wrote:

There's money to be made in postwar Iraq, and the sooner we get the pesky war over with, the sooner we (by which I mean President Bush's corporate cronies) can start making it. The nugget of truth that former Bush economic guru Lawrence Lindsey let slip last fall shortly before he was shoved out the Oval Office door says it all.

Momentarily forgetting that he was talking to the press and not

his buddies in the White House, he admitted: "The successful prosecution of the war would be good for the economy." To hell with worldwide protests, an Osama bin Laden giddy at the prospect of a united Arab world and a panicked populace stocking up on duct tape and plastic sheeting to protect itself from the inevitable terrorist blowback—the business of America is still business.

No one in the administration embodies this bottom line mentality more than Dick Cheney. The vice president is one of those ideological purists who never let little things like logic, morality or mass murder interfere with the single-minded pursuit of profitability.

Then Cheney moved to the private sector, and suddenly things between him and Hussein warmed up considerably. With Cheney in the CEO's seat, Halliburton helped Iraq reconstruct its war-torn oil industry with \$73 million worth of equipment and services—become Baghdad's biggest such suppliers. Kinda nice how they worked out for the vice president, really: Oversee the destruction of an industry that you then profit from by rebuilding.

And in 2000, just months before pocketing his \$34 million Halliburton retirement package and joining the GOP ticket, Cheney was lobbying for an end to U.N. sanctions against Hussein. So his former cronies at Halliburton are now at the head of the line of companies expected to reap the estimated \$2 billion it will take to rebuild Iraq's oil infrastructure after Hussein's ouster.

#### "We are headed for disaster!"

On Friday evening [March 7, 2003], one dejected diplomat left the meeting shaking his head and saying, "We are headed for a disaster," after Britain submitted a resolution giving Iraq ten days to produce the alleged weapons of mass destruction—which they couldn't because they didn't have any—and authorizing war upon the Iraqi people. French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin scornfully said: "By imposing a deadline of only a few days, would we merely be seeking a pretext for war?"

# Treating Inexperienced Bush As Guru

Bush, with no experience in national and international affairs, who was an alcoholic during prior years, was dead-set upon subjecting the United States and its people to the known, positive, catastrophic harm and unknowns that could destroy the United States. The U.S. media and the American public treated young George Bush as a guru whose judgment superseded those of experts in the field of international relations, war, economics and related matters. Almost every foreign country that voiced an opinion warned against invading Iraq, including Saudi Arabia,

one of America's most valued friends in the Middle East for many decades.

An example of the many who warned Bush against committing his folly of invading Iraq was former National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft. He served under President Gerald Ford and George Bush I, and was the founder and president of the Forum for International Policy. Among his many critical remarks about the conduct of President Bush II were those he stated in an article titled "Don't Attack Saddam, It would undermine our anti-terror efforts." (August 15, 2005)

The central point is that any campaign against Iraq, whatever the strategy, cost and risks, is certain to divert us for some indefinite period from our war on terrorism. Worse, there is a virtual consensus in the world against an attack on Iraq at this time.

So long as that sentiment persists, it would require the U.S. to pursue a virtual go-it-alone strategy against Iraq, making any military operations correspondingly more difficult and expensive. The most serious cost, however, would be to the war on terrorism. Ignoring that clear sentiment would result in a serious degradation in international cooperation with us against terrorism. And make no mistake, we simply cannot win that war without enthusiastic international cooperation, especially on intelligence.

Possibly the most dire consequences would be the effect in the region. The shared view in the region is that Iraq is principally an obsession of the U.S. The obsession of the region, however, is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. If we were seen to be turning our backs on that bitter conflict—which the region, rightly or wrongly, perceives to be clearly without our power to resolve—in order to go after Iraq, there would be an explosion of outrage against us. We would be seen as ignoring a key interest of the Muslim world in order to satisfy what is seen to be a narrow America interest.

Even without Israeli involvement, the results could well destabilize Arab regimes in the region, ironically fulfilling one of

Scowcroft repeated his warnings during a television appearance on Sunday, August 18, 2002, stating that an attack upon Iraq "could turn the whole region into a caldron and thus destroy the war on terrorism. Former secretaries of state Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski voiced similar opinions.

# Attack Upon a Nation With Primitive Weapons That Was Outgunned by Sophisticated Weapons of Mass Destruction

For the United States, with its enormous arsenal to inflict war upon a nation with only a minute fraction of military defenses, was like a shooting gallery. It didn't take much courage or risk to engage in a "turkey

shoot" with the overwhelming amount of sophisticated weapons possessed by the United States against Iraq's primitive World War II type of military equipment. Like the U.S. army fighting the Indians in early U.S. history.

#### **Bolton's Contempt for United Nations and International Law**

A Washington Post article (February 25, 2003) stated, "In meetings Monday with senior officials in Moscow, Under-secretary of State John R. Bolton told the Russian government that "we're going ahead," whether the council agrees or not, a senior administration official said. After invading Iraq, President Bush then appointed Bolton to be the U.S. representative at the United Nations—akin to putting a bull in the china shop.

## Pentagon Officials Lying for White House Politicians

"Pentagon reportedly Skewed [Lied] C.I.A.'s View of Qaeda Tie," was the headline on a *New York Times* article (October 22, 2004). The article stated:

As recently as January 2004, a top Defense Department official misrepresented to Congress the view of American intelligence agencies about the relationship between Iraq and Al Qaeda, according to a new report by a Senate Democrat.

The report said a classified document prepared by Douglas J. Feith, the under secretary of defense for policy, not only asserted that there were ties between the Baghdad government and the terrorist network, but also did not reflect accurately the intelligence agencies' assessment—even while claiming that it did.

Senator Levin said Mr. Feith had repeatedly described the ties between Iraq and Al Qaeda as far more significant and extensive than the intelligence agencies had. The view, a staple of the Bush administration's public statements before the invasion of Iraq in March 2003, has since been discredited by the Sept. 11 commission, which concluded that Iraq and Al Qaeda had "no close collaborative relationship."

In an interview, Mr. Levin said he had concluded that Mr. Feith had practices "continuing deception of Congress." Levin said his findings were endorsed by other Democrats on the committee, but complained that the Defense Department and the Central Intelligence Agency had declined to provide crucial documents.

Among the findings in the report were that the C.I.A. had become skeptical by June 2002, earlier than previously known, about a supposed meeting in April 2001 in Prague between Mohammad Atta, a leader of the Sept. 11 attacks, and an Iraqi intelligence official. Nevertheless, Mr. Feith and other senior

Bush administration officials, including Vice President Dick

Cheney, continued at least through the end of 2002 to describe the reporting meeting as evidence of a possible link between Iraq and the Sept. 11 attacks.

Mr. Levin's report drew particular attention to statements by Mr. Feith in communications with Congress beginning in July 2003 about such a link.

A classified annex sent by Mr. Feith to the Senate Intelligence Committee on Oct. 27, 2003, which was disclosed two weeks later by the Weekly Standard, asserted that "Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein had an operational relationship from the early 1990's to 2003," and concluded "There can no longer be any serious argument about whether Saddam Hussein's Iraq worked with Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda to plot again Americans."

In a Nov. 15 new release, the Defense Department said the "provision of the classified annex to the Intelligence Committee was cleared by other agencies, and done with the permission of the intelligence community." But Mr. Levin's report said that statement was incorrect, because the Central Intelligence Agency had not cleared release of Mr. Feith's annex.

The Levin report also disclosed for the first time that the C.I.A. in December 2003, sent Mr. Feith a letter pointing out corrections he should make to the document before providing it to Senator Level, who had requested the document as part of his investigation.

Perhaps most critically, the report says, Mr. Feith repeated a questionable assertion concerning a Jordanian, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Qaeda ally whose presence in Iraq was cited by the Bush administration before the was as crucial evidence of Mr. Hussein's support for terrorism.

In his Oct. 27 letter, Mr. Feith told Congress that the Iraqi intelligence service knew of Mr. Zarqawi's entry into Iraq. In recommending a correction, the CIA said that claim had not been supported by the intelligence report that Mr. Feith had cited, the Levin report says. Nevertheless, the report says, Mr. Feith reiterated the assertion in his addendum, attributing it to a different intelligence report—one that likewise did not state that Iraq knew Mr. Zarqawi was in the country.

# Cooking the Intelligence to Fit the Political Agenda

The Levin report was a primer on how intelligence can be cooked to fit a political agenda. It is another sad reminder of the administration's refusal to hold anyone accountable for the way the public was led into the war with Iraq. It focuses on the intelligence operation set up by Mr. Rumsfeld, who had been advocating an invasion of Iraq long before Mr. Bush took office and wanted more

damning evidence against Baghdad after 9/11 than the Central Intelligence Agency had.

That operation, run by Mr. Feith, tried to persuade the Pentagon's own espionage unit, the Defense Intelligence Agency, to change its conclusion that there was no alliance between Iraq and Al Qaeda. When the Defense Intelligence Agency rebuffed this blatant interference, Mr. Feith's team wrote its own report.

It took long-discredited raw intelligence and resurrected it to create the impression that there was new information supporting Mr. Feith's pre-ordained conclusions. It misrepresented the C.I.A.'s reports and presented fifth-hand reports as authoritative, all to depict Iraq as an ally of Al Qaeda.

Bipartisan reports from the 9/11 commission and the Senate Intelligence Committee concluded that the intelligence community had been right and Mr. Feith wrong; there was no operational relationship between Iraq and Al Qaeda, and no link at all between Mr. Hussein and the 9/11 attacks

For those who were confused before the war, and still are, by all the Bush administration's claims—that the hijacker Mohamed Atta met with an Iraqi official shortly before 9/11, that a member of Al Qaeda set up a base in Iraq with the help of Mr. Hussein, that Iraq helped Al Qaeda learn to make bombs and provided it with explosives—the evidence is now clear. The Levin report, together with the 9/11 panel's findings and the Senate intelligence report, show that those claims were all cooked up by Mr. Feith's shop, which knew that the C.I.A. and the Defense Intelligence Agency had already shown them to be false.

The Bush administration called Mr. Levin's report pre-election partisan sniping. It is far more than that, but voters unfortunately, won't get final answers. However, Feith was finally forced to leave government service after Bush's reelection.

Retired commander of the U.S. Central Command, Army General Tommy Franks, in his autobiography, "American Soldier," said that Feith was "getting a reputation around the Pentagon as the dumbest (expletive) guy on the planet."

# **Pressuring Government Agents and Analysts**

The Bush group claimed that they were relying upon information that proved to be incorrect. The truth was that they pressured people to provide the wrong information so as to justify the planned invasion of Iraq. There was overwhelming evidence before the Bush people uttered any of their charges that the charges were false. Intimidation of government analysts to provide the false information was standard practice in

government offices. Those who didn't cooperate suffered.

#### **Embassies Around the World Astounded**

"Bush Faces Increasingly Poor Image Overseas" stated the headline on a *Washington Post* article by its staff writers, Glenn Kessler and Mike Allen. (February 24, 2003):

The messages from U.S. embassies around the globe have become urgent and disturbing: Many people in the world increasingly think President Bush is a greater threat to world peace than Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

#### Continued Confirmation Iraq had no Prohibited Weapons

A correspondent for the German television network ZDF conducted an interview with Iraq's top science adviser, Gen. Amir al-Saadi. During this interview, General al-Saadi repeated what other Iraqi insiders had told the United Nations, that Iraq had no chemical or biological weapons. That ZDF broadcast was repeated in the *New York Times* (April 13, 2003):

"Nothing, nothing. I'm saying this for posterity, for history, not for defending the regime. Time will bear me out. There will be no difference after the war is over."

After U.S. forces seized Baghdad and had broadcast a list of Iraq officials the United States called war criminals, which included the General, he stated he would turn himself in to U.S. military personnel. "I haven't done anything which could be called criminal, so why should I run," Saadi said.

## **Collapse of House of Cards Possible**

The actions of President Bush could bring down the house of cards in the United States. The negative consequences from the lying and deadly actions of the Bush administration could sooner or later start a collapse that mimics a house of cards. For instance:

• Arab nations taking their assets out of the United States, creating a massive financial crisis in the United States. The Arab nations have funded huge quantities of the U.S. deficits, and without this money, there is insufficient money for domestic investments. It is estimated that Arab nations have many trillions of dollars invested in the United States, including in government bonds that finance the huge national deficit. A withdrawal of these funds can result in a depression, similar to that which started in 1929 at the start of the great depression. While the great depression created enormous social problems, the culture, the ethnic groups, the feeling that the government owes them a living, would probably result in anarchy, riots, murders, torching of buildings. And from there, everything could go like a house of cards.

- Other countries would probably follow the withdrawal of funds by Middle East countries from the United States.
- Foreign countries greatly reduce their purchases of U.S. products, further compounding the escalating financial crisis. Purchase of Boeing airliners would probably be replaced by purchasers from Airbus in Europe.
- Explosive increase in hatred against the United States and Americans, with many different forms of terrorist attacks, including the detonation of suitcase nuclear bombs in key U.S. cities.
- Surface to air missiles fired at U.S. airliners throughout the world, decimating the U.S. airlines.

## U.S. General Against Bush's War Mongering

Retired General Schwartzkopf led U.S. military forces in the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Former generals like Norman Schwartzkopf, Anthony Zinni and Wesley Clark had all expressed concern about the rush to war. "Candidly, I have gotten somewhat nervous at some of the pronouncements Rumsfeld has made," General Schwartzkopf told the *Washington Post*. He added, "I think it is very important for us to wait and see what the inspectors come up with."

## Sudden Reversal by Schwartzkopf

In a later speech, described in a *Washington Times* national weekly edition article (February 7-23, 2003) Schwartzkopf suddenly changed his mind, apparently from pressure, causing him to be less concerned about the harm to the United States from the invasion of Iraq. The article, titled "Schwartzkopf now sees need for force in Iraq," stated:

Gen. Schwartzkopf said he changed his mind after hearing Secretary of State Colin L. Powell's presentation before the United Nations Security Council. "I found it very compelling, and I found it a very, very good rationale," Gen Schwartzkopf said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Last month, Gen. Schwartzkopf said in an interview with The Washington Post that he believed U.N. inspections were the proper course to follow because he hadn't seen enough evidence to convince him a war was warranted. He told The Post he was worried about the cockiness of the U.S. war plan and by the potential human and financial costs of occupying Iraq.

Gen. Schwartzkopf also told the Post he believed Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and his advisers lack much military experience themselves and shouldn't disregard the Army's judgments on the issue. "It's very, very important that you use your military expertise, your military planners, people who've been trained for this for years

and years and years; and use all of these capabilities and don't just run off on your own," he said. "That's what concerned me."

#### **Kurdish Militants Running Chemical-Weapons Tests in Iraq?**

President Bush counted on Kurdish aid in his war on Iraq, but a *Wall Street Journal* article (August 20, 2002) questioned that aid, stating:

The U.S. has evidence that a Kurdish militant group with possible ties to al Qaeda has conducted crude chemical-weapons experiments in northern Iraq, a U.S. official said. The group, Ansar al Islam, allegedly has been producing ricin, a toxin that can easily be made from castor beans, at a camp in northeastern Iraq. Intelligence reports indicate that at least one man and some farm animals died after exposure to the poison, the official said. There is no vaccine or treatment for ricin poisoning.

## Massive Peacekeeping Force Necessary After Invading Iraq

Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee (February 25, 2003), General Eric Shinseki stated that peacekeeping and humanitarian operations after invading Iraq would likely require "several hundred thousand soldiers" for many years. Shinseki and General John Jumper, the Air Force chief of staff, testified that some parts of the U.S. military were already strained to maximum because of their involvement in Afghanistan, North Korea, the Sinai, and Bosnia.

Senator Carl Levin responded: "There's no way we can keep 200,000 troops in Iraq for a substantial time. That's too large a force." Defense analyst Loren Thompson at the Lexington Institute, a public policy group, said: "What Shinseki is saying is that if we don't have allies in Iraq, peacekeeping could employ the entire deployable army."

#### The New American Colonialism

The "New American colonialism" was the heading on an article in the *San Francisco Chronicle* (February 23, 2003):

As retired Gen. Wesley Clark, the former head of NATO forces, says, this war will "put us in a colonial position in the Middle East following Britain, following the Ottomans. It's a huge change for the American people and for what this country stands for."

Clark was referring to Bush's fixation on overthrowing the government of Iraq, have a U.S. military office rule the country for years, control its oil, with its enormous house-of-card catastrophic consequences. President Bush responded to a question, "The people of Iraq can shake off their captivity. They can one day join a democratic Afghanistan and a democratic Palestine, inspiring reforms throughout the Muslim world." What a dreamer!

#### U.S. License to Kill

"A U.S. License to Kill," stated the heading on a *Village Voice* article (February 21, 2003):

George W. Bush (as the December 15 New York Times reported) has authorized the CIA to kill terrorist leaders on an administration list—with hopefully, minimum civilian casualties. ... Bush directives, his "granting CIA authority to use lethal forces against suspected terrorists." From the conservative Spanish publication La Razon, December 16: "It is alarming to see that the fear existing after 9/11 in the most powerful nation has blinded its leaders to such an extent that they would see as good a crime of the state and to consider legal the execution, without previous trial, of people accused, by a discredited security service, of terrorism ..."

In Pakistan, the center-right Nation editorialized on December 17 that the Bush administration's handing over "to the CIA a list of individuals, considered to be terrorists, with authorization to eliminate them physically ... will relieve the CIA of the need to seek approval to kill in each individual case.... Terrorism cannot be eliminated through terrorist methods."

The original New York Times report on the CIA's list of targets noted that "the presidential finding authorizing the President to kill terrorists was not limited to those on the list. The president has given broad authority to the CIA to kill or capture operatives of Al Qaeda around the world, officials said." Quoted in the report was Harold Hongju Koh, a professor of international law at Yale, and an official in the State Department during Bill Clinton's administration:

"The inevitable complication of a politically declared but legally undeclared war [against terrorism] is the blurring of the distinction between enemy combatants and other non-state actors.... The question is, what factual showing will demonstrate that they had warlike intentions against us, and who sees the evidence before any action is taken?"

"If the CIA kills more suspected terrorists in more countries, will it have the unintended effect of 'legitimizing' terrorist attacks against U.S. military officers in foreign countries or even at home?"

Furthermore, McManus continued, "where possible, the U.S. is seeking permission of local governments before carrying out targeted killings on foreign soil—although officials suggest that Bush is willing to waive that rule if necessary. Launching a targeted killing in another country without its assent is normally a violation of international law, legal scholars say.

"There may be some cases where we can't make it conform to international law," one official said [to McManus]. "In that case,

ternational law," one official said [to McManus]. "In that case, let's just make it conform to our law." But the fundamental question, as McManus says, is whether Americans are ready "to accept targeted-killing missions ... that kill clearly innocent civilians?"

"I would add a further question: How will we know how many of these killing missions will take place, including how many of the dead are innocent civilians?

Hardly reassuring is the news (New York Times, January 29) that the president is creating a Terrorist Threat Integration Center that will "merge units at the CIA, FBI and other agencies into a single government unit intended to strengthen the collection and analysis of foreign and domestic terror threats." In charge of this spook fiefdom will be CIA director George Tenet. For the first time, the CIA, which has often been its own private government in the past, will have "full control over the collection and evaluation of all information relating to terrorists threats in the United States and overseas"—as well as control over responding to them.

Said an FBI official: "We just don't know what this CIA hegemony is going to mean." Neither do I. Who's going to tell the citizenry? Not Tenet or Bush. And will Tenet be able to rein in Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who (as the January 8 New York Sun reports) is planning to provide more funds, troop's, and equipment to the Pentagon's shadowy Special Operations Forces, letting these commandos "run their own operations," including (as the January 6 Washington Times notes) the authority to "kill or capture terrorists around the world"?

Both the military and the CIA will greatly increase their already unprecedented powers in this borderless war, including at home. The Constitution calls for civilian control of the military, right?

# "Freedoms envied by the world Are being systematically eroded."

"Something has gone terribly wrong in America," said Jacqueline Rose, a feminist scholar in Britain." "America established a certain tradition of public dissent, with the civil rights and feminist and anti-Vietnam movements. But post-Sept. 11 there was a feeling that the American left has largely gone silent."

In *The Times* of London last month, the author John le Carre went further, writing that "America has entered one of its periods of historical madness, but this was the worst I can remember." Comparing the current crisis to the McCarthy era, he said, "The freedoms that have made America the envy of the world are being systematically eroded." ... supported by a too-complacent news media."

#### **Attacks Upon Civil Liberties by Justice Department Lawyers**

In the 1980s, Justice Department lawyers deprived those charged with drug offenses access to their funds by seizing them and claiming they were the proceeds of a criminal offense—which had not yet been proven. After the success of 19 hijackers on September 11—made possible in part by criminal cover-ups by Justice Department personnel—Justice Department personnel barred people charged with terrorist offenses the right to be identified, the right to legal counsel, and the right to due process.

## **Destroying Civil Liberties Following the 9/11 Attack**

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials adopted regulations in January 2003 requiring the FAA to either cancel a person's airman's certificate, or withhold it, if some bureaucrat in the TSA decided that certain people were security threats. In response to orders by TSA personnel, the FAA issued orders in August 2002 barring two Saudi Arabian Airlines pilots from flying to the United States.

Lawyers Thomas Whalen and Evelyn Sahr told the NTSB that "the sole basis for that revocation was a conclusory letter" from the TSA stating that each of the pilots was a security threat, without giving any information why there was a risk.

That controversial new rule, issued without the standard notice and request for comments, was another of the many destructions of constitutional rights that had existed since the enactment of the U.S. Constitution.

#### **Attacks on Civil Liberties**

Human rights suffered during the second President Bush administration. One, anyone charged by a government bureaucrat with ties to terrorism, an all-encompassing word, could be held indefinitely—including years—without charges, without lawyers, and without due process. Further, they could be tried before military courts, where getting a fair trail would be doubtful.

There was announced with great fanfare the program known as TIPS, which stood for Terrorism Information and Prevention System. The Bush team wanted to use service personnel, utility workers, mail carriers, anyone with access to people's homes, to spy on everyone else. Media publicity again caused the Bush team to back off.

# **Secret Detentions by the Bush Administration**

Unprecedented was the action by the Bush administration of secret detention of people held without charges and without access to lawyers. Hundreds of people were detained on one or more of three types of charges: (1) allegations of having committed a federal crime; (2) those facing deportation on immigration charges; and (3) being held as mate-

rial witnesses. In the latter case, people were imprisoned indefinitely, who had committed no crimes, on the argument that they were a witness, something like you being imprisoned indefinitely because you happen to see a bank being robbed!

The reason given by Justice Department officials for not revealing the identity and location of people imprisoned under these charges was purportedly to prevent terrorist groups learning that some of their members were in custody. First, they were not proven to have such ties. Two, if they did have, these prisoners were allowed to mail letters that made that excuse utterly ridiculous.

On top of these draconian termination of constitutional protections, President Bush authorized killing several hundred people in an airliner if some bureaucrat believed that the plane *might* be hijacked and that it *might* crash into a building. Even the public remained mute on that outrage. He also authorized the killing of people in other countries who were thought by some bureaucrat to be a terrorist; based upon the thousands of detained suspects with no terrorist ties, that would apply to anyone.

#### "Constitutional Menace" to the People

Professor of constitutional law at George Washington university, Jonathan Turley, writing in the *Los Angeles Times* (August 14, 2002), stated that U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft "has moved from merely being a political embarrassment to being a constitutional menace." Turley wrote:

Whereas al-Qaeda is a threat to the lives of our citizens, Ashcroft has become a clear and present threat to our liberties."

Turley wrote that the internment camps proposed by Ashcroft "reflect the same type of extreme theories that led to the Japanese internment camps."

## "Damn Americans, I hate those bastards."

Nicholas D. Kristof wrote (New York Times, March 7, 2003):

Last week a member of the Canadian Parliament for the ruling party, Carolyn Parrish, was caught on television declaring: "Damn Americans, I hate those bastards." Then the Toronto Globe and Mail newspaper conducted a poll on its Web site, asking Canadians whether they agreed that "Americans are behaving like 'bastards."

The returns aren't good: as of yesterday, 51 percent were saying yes. When even the Canadians, normally drearily polite, get colorfully steamed at us, we know the rest of the world is apoplectic. After all, the latest invective comes on top of the prime minister's spokesman calling George Bush a "moron" last fall.

In a survey conducted by The *Sunday Independent* newspaper of Ireland, Dublin residents were asked if they feared most: Saddam Hussein or

George Bush. The result: 60 percent fear Mr. Bush the most. Even in Britain, a poll by The *Sunday Times* of London found that equal numbers called Saddam and Mr. Bush the "greatest threat to world peace."

## **World Reaction to President Bush's Speech**

The more guarded comments in U.S. media to President Bush's March 6, 2003 televised speech appeared in the *New York Times (March 7, 2003):* 

President Bush did not sound like a man searching for a diplomatic compromise last night at his press conference on Iraq. He brushed aside any signs of possible progress that weapons inspectors may have made, and repeated his oft-stated conviction that Saddam Hussein would never disarm on his own.

Virtually the entire world was against the war plans and actions by President Bush. These include people very sophisticated in war, sophisticated in matters of the Middle East, and sophisticated in the consequences of such acts.

## Spiritual Leader of Bush's Church Opposed Bush's War Mongering

The *Chicago Sun-Times* wrote (February 17, 2003) referenced a visit to Chicago by Bishop Frank Griswold, spiritual leader of the Episcopal Church in the United States, of which the senior Bush was a member. The article repeated the statements made by Griswold:

The only sense of community we have now is shared fear or anxiety. Instead of this experience of 9/11 making us, as it were, in a new way citizens of the world community bound together in a common sense of vulnerability, our reaction has been one of bald assertion of our strength and our power. We are loathed, and I think the world has every right to loathe us because they see us as greedy, self-interested and almost totally unconcerned about poverty, disease and suffering.

Listening to Anglican voices in the Middle East, it's very clear to me that they sense it will be a complete destabilization of the entire Middle East. And what may be perceived here as a focused attack on one particular country is going to erupt into something involving the whole region, if not the whole world. This is the climate in which we are living, and my own sense is we always fool ourselves that we think we're vulnerable.

The article added, "In a speech Jan. 31 in Stamford, Conn., former President George H.W. Bush, who was an Episcopalian, called Griswold's comments "highly offensive."

# Europeans Look at U.S. Leader as Stupid

An article in the Knight Ridder Newspapers (February 25, 2003) re-

flected many other foreign newspaper comments:

Even before he took office, Europeans regarded President Bush as a cowboy, a mental lightweight with an itchy trigger finger and a me-first view of the world. Now, with war looming, Bush's image overseas is taking an even more negative shift—so negative, in fact, that recent polls say Bush is as big a threat as Saddam Hussein.

Smirks at the president's down-home style and supposed lack of intelligence have largely died down, to be replaced by fears that his push for war could hurt Europeans where they live—either because war will widen into world conflict or because it will provoke more terrorist attacks at home.

#### **U.S. the World's Most Dangerous Nation**

An article by Paul Krugman in the *New York Times* (February 18, 2003) stated "distrust of the U.S. overseas has reached such a level even among our British allies, that a recent British poll ranked the U.S. as the world's most dangerous nation—ahead of North Korea and Iraq.

#### **America's Period of Madness**

In *The Times* of London (February 2003), author John le Carre wrote, "America has entered one of its periods of historical madness, but this is the worst I can remember. The freedoms that have made America the envy of the world are being systematically eroded."

"More U.S. Allies Issue Warnings About Iraq War" was the headline on a *Wall Street Journal* article (August 8, 2002):

As the Bush administration weighs an attack on Iraq, a growing number of allies are openly opposing war and calling for any military action to be endorsed by the United Nations Security Council. Two key allies, Germany and Saudi Arabia, warned the U.S. this week that they didn't support an invasion.

And Jalal Talabani, a leader of the Iraqi Kurds, an opposition group expected [by Bush] to provide support for a military action, said they, too, would not "blindly" support war. "We are not in favor of having a new dictatorship replacing the old one," Mr. Talabani said during a visit to Turkey. The Bush administration is counting on allies, especially Britain, to support a war, if one is launched.

Such rhetoric [by Bush] has made European leaders skittish. Many Europeans see the Bush administration's new doctrine of "pre-emptive strike" as a threat to international law and justice and don't want to see Iraq become the proving ground for the concept. They also worry that the U.S. doesn't have the staying power to ensure regional stability and rebuild Iraq [after the U.S. destruction].

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroder has warned that an attack on Iraq would undermine the war on terrorism. "It would not be

thought of as defensive and could destroy the international coalition," he wrote in the Bild newspaper.

Prince Saud, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, also said in an interview with the Associated Press yesterday that the U.S. couldn't use his country to stage an attack on Iraq, though he said no plans exist to expel U.S. forces from airbases in Saudi Arabia used for flights to patrol Iraq. Prince Saud's remarks had been expected, given Saudi Arabia's reluctance to support any war in Iraq before progress is made on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

# World Outrage Raises Cost of War on Iraq

"World Outrage Raises Cost Of Immediate War On Iraq" was the heading on a *New York Times* article:

The Security Council meeting on Friday that was to be the penultimate step in laying the groundwork for war, instead produced two significant negatives. Giving his latest report, Mr. Blix indicated that the inspectors were making noteworthy progress in forcing Iraq to make concessions on everything from allied surveillance flights to giving inspectors greater access to Iraqi weapons scientists.

The implication was that Mr. Blix saw the virtue of taking more time, though he did not specifically ask for it. But neither was he ready to tell the Security Council that inspections had failed as a tool for disarmament.

In another negative, Mr. Powell's performance on Friday appeared to fall short of public expectations that he would demonstrate that the threat posed by Iraq under Saddam Hussein was so imminent that the only logical response was war as soon as possible.

Mr. Powell promised new intelligence on connections between Iraq and Al Qaeda, but then did not provide it, at least within public view. And he did not respond to Mr. Blix when the arms inspector challenged one point of the American intelligence briefing of Feb. 5.

# "The most intellectually backward American president ..."

In an article appearing in the *Spectator* magazine, Gerald Kaufman, a former Labor minister, encapsulated the views of much of the media and intellectual elite in Britain when he wrote:

Bush, himself, the most intellectually backward American president of my political lifetime, is surrounded by advisers whose bellicosity is exceeded only by their political, military and diplomatic illiteracy. In Germany, public opinion is so strongly opposed to an attack that Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has seized the issue in an attempt to gain needed votes for his embattled re-election bid next month." (Chronicle Foreign Service, August 16, 2002)

## Awesome Arrogance and Vastly Inflated Self-Importance?

A Paul Krugman article in the New York Times (March 14, 2003)

stated:

A long list of pundits who previously supported the Bush administration ... have publicly changed their minds. They are finally realizing that Mr. Bush was the wrong man to do the job. And more people than you would think—including a fair number of people in the Treasury Department, the State Department and, yes, the Pentagon—don't just question the competence of Mr. Bush and his inner circle; they believe that America's leadership has lost touch with reality.

If that sounds harsh, consider the debacle of recent diplomacy—a debacle brought on by awesome arrogance and a vastly inflated sense of self-importance.

Mr. Bush's inner circle seems amazed that the tactics that work so well on journalists and Democrats don't work on the rest of the world. They've made promises, oblivious to the fact that most countries don't trust their word. They've made threats. They've done the aura-of-inevitability thing—how many times have administration officials claimed to have lined up the necessary votes in the Security Council? They've warned other countries that if they oppose America's will they are objectively pro-terrorist. Yet still the world balks.

The original reasons given for making Iraq an immediate priority have collapsed. No evidence has ever surfaced of the supposed link with Al Qaeda, or of an active nuclear program. And the administration's eagerness to believe that an Iraqi nuclear program does exist has led to a series of embarrassing debacles, capped by the case of the forged Niger papers, which supposedly supported that claim. At this point it was clear that deposing Saddam has become an obsession, detached from any real rationale.

What really has the insiders panicked, however, was the irresponsibility of Mr. Bush and his team, their almost childish unwillingness to face up to problems that they don't feel like dealing with right now.

The Nelson Report, an influential foreign policy newsletter, says: "It would be difficult to exaggerate the growing mixture of anger, despair, disgust and fear actuating the foreign policy community in Washington as the attack on Iraq moves closer.

## Daily Journal

An article in the San Francisco legal newspaper, *Daily Journal*, that originally appeared in the *New York Times*, stated:

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld recently announced his desire to expand the role of Special Operations forces in the war against al-Qaida, even in countries with which the United States is not at war, and without informing local governments first. Using Special Operations forces as Rumsfeld proposes would also violate

international law, which does not permit one country to send hit squads into another. [Although the United States has done so into Mexico.]

The United States would no doubt argue that if a country harbors terrorists it effectively defaults on its own sovereignty, giving Washington justification for taking the law into its own hands.

There is an analogous rule in international law that allows states to hunt down pirates in the waters of another country if that second country fails to do the job. But such incursions are only allowed when the host state is "unwilling or unable" to act against the pirates (in this case, the terrorists).

Just who will make that call is not clear under this new arrangement. The U.S. Security Council has forbidden the harboring of terrorists. But it stopped short of authorizing unilateral measures to punish countries that do, which is what Rumsfeld is planning.

Just imagine Germany's reaction if the Delta Force raided al-Qaida cells in Hamburg without getting Berlin's approval. The fallout of such missions becomes even more serious when you consider how the United States would respond to such behavior by another country.

The Bush administration complained after Russia, without asking anyone's permission, sent attack helicopters and fighter planes over the Georgian border to chase Chechen rebels. "You can't violate sovereignty," insisted one Bush administration official. But that is just what Rumsfeld is proposing. Tellingly, Moscow justified the incursion by pointing out that it, too, is fighting a war against Islamist terror. The fact that the Pentagon is considering the move is worrisome because it fits a pattern of power-grabbing by the secretary of defense.

## Sparking Explosive Growth of Terrorists; Obviously!

"Iraq war could spark attacks by rogue terrorists," FBI says (*New York Times*, February 23, 2003). The article stated:

Sympathizers with al Qaeda or other extreme groups may act. The possibility of war with Iraq could unleash acts of anti-American violence in the United States or overseas by individual extremists who do not belong to al Qaeda or other Middle Eastern terrorist groups but sympathize with their grievances, intelligence and law enforcement officials say.

"Lone extremists represent an ongoing terrorist threat in the United States. Lone extremists may operate independently or on the fringes of established extremist groups, either alone or with one or two accomplices," the bulletin said.

## Ignoring the Realities of Mutually Assured Destruction

A Business Week article (January 20, 2003) referring to the threats facing the United States stated:

Not since the darkest days of the Cold War has the world seemed such a dangerous place. Iraq, North Korea, al Qaeda: All threaten the peace. But unlike the policies that clearly defined America's strategies in the conflict with the Soviet Union, containment and mutually assured destruction, U.S. foreign policy today appears confused, conflicted, and at times self-defeating.

The Bush Administration was posed for war against Iraq to prevent it from using weapons of mass destruction. But Iraq has admitted U.N. inspectors who have yet to find any. And no evidence has been presented showing that Saddam Hussein has sold any such arms to terrorists or other nations.

Fellow Axis of Evil member North Korea, however, concedes that it was building nuclear weapons, has thrown out international arms inspectors, already has missiles that can hit Japan, South Korea—and perhaps the U.S.—and sells Scuds for cash to sustain its wretched economy. Yet the White House says it was willing to talk to North Korea and was using allies to help negotiate a peaceful accord with the country.

What's frightening was that we are witnessing the evolution of Bush foreign policy firsthand—watching the policy reversals, observing inconsistencies, hoping for the best outcomes but fearing the consequences of actions taken hastily or without adequate thought of consequence.

The national security paper [presented by Bush to Congress in the summer of 2002, labeled The National Security Strategy of the United States of America] emphasized unilateralism, preemption, and preventing any country or combination of countries from being allowed to ever match U.S. military might. This was clearly aimed at China. Talk about imperial reach. Preemption may be possible in a militarily weak country such as Iraq, but it was nearly impossible in heavily armed states such as North Korea.

#### New York Times

Even an editorial in the *New York Times* (February 14, 2003), a paper that supported Bush's false statements for months, had to finally state:

Nothing would make it easier for President Bush to overcome the nation's doubts about going to war with Iraq than proof that Saddam Hussein was in league with Osama bin Laden. Talk about an axis of evil!

In truth, however, there was little hard evidence of such a connection, and the administration should stop peddling that line to the

American people. Secretary of State Colin Powell may well believe that the connections are extensive, but the case he has presented in recent days seems thin.

It was hard, for instance, to buy Mr. Powell's contention that a new taped message apparently from Osama bin Laden showed that Al Qaeda and its leader were "in partnership" with Iraq. Fixing on the prospect of an American invasion of Iraq as a new justification for such attacks scarcely demonstrates a firm partnership, especially in a tape larded with disparaging gibes at the "infidelity" of Iraq's "socialist "leaders.

#### Wall Street Journal Continued Lying for Bush

Over a long period of time I noticed that the *Wall Street Journal's* editorials had a practice of covering up in two areas: President Bush's lying, and matters relating to Israel. A typical example was a *Wall Street Journal* editorial (February 14, 2003) titled, "Saddam and the Next 9/11," implying that there was a connection between Saddam Hussein and the hijackings of four airliners on September 11, 2001.

The *Wall Street Journal* editors were among those who repeatedly covered up for the misconduct in the government's aviation safety offices that I brought to their attention over a period of many years. I even included the *Wall Street Journal* in a lawsuit I filed concerning cover-ups by several major newspapers.

If the Journal had not covered up for those matters, it is probable that corrective actions could have been taken that would have prevented the 9/11 hijackings, the 3,000 deaths, and the many consequence associated with that attack.

# **Bribing Countries to Support War on Iraq**

In an attempt to get Turkey to become part of Bush's invasion plans by allowing Bush to place 60,000 U.S. military personnel in Turkey, Bush promised up to \$30 *billion* in outright grants and loans, including forgiveness of prior loans. The Bush administration provided various financial benefits to other nations to become part of the so-called "coalition of the willing," and threatened economic retaliation against nations that did not go along with the invasion or who criticized it.

A Paul Krugman syndicated article in the *New York Times* (March 7, 2003) stated Bush's thinly veiled threats:

Last week The Economist quoted an American diplomat who warned that if Mexico didn't vote for a U.S. resolution it could "stir up feelings" against Mexicans in the United States.

In President Bush's Monday interview with Copley New Service he alluded to the possibility of reprisals if Mexico didn't vote America's way, saying, "I don't expect there to be significant retribution from the government"—emphasizing the word "government." And Mr. Bush then said that if Mexico or other countries oppose the United States, "there will be a certain sense of discipline." These remarks went virtually unreported by the ever-protective U.S. media, but they created a political firestorm in Mexico.

#### **Bush Administration Ignoring Greater Threats**

Pakistan played a key role in supporting the Taliban, in developing nuclear weapons, and in providing North Korea help in building and operating a facility used for uranium enrichment. Most Pakistanis hate the United States, and with a sudden change in leadership, Pakistan could become a greater threat to the United States than almost any other small country. Pakistan was not a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

#### Members of Congress, Like Clapping Robots

Members of Congress either aided and abetted the lies, or remained silent. Possibly nothing was more comical than to watch members of congress jumping to their feet and clapping after almost every sentence uttered by President Bush during two appearances before a joint session of Congress after the events of September 11.

Virtually every sentence spoken by Bush—repeating what his speechwriters had written—was followed by members of Congress jumping to their feet and clapping. It didn't matter what was stated, or that there was no substance behind the statements. It was like some God speaking from heaven, and little children reacting in awe.

#### Leading America to Armageddon, Based on Messages from "God"

Bush created a presidency based on religion. He repeatedly stated he was getting information from God, including invading Iraq. Bush never explained what mechanism was used by his God to get the word to him: Fax, phone, or mail? These statements should have warned anyone with the most elementary street smarts that this was a dangerous person to have as president of the United States. In Bush's faith-based presidency, Bush believes in God, God believes in him, and therefore the people of the world should believe in Bush. Doubters of the Preacher-in-Chief risked retaliation through misuse of government power.

## **Real World Experience**

## Ignored in Favor of Messages from "God"!

Washington Post journalist Bob Woodward asked President Bush if he had consulted with his father, former President George Bush I, concerning invading Iraq, Bush replied: "He is the wrong father to appeal to in terms of strength. There is a higher father that I appeal to." One of the benefits of claiming the instructions came from his God is that the blame for Bush's actions could be placed on "God." It also eliminates the need to think, eliminates the need for facts, and provides a convenient scapegoat in case things go wrong.

Televangelist Pat Robertson stated during a television interview with CNN's Paula Zahn (October 19, 2004) that Bush told him that he gets "his direction from the Lord." Referring to President Bush plan to invade Iraq, Robertson described what he said to President Bush:

The Lord told me it was going to be a disaster, and messy." Robertson stated that he told this to President Bush: "And he was the most self-assured man I ever met in my life. You remember Mark Twain said, he looks like a contented Christian with four aces. I warned him [Bush] about this war. I had deep misgivings about this war, deep misgivings. And I was trying to say, Mr. President, you better prepare the American people for casualties. 'Oh, no, we're not going to have any casualties.'

No one ever asked Bush, or Pat Robertson, how they heard from God. One columnist wrote that Bush wasn't divinely inspired, he was delusional.

#### Those Disagreeing with the Lying Labeled as Unpatriotic

Representative Tom DeLay, the House majority leader, lambasted on the floor of the House former Vermont Governor Howard Dean and other Democrats for opposing a war upon the Iraqi people. He called them "the appeasement party of the future." Delay told reporters in his Capitol office that the Democrats were pursuing a "reckless strategy" in opposing the war and criticizing President Bush for trying to wage a unilateral war. (*New York Times*, February 26, 2003).

Delay stated: "I saw his speech [Dean] on C-Span, and I think it was outrageous. He either doesn't know what he's talking about when he says we're going to take unilateral action, or he's seriously uninformed, or he's just misleading the American people and his party."

Dean had stated a few days earlier that the United Nations Security Council should continue weapons inspections as long as they were making progress toward disclosure. In response, Delay said Dr. Dean disqualified himself for national leadership by suggesting that the decision to go to war should be made by the U.N. "If he wants to be president of the United States, but subject the United States to decisions by the U.N., he lacks the sound judgment needed for responsible national leadership."

# One Lone Courageous Member of Congress Spoke Out

The primary and outspoken exception to the congressional cover-ups and cowardice relating to Bush's war determination was Senator Robert Byrd. The *San Francisco Chronicle* (February 20, 2003) was one of the

few newspapers that contained a shortened part of the speech Byrd gave in Congress, under the heading, "On the brink of war:"

To contemplate war was to think about the most horrible of human experience. On this February day, as this nation stands at the brink of battle, every American on some level must be contemplating the horrors of war. And yet this chamber was for the most part ominously, dreadfully silent. There was no debate. There was no discussion. There was no attempt to lay out for the nation the pros and cons of this particular war.

We stand passively mute in the Senate today, paralyzed by our own uncertainty, seemingly stunned by the sheer turmoil of events. This was no small conflagration that we contemplate. This was no simple attempt to defang a villain. No, this coming battle, if it materializes, represents a turning point in U.S. foreign policy and possibly a turning point in the recent history of the world.

This nation was about to embark upon the first test of a revolutionary doctrine applied in an extraordinary way, at an unfortunate time—the doctrine of pre-emption, no small matter—the idea that the United States, or any other nation, can legitimately attack a nation that was not imminently threatening, but which may be threatening in the future. It appears to be in contravention of international law and the U.N. Charter. And it was being tested at a time of worldwide terrorism, making many countries around the globe wonder if they will soon be on our hit list, or some other natiblightelist administration figures recently refused to take nuclear weapons off the table when discussing a possible attack on Iraq. What could be more destabilizing? What could be more world shattering? What could be more future shuttering" what could be more unwise than this kind of uncertainty, particularly in a world where globalism has tied the vital economic and security interests of so many nations so closely together?

There are huge cracks emerging in our time-honored alliances. One wonders what was going to happen, and about what was happening to the United Nations. U.S. intentions are suddenly subject to damaging worldwide speculation. Anti-Americanism based on mistrust, misinformation, suspicion and alarming rhetoric from U.S. leaders was fracturing the once solid alliance against global terrorist, which existed after September 11, 2001.

In foreign policy, this administration has split traditional alliances, possibly crippling for all time international order, crippling entities such as the United Nations and NATO. This administration has called into question the traditional worldwide perception of the United States as being a well-intentioned peacemaking, peace-loving, peace-keeping nation.

This administration has turned the patient art of diplomacy on its head. It has turned the patient art of diplomacy into threats, labeling and name-calling of the sort that reflects quite poorly on the intelligence and sensitivity of our leaders and which will have consequences for years to come, calling heads of state Pygmies, labeling whole countries as evil, denigrating powerful European allies as irrelevant. These types of crude insensitivities can do our great nation no good.

This administration has not finished the first war against terrorism, and yet it was eager to embark on another conflict with perils much greater than those in Afghanistan. Was our attention span that short? Have we not learned that after winning the war, one must also secure the peace?

Yet we hear little, precious little, about the aftermath of war in Iraq. To whom do we propose to hand the reins of power in Iraq after Saddam Hussein"? Will our war inflame the Muslim world, resulting in devastating attacks on Israel? Will Israel retaliate with its own very potent nuclear arsenal? What are we about to unleash here? The genie was getting out of the bottle. Can it ever be put back?

Frankly, many of the pronouncements made by this administration are outrageous. There was no other word. Yet this chamber was hauntingly silent, hauntingly silent on what was possibly the eve of horrific infliction of death and destruction on the population of the nation of Iraq. Think about that. Yes, there are going to be old men dying. There will be women dying. There will be children, little boys and girls, dying, if this war goes forward in Iraq. And American men and women will die, too.

# [U.S. Weapons of Mass Destruction Against a Nation of Children!]

Iraq has a population of which over 50 percent was under age 15. What was said about that? This chamber was silent—silent. When it was possibly only days before we send thousands of our own citizens to face unimagined horrors of chemical and biological warfare, this chamber was silent. Then rafters should ring. The press galleries should be filled. Senators should be at their seats listening to questions being asked about this war, questions to which the American people out there have a right to expect answers. The American people are longing for information and they are not getting it. This chamber was silent.

I truly must question the judgment of any president who can say

that a massive unprovoked military attack on a nation which was over 50 percent children was in the highest moral traditions of our country. This war was not necessary at this time. Pressure appears to be having a good result in Iraq. Our mistake was to put ourselves in a corner so quickly. Our challenge was now to find a graceful way out of a box of our own making.

#### **Voting Against Resolution**

Senator Robert Byrd was a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and was among 23 senators, out of 104, who voted against the resolution in 2002 authorizing President Bush to wage war upon Iraq. Another member of Congress willing to talk out against the invasion of Iraq was House Majority Leader Representative Dick Armey. In one instance he led a congressional attack on the Homeland Security Act of 2002 by including language that prohibits Justice Department people from carrying out the plan for neighbors spying on neighbors.

#### Warning by Egyptian President

Reflecting the deteriorating relations with Egypt was a *New York Times* article (December 17, 2002) titled, "Egypt-U.S. Relationship Is Strained by Iraq Crisis" and stated:

An article in Al Akhbar, the government-owned daily, dismissed the bid to improve America's image in the region, "given that it lacks a honesty, justice and transparency." The article said the plan "confirmed the belief long held in the region of how Israel currently controls the decision-making process in the U.S."

President Hosni Mubarak has made his position clear for months that an attack on Iraq could let loose a virulently radical backlash across a region already incensed by the Israel crackdown in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Egypt has made it clear that it will not contribute troops or active military support to a second gulf war.

Egypt is pressing the United States to give the United Nations inspectors enough time to do their work. "If America wishes to keep its credibility in the area, an justified war should not be in the cards," Mr. Osman said in an interview. "The area is pregnant with tension. We have our hands full, and we don't need more tension. We feel a military strike could unleash violence and terrorism, which will definitely spill over beyond the area."

# **Enduring Years of Humiliating Inspections**

Iraq endured the humiliation of having bands of UN inspectors barging into homes, into bedrooms, and in some cases rushing homes, holy places, and school campuses. In one instance reported in the *New York Times* (February 3, 2003), UN inspectors made a surprise inspection of a campus laboratory in the Kurdish region of northern Iraq, which wasn't even under Iraq control. The *Times* article stated:

United Nations weapons inspectors made a surprise visit today to a university in the Kurdish region of northern Iraq, searching two campus laboratories before being stopped by local officials and returning to the part of Iraq under Saddam Hussein's control.

It was not clear what, if anything, the inspectors learned from their visit. Nor was it clear what the rationale was behind it. But the unexpected visit to a busy campus, and its implied suggestion that Kurds might be collaborating with Mr. Hussein to produce or hide weapons of mass destruction, infuriated the local Kurdish government, which represents a population that Iraq attacked with chemical weapons in the 1980's.

#### "We can't do more!" he pleaded

The Iraqi envoy, Mohammed Aldouri, scornfully stated, "So they will give us only ten days to give up all we have? Really, this is nonsense. We are doing our utmost. We can't do more."

#### The Bushes as War Crime Defendants?

"Bushes on Trial?" was the heading on a *Wall Street Journal* article (March 28, 2003):

It is 2004, and the first President Bush is in a Belgian court for alleged war crimes committed during the 1991 Gulf War. Back in Washington, his son worries he may be next. It sounds like Saddam Hussein's fantasy—and it probably is just that. But this surreal prospect has entered the broad realm of the possible, thanks to a Belgian law that gives that nation's courts the authority to try anyone for alleged crimes against humanity committed anywhere.

Last week, even as the U.S.-led war on Iraq was getting under way, representatives of seven Iraqi families who say they lost loved ones in the first Gulf War arrived at Belgium's hulking Palaais de Justice and filed a complaint naming not just George H.W. Bush but also Secretary of State Colin Powell, Vice President Dick Cheney and Norman Schwarzkopf, the retired general famous for Operation Desert Storm.

In the suits filed last week, which led the news throughout the Arab world but got little notice elsewhere, the Iraqis blamed the four men for the Feb. 13, 1991, bombing of the al-Amiriya shelter in Baghdad, which claimed the lives of 403 people. The U.S. has said it believed the site was a military command center.

As the war in Iraq continues and civilian casualties mount, the law, however exotic, has stoked wider fears of a kind of open season on U.S. officials. The Bush administration, concerned about just such a state of affairs last year declined to endorse the International Criminal Court at The Hague.

Lawyers in Brussels are marshalling evidence to file a complaint

against George W. Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld for alleged atrocities committed during the current war. "We have cautioned our Belgian colleagues that they need to be very careful about this kind of effort," Mr. Powell said tensely at a recent NATO meeting.

## Mandela Speaks Out About Invasion of Iraq

Nelson Mandela came out of retirement to comment on Bush's conduct, stating:

A situation of this nature needs an organization like the United Nations to mediate. We must understand the seriousness of this situation. The United States has made serious mistakes in the conduct of its foreign affairs, which have had unfortunate repercussions long after the decisions were taken. Unqualified support of the Shah of Iran led directly to the Islamic revolution o 1979.

Then the United States chose to arm and finance the Islamic mujahedin in Afghanistan instead of supporting and encouraging the moderate wing of the government of Afghanistan. That is what led to the Taliban in Afghanistan. But the most catastrophic action of the United States was to sabotage the decision that was painstakingly stitched together by the United Nations regarding the withdrawal of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan. If you look at those matters, you will come to the conclusion that the attitude of the United States of America is a threat to world peace.

Because what America is saying is that if you are afraid of a veto in the Security Council, you can go outside and take action and violate the sovereignty of other countries. That is the message they are sending to the world. That must be condemned in the strongest terms. And you will notice that France, Germany, Russia, China are against this decision. It is clearly a decision that is motivated by George W. Bush's desire to please the arms and oil industries in the United States of America.

## **Brief History of Iraq**

Iraq was created by the British after World War I from part of the Ottoman Empire. The northern part of the carved out portion was occupied mostly by the Kurds, with their own language, and Arabs Sunni Muslims and Shiite Muslims elsewhere.

Initially there was a monarchy, which was overthrown in 1958 by General Kassem (also identified as Abdul Karim Kassim, Qassim, or Qasim). Initially, the White House, under President Dwight Eisenhower, tolerated Kassem as a counter to Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser, who had ties with the Soviet Union. Later, the United States took action to bring about the removal of Kassem after he took Iraq out of the anti-Soviet Baghdad Pact in 1961 and nationalized the Iraq Petroleum Company

(IPC). He also made claims upon and threatened to occupy Kuwait. In addition, he sought arms equal to those possessed by Israel.

An attempt to assassinate Kassem was orchestrated by the CIA in 1959, but failed, using Saddam Hussein as part of an assassination team. The CIA orchestrated a second coup attempt in 1963 that succeeded, and put in power the Baath Party.

#### CIA Provided List of Those to be Murdered

The 1963 CIA involvement in the coup against Abdel Karim Kassem was substantiated by foreign journalists, according to CIA authorities such as David Wise and findings of the Senate Committee on Intelligence. Al Saleh Sa'adi, secretary general of the Baath Party, admitted that the Ba'th Party came to power with CIA help. Bath party leader Hani Fkaiki said that their contact with the CIA was William Lakeland, the US assistant military attaché in Baghdad.

In exchange for the CIA help in the coup, Baath party leaders agreed to eliminate the communists, which meant thousands of professionals were assassinated. Some of the mass graves in Iraq were the result of the CIA giving lists of names of suspected communists to the incoming Baath Party assassins. In 2003, after the earlier reasons for invading Iraq proved bogus, President George Bush sought to justify the invasion of Iraq on the mass graves resulting from Saddam Hussein's rein of terror. Hussein was brutal to his enemies, but his rise to power was made possible by White House politicians and the CIA.

Infighting occurred in the Baath Party, and several months later Iraqi military officers staged a successful coup against the Baath Party. But in 1968, another coup put the Baath Party back in power, under General Ahmad Hasan al Bakr. The Baath Party was secular and advocated a socialist system, while most of the Shiites were heavily religious and controlled by the clerics.

#### **CIA-Engineer Coup in Neighboring Iran**

The 1963 Iraq coup was bloodier that the 1953 CIA-engineered coup in Iran. Ironically, I was in Iran the morning of the Iranian coup. I was an airline captain flying Muslim pilgrims to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

The same year that Iran overthrew the Shah and installed a Shiite theocracy, Saddam Hussein took over as president of Iraq. Fearing that Iraqi Shiites might be emboldened to copy Iran's change to Shiite leadership, Saddam moved to abolish the Shiite party and in 1980 ordered the execution of the Shiite leadership, Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr.

# Endless Meddling in Middle East Affairs—and Blowback

In addition to direct involvement in subverting governments in the Middle East, the secret funding and arming of Iraq—simultaneously with

secret arming of Iran—added to the instability and the hatred against Americans. In 1990, after Iraq's Saddam Hussein misinterpreted the U.S. position and invaded Kuwait, Iraq was forced to retreat. The United States then secretly funded groups in Iraq from 1991 to 1996 to bring about the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. That group was led by exBaathist Iyad Alawi. Saddam Hussein discovered the plot composed of Iraqi military officers and ordered them executed.

#### Numerous Books and Articles Described the CIA Involvement

Numerous books and articles appeared describing these events. An article appearing in *United Press International* (April 10, 2003) by UPI intelligence correspondent Richard Sale titled, "Saddam Key in Early CIA Plot," described the role played by the CIA in Iraq:

U.S. forces in Baghdad might now be searching high and low for Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, but in the past Saddam was seen by U.S. intelligence services as a bulwark of anti-communism and they used him as their instrument for more than 40 years, according to former U.S. intelligence diplomats and intelligence officials. United Press International has interviewed almost a dozen former U.S. diplomats, British scholars and former U.S. intelligence officials to piece together the following account.

While many have thought that Saddam first became involved with U.S. intelligence agencies at the start of the September 1980 Iran-Iraq war, his first contacts with U.S. officials date to 1959, when he was part of a CIA-authorized six-man squad tasked with assassinating then Iraqi Prime Minister Gen. Abd al-Karim Qasim.

In July 1958, Qasim had overthrown the Iraqi monarchy in what one former U.S. diplomat described as "a horrible orgy of bloodshed." According to current and former U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, Iraq was then regarded as a key buffer and strategic asset in the Cold War with the Soviet Union. For example, in the mid-1950s, Iraq was quick to join the anti-Soviet Baghdad Pact which was to defend the region and whose members included Turkey, Britain, Iran and Pakistan.

Little attention was paid to Qasim's bloody and conspiratorial regime until his sudden decision to withdraw from the pact in 1959, an act that "freaked everybody out," according to a former senior U.S. State Department official.

Washington watched in marked dismay as Qasim began to buy arms from the Soviet Union and put his own domestic communists into ministry positions of "real power," according to this official. The domestic instability of the country prompted CIA Director Allan

Dulles to say publicly that Iraq was "the most dangerous spot in the world."

In the mid-1980s, Miles Copeland, a veteran CIA operative, told UPI the CIA had enjoyed "close ties" with Qasim's ruling Baath Party, just as it had close connections with the intelligence service of Egyptian leader Gamel Abd Nassar. In a recent public statement, Roger Morris, a former National Security Council staffer in the 1970s, confirmed this claim, saying that the CIA had chosen the authoritarian and anti-communist Baath Party "as its instrument."

According to another former senior State Department official, Saddam, while only in his early 20s, became a part of a U.S. plot to get rid of Qasim. According to this source, Saddam was installed in an apartment in Baghdad on al-Rashid Street directly opposite Qasim's office in Iraq's Ministry of Defense, to observe Qasim's movements.

Adel Darwish, Middle East expert and author of "Unholy Babylon," said the move was done "with full knowledge of the CIA," and that Saddam's CIA handler was an Iraqi dentist working for CIA and Egyptian intelligence. U.S. officials separately confirmed Darwish's account.

Darwish said that Saddam's paymaster was Capt. Abdel Maquid Farid, the assistant military attaché at the Egyptian Embassy who paid for the apartment from his own personal account. Three former senior U.S. officials have confirmed that this is accurate.

The assassination was set for Oct. 7, 1959, but it was completely botched. One former CIA official said that the 22-year-old Saddam lost his nerve and began firing too soon, killing Qasim's driver and only wounding Qasim in the shoulder and arm. Darwish told UPI that one of the assassins had bullets that did not fit h is gun and that another had a hand grenade that got stuck in the lining of his coat.

"It bordered on farce," a former senior U.S. intelligence official said. But Qasim, hiding on the floor of his car, escaped death, and Saddam, whose calf had been grazed by a fellow would-be assassin, escaped to Tikrit, thanks to CIA and Egyptian intelligence agents, several U.S. government officials said.

Saddam then crossed into Syria and was transferred by Egyptian intelligence agents to Beirut, according to Darwish and former senior CIA officials. While Saddam was in Beirut, the CIA paid for Saddam's apartment and put him through a brief training course, former CIA officials said. The agency then helped him get to Cairo, they said.

In Cairo, Saddam was installed in an apartment in the upper class neighborhood of Dukki and spent his time playing dominos in the Indiana Café, watched over by CIA and Egyptian intelligence operatives, according to Darwish and former U.S. intelligence officials. During this time Saddam was making frequent visits to the American Embassy where CIA specialists such as Miles Copeland and CIA station chief Jim Eichelberger were in residence and knew Saddam, former U.S. intelligence officials said.

In February 1963 Qasim was killed in a Baath Party coup. Morris claimed recently that the CIA was behind the coup, which was sanctioned by President John F. Kennedy. The agency quickly moved into action. Noting that the Baath Party was hunting down Iraq's communists, the CIA provided the submachine gun-toting Iraqi National Guardsmen with lists of suspected communists who were then jailed, interrogated, and summarily gunned down, according to former U.S. intelligence officials with intimate knowledge of the executions.

Many suspected communists were killed outright, these sources said. Darwish told UPI that the mass killings, presided over by Saddam, took, place at Qasr al-Nehayat, literally, the Palace of the End. A former senior CIA official said: "It was a bit like the mysterious killings of Iran's communists just after Ayatollah Khomeini came to power in 1979. All 4,000 of his communists suddenly got killed."

British scholar Con Coughlin, author of "Saddam: King of Terror," quotes Jim Critchfield, then a senior Middle East agency official, as saying the killing of Qasim and the communists was regarded "as a great victory." A former long-time covert U.S. intelligence operative and friend of Critchfield said: "Jim was an old Middle East hand. He wasn't sorry to see the communists go at all. Hey, we were playing for keeps." Saddam, in the meantime, became head of al-Jihaz a-Khas, the secret intelligence apparatus of the Baath Party.

The CIA/Defense intelligence Agency relation with Saddam intensified after the start of the Iran-Iraq war in September of 1980. During the war, the CIA regularly sent a team to Saddam to deliver battlefield intelligence obtained from Saud AWACS surveillance aircraft to aid the effectiveness of Iraq's armed forces, according to a former DIA official, part of a U.S. interagency intelligence group.

The former official said that he personally had signed off on a document that shared U.S. satellite intelligence with both Iraq and Iran in an attempt to produce a military stalemate. "When I signed it, I thought I was losing my mind," the former official told UPI.

A former CIA official said that Saddam had assigned a top team of three senior officers from the Estikhbarat, Iraq's military intelligence, to meet with the Americans. According to Darwish, the CIA and DIA provided military assistance to Saddam's ferocious February 1988 assault on Iranian positions in the al-Fao peninsula by blinding Iranian radars for three days.

The Saddam-U.S. intelligence alliance of convenience came to an end at 2 a.m. Aug. 2, 1990, when 100,000 Iraqi troops, backed by 300 tanks, invaded its neighbor, Kuwait. America's one-time ally had become its bitterest enemy.

#### **Came to Power on CIA Train**

James Critchfield, head of the CIA in the Middle East, later said: "We regarded it as a great victory." "We came to power on a CIA train," said the secretary of the Baath Party, Ali Saleh Sa'adi.

James Akins, a U.S. diplomat serving in the Baghdad Embassy in 1963, later said:

I knew all the Baath Party leaders and I liked them. The CIA was definitely involved in that coup. We saw the rise of the Baathists as a way of replacing a pro-Soviet government with a pro-American one and you don't get that chance very often. Sure, some people were rounded up and shot, but these were mostly communists so that didn't bother us.

A PBS *Frontline* documentary (March 17, 2003) titled, "The Long Road to War," described Saddam Hussein as a CIA asset, that the CIA funded him, came to power with CIA assistance, and was armed by the United States. The documentary described Saddam's 1958 attempt to assassinate Iraq's leftist military leader, Kassem,

The documentary also described how the CIA and British M16 engineered a coup against Iran's leader, Mossadegh, in 1953. Mossadegh had threatened to nationalize its oil industries that were primarily owned by Great Britain. The British then halted pumping oil, depriving Iran of even the small royalty that had been paid, causing an economic crisis. That crisis was followed by a coup engineered by the CIA. The documentary stated:

The CIA coup installed a member of the Pahlevi family, the Shah, on the throne of Iran, and caused a modernization of Iran in a secular manner and away from Iran's primary Shi'ite sect. The Shah maintained order over the predominant Shi'ite sect through the secret police, the Savak. But the Shah was eventually overthrown by a 1979 coup from the predominant Shi'ites. The Ayatollah Khomeini, a Shi'ite, then took over, followed by killing of many of the Shah's supporters.

Meanwhile, in 1963, with CIA backing, the Ba'ath Party carried out a coup against Iraq's leader, Kassem, resulting in Kassem's assassination. The United States quickly recognized the new government that it had secretly assisted in gaining power. A revolt by army officers almost immediately tossed out the Ba'athists, but with CIA assistance, the Ba'ath Party regained power five years later, in 1968.

In that same year, 1968, when the Shah was overthrown in Iran during a Shi'ite revolt, Saddam Hussein, who was closely linked to the minority Sunni population, killed his opponents in the Ba'ath Party and took over control in Iraq.

In the 1980s, the United States started providing funding, arms, military assistance, to Iraq's Saddam Hussein, some believed to back the secular and socialist Ba'athists against the Shi'ites who were considered by the Reagan administration to be the most dangerous religious force in the Middle East. The Ba'athis, socialists, were more closely linked to the Sunnis.

Iran, consisting primarily of Shi'ites, would prefer that Saddam Hussein be removed from power and the Shi'ites take control.

Saudi Arabia, a relatively stable country, composed primarily of Sunnis, could be expected to quickly fall into a state of anarchy if the iron-control of the Saud family was removed.

## CIA's Early Support of Osama bin Laden

In an article titled, *Saddam: Key in Early CIA Plot*, by Richard Sale, he described the CIA's role with Osama bin Laden:

Meanwhile, in Afghanistan, the Taliban (led by another CIA asset—Osama bin Laden—whose family was long-time friends and business associates of the Bush family) was formed in 1994, whereupon they fought a relatively brief civil war against the Northern Alliance until 1996. Also, the Northern Alliance, it should be noted, have been on the CIA payroll for many years due to their role (along with Pakistan's ISI) as Afghanistan's primary opium growers and traffickers.

CIA-supported Mujahedeen rebels (part of the "Northern Alliance") engaged heavily in drug trafficking while fighting against the Soviet-supported government and its plans to reform the very backward Afghan society. The Agency's principal client was Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, one of the leading drug lords and a leading heroin refiner. CIA-supplied trucks and mules, which had carried arms into Afghanistan, were used to transport opium to laboratories along the Afghan/Pakistan border.

The output provided up to one-half of the heroin used annually in the United States and three-quarters of that used in Western Europe. U.S. officials admitted in 1990 that they had failed to investigate or take action against the drug operation because of a desire not to offend their Pakistani and Afghan allies. In 1993, an official of the DEA called Afghanistan the new Colombia of the drug world."

As all this intrigue was taking place, we had three administrations (Reagan, Bush, and Clinton) that were either willfully involved in the war, drugs, and arms activities, or else turned a blind eye to it.

In this sense, a new "perpetual war" (similar to the Cold War) had to be created—thus, our current "war terror." To reach this point, the American people had to be sufficiently suckered (yet again) into the 'proper frame of mind' to enter another war (i.e. Pearl Harbor, the Gulf of Tonkin). In other words, we needed an impetus—a lightning rod to stir our emotions.

### Worldwide Human Sufferings Inflicted by U.S. Politicians

Among the brutal dictators supported or brought into power by White House politicians and the CIA were Iraq's Baath party and Saddam Hussein, the Shah of Iran, General Augusto Pinochet, Anastasio Somoza, General Suharto, and Pol Pot.

The list of nations whose governments were subverted by the CIA and White House politicians seem endless. Former CIA agent and author John Stockwell wrote: "The CIA has overthrown functioning democracies in over 20 countries." Among the countries subverted in one way or another by the CIA—under the direction of White House politicians, include Iran (1953); Iraq (1958-1990); Panama, Guatemala (1954), Indonesia (1965), El Salvador (1979); Nicaragua (1980s); Zaire (1960); Cuba (1961); Dominican Republic (1961); Greece (1965); and Angola (1975).

# **Shifting Blame From Politicians to CIA Personnel**

In July 2004, the Senate intelligence committee released a 500-page report stating that the claims made by the Bush administration to invade Iraq were all without merit. However, the report, to obtain the approval of the Republicans, had to be worded to imply that the blame was not with President Bush and his staff, but with the CIA for allegedly providing false information.

This was a little too much for Senator Jay Rockefeller, who, to his credit, stated during his television appearances that it appeared to him that the CIA director, George Tenet, provided the information *expected* by the White House. During a press conference Rockefeller said, "This is one of the most devastating intelligence failures in the history of the nation." Was the word, "failure," or should it have been, "lying?"

The Republican chairman of the committee, Senator Pat Roberts, parroted the line of other Republicans, claiming that President Bush did not know he was getting false information. Since Roberts controlled the hearing report, he divided the hearing into two parts, with the report on the White House being released after the presidential election.

The second part of the report lightly criticized Bush relating to charges that Saddam Hussein had close ties to al Qaeda, stating:

The Central Intelligence Agency reasonably assessed that there were likely several instances of contacts between Iraq and al Qaeda throughout the 1990s, but that these contacts did not add up to an established formal relationship.

Bush had repeatedly claimed that Saddam Hussein was a threat because he was dealing with al Qaeda. Bush stated during his speech on the USS Abraham Lincoln (May 1, 2003) that "Saddam Hussein was an ally of al Oaeda."

#### **Unpatriotic to Address the President's Lies?**

White House supporters argued that it was unpatriotic—or worse—to criticize the president and his actions during the Iraq war. Over 20,000 Iraqi men, women, children, and infants, were killed by the invasion of Iraq that White House politicians justified through a series of lies. Further, the nation was not at war from an attack, but of its own making as it invaded a foreign country, and killing foreign citizens who had done nothing to threaten the United States. Nor was it supportive of U.S. military personnel to remain quiet about the lying that caused them to be placed into Iraq, resulting in many deaths and life-time disfigurement.

# One Reason for the Bush White House War Upon Iraq?

An article appearing in the London *Guardian* (February 26, 2003) offered an interesting thought on *why* the Bush administration was so determined to misuse their positions to wage war upon Iraq:

Despite over 300 unfettered UN inspections to date, there has been no evidence reported of a reconstituted Iraqi WMD program and despite Bush's rhetoric, the CIA has not found any links between Saddam Hussein and al Oaida.

The Real Reason for this upcoming war is the administration's goal of preventing further OPEC momentum towards the euro as an oil transaction currency standard. In order to pre-empt OPEC they need to gain geo-strategic control of Iraq along with its second largest proven oil reserves. The following is how an astute and anonymous friend alluded to the unspoken truth about this upcoming war with Iraq.

The US Federal Reserve's greatest nightmare is that OPEC will switch its international transactions from a dollar standard to a euro standard. Iraq actually made this switch in November 2000 (when the euro was worth around 80 cents), and has actually made off like a bandit considering the dollar's steady depreciation against the euro.

Saddam sealed his fate when he decided to switch to the euro in late 2000 (and later converted his \$10 billion reserve fund at the UN to euros)—at that point, another manufactured Gulf War became inevitable under Bush II.

The steady depreciation of the dollar versus the euro since late 2001 means that Iraq has profited handsomely from the switch in their reserve and transaction currencies.

The real reason the Bush administration wants a puppet government in Iraq, or more importantly, the reason why the corporate-military-industrial network conglomerate wants a puppet government in Iraq, is so that it will revert back to a dollar standard and stay that way. (It hopes to veto any wider OPEC momentum towards the euro, especially from Iran—the second largest OPEC producer who is actively discussing a switch to euros for its oil exports.)

What would happen if OPEC made a sudden switch to euros, as opposed to a gradual transaction? The dollar would crash anywhere from 20-40 % in value and the consequences would be those one could expect from any currency collapse and the massive inflation (think Argentina currency crisis, for example).

You'd have foreign funds stream out of the US stock markets and dollar denominated assets; there would surely be a run on the banks much like the 1930s; the current account deficit would become unserviceable; the budget deficit would go into default, and so on.

Iran's proposal to receive payments for crude oil sales to Europe in euros instead of US dollars is based primarily on economics, Iranian and industry sources said. But politics are still likely to be a factor in any decision, they said, as Iran used the opportunity to hit back at the US government, which recently labeled it part of an "axis of evil."

Moreover and perhaps most telling, during 2002, the majority of reserve funds in Iran's central bank have been shifted to euros. It appears imminent that Iran intends to switch to euros for their oil currency.

The final "Axis of Evil" country, North Korea, recently decided to officially drop the dollar and begin using euros for trade, effective December 7, 2002. Their switch illustrates the geopolitical fallout of the President Bush's harsh rhetoric.

Even more alarming, and completely unreported in the US media, are some monetary shifts in the reserve funds of foreign governments away from the dollar with movements towards the euro (China, Venezuela, some OPEC producers and last week Russia flushed some of their dollars for euros).

It appears that the world community may lack faith in the Bush administration's economic policies, and along with OPEC, seems posed to respond with economic retribution of the US government is regarded as an uncontrollable and dangerous superpower. The plausibility of abandoning the dollar standard for the euro is growing.

The most likely end to US hegemony may come about through a combination of high oil prices (brought about by US foreign policies toward the Middle East) and deeper devaluation of the US dollar (expected by many economists).

One of the dirty little secrets of today's international order is that the rest of the globe could topple the United States from its hegemonic status whenever they so choose with a concerted abandonment of the dollar standard.

This is America's preeminent, inescapable Achilles Heel for now and the foreseeable future. That such a course hasn't been pursued to date bears more relation to the fact that other Westernized, highly developed nations haven't any interest to undergo the great disruptions which would follow, but it could assuredly take place in the event that the consensus view coalesces of the United States as any sorts of "rogue nation."

The American people are not aware of such information due to the US mass media, which has been reduced to a handful of consumption/entertainment and profit-oriented conglomerates that filter the flow of information in the US. Indeed, the Internet provides the only source of unfiltered "real news."

## High Price for Bush's Invasion of Iraq

A Christian Science Monitor article (August 24, 2002) described the high price that would be paid for Bush's war on Iraq:

Within weeks of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, oil nearly doubled in price to \$40 a barrel, a spike that eventually settled down but was a factor, some economists hold, in the US slipping into recession. Unlike in the Gulf War, this time around the US would be largely alone in picking up the tab, to the tune of as much as \$100 billion for military preparation and the war itself.

# **U.S. Forces Killing Thousands of Iraqis**

s Iraqi military personnel retreated from its invasion of Kuwait, the U.S. war machine needlessly slaughtered thousands of retreating Iraqis, including those who were willing to surrender. An article in *The Guardian* (February 14, 2003) stated:

# How the Mass Slaughter of a Group of Iragis Went Unreported.

Reporter Patrick Sloyan stated that U.S. Infantry Division Big Red One "had attacked an estimated 8,000 Iraqis with 3,000 Abrams main battle tanks." Daniel wondered what happened to the estimated 6,000 Iraqi defenders who had vanished. "Where are the bodies?" he finally asked the First Division's public affairs officer, an army major. What bodies?" the major replied.

Months later, Daniel and the world would learn why the dead had eluded eyewitnesses, cameras and video footage. Thousands of Iraqi soldiers, some of them fired their weapons from first world war-style trenches, had been buried by ploughs mounted on Abrams tanks. The tanks had flanked the lines so that tons of sand from the plough spoil had funneled into the trenches. Just behind the tanks, straddling the trench line, came Bradley's pumping machine-gun bullets into Iraqi troops.

"I came through right after the lead company," said Colonel Anthony Moreno. "What you saw was a bunch of buried trenches with people's arms and legs sticking out of them. For all I know, we could have killed thousands."

Most of the grisly photos from Desert Storm seen today were the work of independent journalists who raced to the "Highway of Death" north of Kuwait, where war planes had destroyed thousands of vehicles in which Iraqi soldiers had fled after the start of the ground war. The area was free of the military handlers who routinely interrupted interviews to chastise soldiers into changing their state-

ments while reporters stood back, or forcibly removed film from cameras that captured images deemed offensive by an Army public affairs officer.

The media was more duped than cowed. Cheney won over some people with the promise that places in the pool would give them an advantage over competitors.

For independent journalists, life was much more difficult. More than 70 operating outside the pool system were arrested, detained, threatened at gunpoint or chased from the front line. Army public affairs offices made nightly visits to hotels and restaurants in Hafir al Batin, a Saudi town on the Iraqi border. Reporters and photographers would bolt from the table. The slower ones were arrested.

#### Women and Children Also Fell Victims of U.S. Military

In the 1991 attack upon Baghdad, U.S. warplanes fired two missiles into the Amariya bomb shelter on February 13, 1991, killing 403 civilians cringing in a shelter, most of who were women and children. Body parts of women and children were strewn throughout the shelter. Iraq, properly, made it into a memorial showing the deaths brought by the United States. Reporters viewing the scene reported charred bodies of women, children, and men being pulled from the shelter. Eleven years later, the floor of the shelter was still stained from incinerated bodies.

The French publication, *Le Monde* (February 12, 2003) made reference to German Foreign Affairs Minister, Joschka Fischer, who said that the Bush plan would risk plunging the entire region into a "chaos from which no one knows what will emerge." The head of German Diplomacy's fear was that the Americans will get "in an operation without equal since the Vietnam War," leaving the region devastated by unforeseeable reactions.

# Invasion of Iraq Killed Thousands of Iraqi Civilians

The invading U.S. military killed thousands of innocent Iraqis. After President Bush ordered the invasion of Iraq, many being women, children, and infants. The invasion, in addition to the deaths, resulted in massive looting of private and government buildings, murders, looting, general anarchy. Iraqi and Kurds, those from other political and religious group, different tribes, were settling old scores. A formally relatively stable (for that region with its history of civil strife) country was converted overnight to anarchy and civil war.

The treasures from the National Museum of Iraq were looted, many of which came from the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia over 7,000 years earlier. Over 170,000 artifacts were looted. The *New York Times* stated the looting "is likely to be reckoned as one of the greatest cultural disasters in recent Middle Eastern history." Even hospitals were looted of medications, equipment, and air conditioners. These were obviously not

the actions of a people ready for a democratic form of government.

#### Bush's Version of Utopia No Where in Sight

The pictures and news stories (April 2003) of the U.S. invasion of Iraq showed a vastly different picture than the Bush administration stated would arise. Instead of freedom and democracy following the invasion, newspaper headlines read: "Looters shake Iraqi Cities; Iraq's health-care system reels from looters; Troops watch as Baghdad is ransacked; Mobs Ransack Homes and Set Fire to Government Sites; Seeking Calm In the Chaos;" A *New York Times* articles (April 12, 2003) stated:

American troops seemed powerless before a fresh wave of looting and mayhem that flowed in. The city of Baghdad was the scene of frenzied rounds of looting, with mobs setting fire to government ministries and moving for the first time to ransack private homes rather than merely the symbols of Mr. Hussein's power. With virtually every government ministry here in flames, the city of Baghdad and indeed the entire country is now operating essentially without a government, with no services or police protection.

The Bush administration appeared to have little prepared in the way of a quick response. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said in Washington, "You cannot do everything instantaneously."

A person with street-smarts might think that in this type of culture that the dream of democracy might not be suitable.

#### **Convolute Statements by Rumsfeld**

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said (April 11, 2003) in a non-responsive response to a reporter's question about the massive rioting and anarchy occurring in Iraq:

Well, I think the way to think about that if you go from a repressive regime that has—it's a police state, where people are murdered and imprisoned by the tens of thousands, and then you go to something other than that, a liberated Iraq, that you go through a transition period. And in every country, in my adult lifetime, that's had the wonderful opportunity to do that, to move from a repressed dictatorial regime to something that's freer. We've seen in that transition period there is untidiness.

From the very beginning, we were convinced that we would succeed, and that means that that regime would end. And we were convinced that as we went from the end of that regime to something other than that regime, there would be a period of transition. And you cannot do everything instantaneously.

Freedom's untidy. And free people are free to commit mistakes, and to commit crimes. It is an untidiness that accompanies the transition from tyranny to freedom. Here is a country that is being liberated. Here are people who are going from being repressed and held

under the thumb of a dictator, and they're free.

Referring to Rumsfeld statements about an "untidy war," a San Francisco Chronicle editorial (April 15, 2003) stated:

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld deserves the award for "stupefying glibness" by comparing the nightmarish looting in Iraq as nothing more than a little "untidiness." Rumsfeld seems to relish upsetting people with facile statements. Comparing the looting of Iraq's national museum in Baghdad, with virtually all of its 170,000 objects dating back 7,000 years, to a messy teenager's room takes the cake for audacity.

"Free people are free to make mistakes and commit crimes and do bad things," he declared. Oh really? He doesn't explain his apparent unconcern for the looting of other vital institutions, such as hospitals, which will be essential for Iraq's recovery. What makes Rumsfeld's bantering especially galling is that some of the chaos could have been prevented.

#### Juvenile U.S. Thinking that Democracy Could be Forced

The strong interests of the various religious groups in the Middle East, the lack of education, the absence of history of democratic activities, the many different religious and tribal groups, made any attempt to change the region into a democracy through an invasion by a foreign power obviously futile.

These many different groups among the 23 million Iraqis, including religious groups in the Middle East, were fanatic in their religions, and would even kill anyone trying to convert a member of their religious group to another religion. Remember the case of the naive young American woman who went to Afghanistan to convert people to her Christian faith and was condemned to death.

Iraq consisted of numerous clannish groups that had been fighting each other for years until Saddam Hussein's regime brought relative peace to the country. Ethnic violence could be expected, and ethnic violence did occur, as repeatedly forewarned.

Whatever the real reason for President Bush to invade Iraq, ignoring his repeatedly articulated "rose-garden" democracy, he was naïve to think it would happen. Basic requirements for a democracy include a well-educated and extensive middle class, a functioning economy based on trade, and a history of stability.

Former national security adviser under President George Bush senior, Brent Scowcroft, stated during a speech to the Norwegian Nobel Institute in April 2003 that the absence of functioning civic institutions and the animosity between the various religious and ethnic groups barred any sort of political pluralism. He stated, "What's going to happen the first

time we hold an election in Iraq and it turns out the radicals win? What do you do? We're surely not going to let them take over."

"Plan for democracy in Iraq may be folly," was the heading of a *San Francisco Chronicle* article (April 13, 2003):

Experts question U.S. ability to reform entire Middle East. "Democracy has emerged at times where it had never existed before," said Larry Diamond, a senior fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution who has written extensively on the spread of democratic movements. "But Iraq lacks virtually every possible precondition for democracy. And the possibilities in the other Arab countries may be even lower."

He said, for instance, there's not a large, entrepreneurial middle class, almost no experience with free elections and neither a free press nor an open economy practically anywhere in the region.

Murhaf Jouejati, adjunct scholar at the Middle East Institute in Washington, said it was obvious that most Iraqis were thrilled at throwing off the yoke of oppression, but that the looting and chaos that has followed provide an ominous sign of the kinds of violent forces the war has unleashed, and how hard it will be to contain them.

"There has not been a single day of democracy in Iraq in its history," he said. "It is still a tribal and clan-oriented society. Democracy needs a social infrastructure that does not exist at all in Iraq."

A State Department report prepared by its Bureau of Intelligence and Research, termed democracy in Iraq doubtful. A *Los Angeles Times* article (March 14, 2003) making reference to that report stated:

A classified State Department report expresses deep skepticism that installing a new regime in Iraq will foster the spread of democracy in the Middle East, a claim President Bush has made in trying to build support for a war, according to intelligence officials familiar with the document.

The report says that daunting economic and social problems are likely to undermine basic stability in the region for years, let alone prospects for democratic reform.

Iraq is made up of ethnic groups deeply hostile to one another. Ever since its inception in 1932, the country has known little but bloody coups and brutal dictators. Given such trends, "We'll be lucky to have strong central governments (in the Middle East), let alone democracy," said one intelligence official.

"Middle East societies are driven by political, economic and social problems that are likely to undermine stability regardless of the nature of any externally influenced or spontaneous, indigenous change," the report said. The report cites "high levels of corruption, serious infrastructure degradation, overpopulation" and other forces causing widespread disenfranchisement. Middle East experts said there are other factors working against democratic reform, including a culture that values community and to some extend conformity over individual rights.

#### A Few U.S. Newspapers Reported the Gruesome Consequences

A few U.S. newspapers touched upon the consequences of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. A *San Francisco Chronicle* article (April 8, 2003):

The body bags have run out at the Al-Kindi Hospital, and morgue workers have to cut up big rolls of black plastic to wrap the war's latest victims. A team of four skinny, middle-aged men worked all Monday afternoon, heaving and grunting as they rolled body after body into the new, rough-cut bags. Dozens of corpses lay stacked insider the refrigerated room—some on bunks, others in a pile on the floor.

When a group of foreign TV cameramen descended on the workers, one chased them angrily. "Why are you taking photos? For Bush?" he yelled, waving his arms. "Tell him to go to hell." The journalists left, and the men returned to the bodies.

Hospital emergency rooms are being overwhelmed with civilian and military casualties. At the Al-Kindi in eastern Baghdad, far more than body bags have been depleted. Doctors have been carrying out some emergency surgery with only 800 milligrams of ibuprofen instead of anesthesia. In the United States, that's the standard prescription-strength dosage for muscle pain.

In the past week, the government has stopped updating numbers of the civilian dead and wounded, seemingly unable to keep up with the ever-climbing statistics. After U.S. troops established a presence in Baghdad Monday, the World Health Organization reported that city hospitals were seeing about 100 combat casualties per hour.

"We're now getting not just shrapnel wounds, but pieces of people," said Dr. Mohammed Kamil, a surgeon at Al-Kindi. "These are wounds from missiles and rockets. They are amputations. They require more urgent surgery." [With Ibuprofen for anesthesia!]

The Bush administration has come under increasing international criticism in recent days since admitting the use of cluster bombs in Iraq. The ordnance cause widespread small shrapnel injuries. There is no denying the heart-wrenching reality of the suffering of patients and their relatives. In ward after hospital ward Monday, pain and grief were raw.

"Feran! Feran!" screamed one woman as she collapsed on the

floor. "Tell me where he is!" Her son tried to console her, telling her that his brother Feran was just wounded and would be OK.

"No, you're lying, show me Feran!" the woman screamed, tearing her hair and twisting on the ground. "He used to pray every day, he was mine, he did nothing wrong!" In fact, 12-year-old Feran had just been declared dead on arrival, disemboweled and with severe head wounds, the apparent result of an American air strike on their neighborhood.

Surrounded by such suffering, Kamil and other doctors take a dim view of the U.S. war conduct. "They should focus, know there are civilians in Baghdad," he said. "Do they want to kill everyone in Baghdad?"

Many of the foreign medical experts now in Iraq are veterans of horrific wars and famines in other nations. "It's bad, very bad," said Dr. Jacques Beres, a neurosurgeon who is director of International Medical Aid, a French group that works in poor, war-torn nations. A veteran of African conflicts, he has been in Iraq for two weeks, conducting surgery daily.

"I like their way of trying to help," he said, referring to his Iraqi colleagues. "Even their way of speaking to patients, softly, gently. After I did one surgery to a child, a nurse came up to me and said something in Arabic, which I didn't understand. I got it translated, and it meant, 'Long life to your hands.' I like that," he continued. "It's the nicest thing anyone has ever said to me as a doctor."

#### "I don't know how I'll tell him."

A *New York Times* (April 14, 2003) article referred to the great human sufferings resulting from the attacks:

"I don't know how I'll tell him," Sindous Abbas said today. At her back was a window, which looked out to the sidewalk where her husband, Saad, sat in pain and ignorance. He had been out of the hospital for just two days. She spoke inside so he would not hear. "It wasn't just ordinary love," Ms. Abbas said. "He was crazy about them.

It wasn't like other fathers." What all his neighbors and relatives and his own wife have not yet been able to say to him is that three of his daughters—Marwa, 11, Tabarek, 8, and Safia, 5—did not survive the missile that punched down into their apartment on the third night of American air strikes. No one has any reason to believe it was anything other than an American missile.

This evening, Mr. Abbas, sitting with his broken heel propped up on a chair, with scabs and cuts from the shrapnel that blasted into chest, legs and arms, told how his apartment filled with smoke that night and how he dragged three of his children out. He rushed back into the apartment for the other three. Then the missile exploded. "I still have three more children in the hospital," Mr. Abbas said. That is what everyone has been telling him.

In the old Awa section of Baghdad, with its narrow streets and balconies and mostly poor Shiite Muslim families, Mr. Abbas's relatives climbed to the roof of his home to show where the missile hit. It sheared through a thick metal bar of a rooftop sheep pen, through an iron feeding tray, then through the roof and into Mr. Abbas's small home.

Inside the apartment, the missile ricocheted off a wall, then smashed into the floor, near where his four daughters were sleeping. Mr. Abbas rushed out with his two sons and one daughter, whose leg was smashed. He did not see the shell, which exploded when he ran back inside for the rest of his family.

## [Daughter's leg hanging from the ceiling fan.]

Today, the walls of the home were still spattered with blackened pieces of flesh. One of the girl's legs had blown off and was suspended that night from the top of the ceiling fan.

Thia Rashid, one of Mr. Abbas's cousins, who is also a neighbor who helped clear the apartment, said: "There is no reason for this. It's a criminal act." It is clear that several hundred died and many more were wounded both from bombs and from Soldiers firing on suspected combatants.

# "Young children with arms and legs blown off."

An article in the *Boulder Daily Camera* (April 5, 2003) described the observation of a Boulder neurosurgeon at a U.S. hospital in Germany. Referring to the maiming of U.S. soldiers—many from "friendly" fire, the article stated:

The daily White House press briefings and fuzzy real-time TV reports fall far short of conveying the brutality of war, says Boulder neurosurgeon Gene Bolles. "We have had a number of really horrific injuries now from the war. They have lost arms, legs, hands, they have been burned, they have had significant brain injuries and peripheral nerve damage. These are young kids that are going to be, in some regards, changed for life. I don't feel that people realize that."

He spent three hours in the operating room one morning last week removing bullet fragments, blood and brain matter from two young soldiers who each has been shot in the head. One will recover nicely; Bolles said the other will have permanent neurological damage. Another of his patients, wounded in a grenade battle, died on the operating table. "These are young children; 18, 19, 20 with arms and legs blown off. That is the reality," said Bolles.

#### Red Cross Horrified by Piles of Dead and Mutilated Bodies

Canada's CTV Television in Ottawa aired a segment (April 4, 2003) titled, "Red Cross Horrified by Numbers of dead civilians," stating:

Red Cross doctors who visited southern Iraq this week saw "incredible" levels of civilian casualties including a truckload of dismembered women and children, a spokesman said Thursday from Baghdad.

Roland Huguenin, one of six International Red Cross workers in the Iraqi capital, said doctors were horrified by the casualties they found in the hospital in Hilla, about 160 kilometers south of Baghdad. "There has been an incredible number of casualties with very, very serious wounds in the region of Hilla," Huguenin said in an interview by satellite telephone.

"We saw that a truck was delivering dozens of totally dismembered dead bodies of women and children. It was an awful sight. It was really very difficult to believe this was happening. In the case of Hilla, everybody had very serious wounds and many, many of them small kids and women. We had small toddlers of two or three years of age who had lost their legs, their arms. We have called this a horror."

Red Cross staffs are also concerned about what may be happening in other smaller centres south of Baghdad. Huguenin, a Swiss, is one of six international Red Cross workers still in Baghdad. The team includes two Canadians, Vatche Arslanian of Oromocto, N.B., and Kassandra Vartell of Calgary. The Red Cross expects the humanitarian crisis in Iraq to grow and is calling for donations to help cope.

## "Grieving Kin Wield Shovels to Bury Their dead."

An article in the New York Times (April 15, 2003) stated:

The old man stood waist deep in the grave. Black flies swarmed around his ankles and scattered whenever his plunged his shovel into the dirt. The body of his brother lay at his feet—mangled, rotting, unrecognizable as human. On a nearby headstone sat a white plastic bag. It held what was left of his sister-in-law, his two nephews and his two young nieces. This is the first time I have dug a grave myself," the old man, Khali Abbas Ali, said. His relatives died five days ago when an American missile struck their car.

Baghdad is a city without the simplest public services. Even the gravediggers no longer show up for work. Although the town is awash with corpses, there is no one here to put them in the ground.

Their mournful survivors must wield their shovels on their own. Some have buried their loved ones on the grounds of the hospitals where they died. Others have buried them at home.

To spend an hour or two at Boratha is to see where grief meets work. Old women in long black robes shriek over open graves, then quickly help their husbands claw through the dirt. One man, his face contorted by weeping, carried a dead baby wrapped in a bed sheet toward a hole in the ground. His relatives had dug it themselves only a half-hour before. Everywhere there is the stench of death.

## "Thousands are dead, and thousands are missing!"

A Christian Science Monitor article (May 22, 2003) stated:

Evidence is mounting to suggest that between 5,000 and 10,000 Iraqi civilians may have died during the recent war, according to researchers involved in independent surveys of the country. Such a range would make the Iraq war the deadliest campaign for noncombatants that US forces have fought since Vietnam. [Where the dead toll was over one million!] "Thousands are dead, thousands are missing," says Haidar Taie, head of the tracing department for the Iraqi Red Crescent in Baghdad. "It is a big disaster."

By one measure of violence against noncombatants, as compared with resistance faced by soldiers, the war in Iraq was particularly brutal.

#### A Focus on cluster bombs

Dr. Brigety and his colleagues in Baghdad say they are especially concerned by the wide use of cluster bombs during the war in Iraq. They say they have found evidence of "massive use of cluster bombs in densely populated areas," according to Human Rights Watch researcher Marc Galasco, contradicting [White House] claims that such munitions were used only in deserted areas.

Dispersing thousands of bomblets that shoot out shards of shrapnel over an area the size of a football field, such weapons become indiscriminate and thus illegal under the laws of war, if used in civilian neighborhoods, Human Rights Watch has argued during past conflicts.

# Mourning his children

Mahmoud Ali Hamadi, hugging his 18-month-old son, Haidar, to his breast for comfort, he cannot hold back his sobs as he recounts how a US missile that landed by his front gate killed his wife and three elder children on the night of April 5.

"My children were the brightest in the whole school," he recalls, looking fondly at an old family photograph through is tears. "Eleven years I spent raising them, and in one instant I lost them.

Mr. Hamadi's family died in Rashidiya, a village of palm groves and vegetable plots on the banks of the Tigris, half an hour north of Baghdad. Nearly 100 villagers were killed by US bombing and strafing on April 5, including 43 in one house, for reasons that they do not understand. "There was no military base here," says Hamadi. "We are not military personnel. This is just a peasant village."

#### Thousands of Iraqi Civilians Killed by U.S. Forces

A study by the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, a research team in Baltimore, released a report (October 28, 2004) stating that over 100,000 Iraqi have died since t he start of war activities by the United States. The London-based medical publication, *The Lancet*, placed the research on line because of the gravity of the problem. The article described the teams of researchers who traveled throughout Iraq in mid-September, 2004, interviewing people throughout Iraq. An article in the International Herald Tribune (October 28, 2004) stated were shocked at the magnitude but we're quite sure that the es-

timate of 100,000 is a conservative estimate," said Dr. Gilbert Burnham of the Johns Hopkins team. Dr. Burnham said the team excluded data about deaths in Falluja in making their estimate, because that city was the site of unusually intense violence.

In 15 of the 33 communities visited, residents reported violent deaths sin their families since the conflict started. They attributed many of those deaths to attacks by American-led forces, mostly air strikes, and most of those killed were women and children. The risk of violent death was 58 times higher than before the war, the researchers reported.

The team included researchers from the John Hopkins Center for International Emergency, Disaster and Refugee Studies and included doctors from Al Mustansiriya University Medical School in Baghdad.

"I am emotionally shocked but I have no trouble in believing that this many people have been killed, "said Scott Lipscomb, an associate professor at Northwestern University, who works on the www.iraqbodycount.net project. That project, which collates only deaths reported in the news media, currently put the maximum civilian death toll at just under 17,000. "We've always maintained that the actual count must be much higher," Mr. Lipscomb said.

Although the teams relied primarily on interviews with local residents, they also requested to see at least two death certificates at the end of interviews in each area, to try to ensure that people had remembered and responded honestly.

The study is scientific, reserving judgment on the politics of the Iraq

conflict. But Dr. Roberts and his colleagues are critical of the Bush administration and the Army for not releasing estimates of civilian deaths.

## One of Many Weapons of Mass Destruction That Literally Meets That Definition: U.S. Cluster Bombs

More accurately meeting the definition of weapons-of-mass-destruction, the U.S. dropped huge bunker buster bombs, and cluster bombs, into residential areas, knowing that innocent people would be and were being killed. Thousands of laser guided missiles were fired into Iraqi cities, killing huge numbers of men, women, and children, with many suffering arms and legs being ripped off.

An Associated Press article (April 13, 2003) revealed the effects of the cluster bombs rained down upon Iraq's residential area:

Steely, silent and menacing they are just about everywhere—in Najah Jaffar's garden, on Ahmad Hussein's doorstep, hanging from palm trees along the shop-lined sidewalks of Khairala Tilfah street. People who live in Dura, a southeastern Baghdad neighborhood, have been treading gingerly through their street and in some cases staying away from their homes since what appear to be cluster bombs fell upon them—but didn't explode—during a wave of U.S. bombardment Monday.

"They come, all of a sudden, from the sky. They came down, and they scattered everywhere," Jaffar said Saturday, looking down a street studded with the unexploded bombs. They say they don't understand why the United States dropped the bombs in their area; there are no targets nearby, they insist.

Human rights groups have criticized Americans' use of cluster bombs. They contain 200 or more small bombs, each of which can explode into hundreds of metal fragments. Many fail to explode on impact, and opponents have been emphatic about the need to deal with the dangers that unexploded ones pose to civilians. "I think many people will be injured. Many bodies, many children will be killed without reasons. They are no coming for peace. This is no peace," Jaffar said.

With bombs in his garden and bombs in his garage, he still cannot return home. Another man has the opposite problem: He is trapped inside his house until the explosives are taken away. Even Khairala Tilfah, the main street running through Dura, is studded with unexploded bombs.

## Harm from US Use of Depleted-Uranium Shells

Despite the delayed and lingering harm suffered by U.S. service personnel from the U.S. use of shells containing depleted uranium, the

United States continued to use them in Iraq. A *Christian Science Monitor* article (May 15, 2003) titled "Remains of toxic bullets litter Iraq," described the harm to people's health for years thereafter. The uranium presents a major health hazard through people picking up the shells or bullets or inhaling dust and sand carrying the radiation.

While the White House politicians were accusing Iraq of having biological weapons—which did not exist—the White House politicians approved the use of radioactive and toxic depleted-uranium-tipped munitions that would inflict harm for years to come.

## General McCaffrey Said American Public Must be Proud of What They Made Possible in Iraq

A rare television showing on a *CNBC* television broadcast (April 14, 2003), described dozens of bombed automobiles throughout the city, many with rotting bodies in them. On that same program, retired general Barry McCaffrey, described the brilliant performance of the U.S. military, and that the American public must be proud of what the U.S. military personnel were doing.

## Majority of Americans Praised Bush for Invading Iraq

In the face of this horror, most Americans supported and praised President Bush for his decision to invade Iraq; they even reelected him, knowing the carnage inflicted upon innocent people, and the pattern of serial lying that would have justified his immediate impeachment—if sanity and a conscience had existed within the United States.

#### Maybe Mexico Should be On Guard

Judging the basis used by the Bush group—and their supporters—for invading Iraq, even Canada and Mexico would be justifiable targets for invasion! Maybe this isn't as ridiculous as it sounds! That also applies to over fifty countries that do not have democratically elected government, as President Bush uses the U.S. military to force his thinking through gunboat diplomacy.

## **American Public Approved the Slaughter They Financed**

Newspaper polls showed the majority of the American public approved Bush's invasion of Iraq. A *Wall Street Journal* article (April 14, 2003) reported on the newspapers' poll, titled "Poll Shows President Gains on Issues on Home Front and Abroad." The poll showed 63 percent agreed with the U.S. policy of pre-emptive strikes. Seventy one percent approved of the job President Bush was doing. That made them complicit.

A typical *Wall Street Journal* editorial, reflecting the editor's support of President Bush's actions, slanted their editorials with blatantly false statements:

With the war [invasion] less than a month old, we've learned that Iraq and terrorism have the same address. Now that virtually all of

Iraq is under coalition control, we're likely to find out much more about its links to terror—if the CIA is willing to look.

No a single shred of evidence indicated Iraq had any connection to terrorism, and the evidence was overwhelming in showing no such link. But *Wall Street Journal* editorials had been overwhelmingly supportive of Israel and against its neighbors. That is the same editorial policy that covered up for many of the criminal activities revealed by government insiders, including the drug smuggling by the CIA and other corrupt activities that I write about in *Defrauding America* and *Drugging America*. I was so incensed about the Wall Street Journal's cover-ups of criminal activities implicating people in key government offices that I filed a law-suit against the newspaper.

## Approval in America; but in Iraq, Burying the Dead

While most Americans approved Bush's invasion or Iraq, in Iraq, people were busy burying the dead. In the United States the media described the plans for parades to honor the *brave* returning U.S. military personnel. These "heroes" included military personnel in offshore naval vessels firing missiles from far beyond the range of the limited number of primitive World War II type weapons possessed by Iraq.

## Hailed as Heroes for Success in Their Turkey-Shoot Invasion

U.S. soldiers engaging in a literal turkey-shoot, were hailed as heroes in U.S. media and by most of the America public that supported what they were doing in Iraq. Why not, in a country where ball players are referred to as heroes!

## U.S. Killing Journalists Who Report the Slaughter

"World Media Turn Wary Eye on U.S." stated a *Wall Street Journal* article (March 25, 2003):

The unprecedented access journalists from around the world have shared in covering the fighting in Iraq has produced starkly divergent accounts of the conflict, in a way that underscores continuing international skepticism about the U.S. mission there.

#### **United Press International**

A *United Press International* (UPI) article (April 8, 2003) described the deliberate shooting of journalists by U.S. military personnel:

Day 20 of the war in Iraq was a dark day for the hundreds of journalists struggling to ensure that coverage out of Baghdad would continue to flow. Tuesday's first victim was Tariq Ayoub, a 34-ear-old Jordanian national and a reporter for al-Jazeera, the Qatar-based satellite TV network. Ayoub and his cameraman Zuheir Iraqi, were wounded when U.S. missiles struck al-Jazeera's office in Baghdad.

The nearby office of Abu Dhabi TV, a rival of al-Jazeera, was

also hit during the morning missile, but its journalists escaped unharmed. Al-Jazeera and Abu Dhabi TV were only media networks to operate from private offices outside the hotel.

Hours later, it was the turn of the Palestine Hotel which houses some 300 journalists. The 15<sup>th</sup> floor of the large hotel was hit by a U.S. tank shell, which struck the offices of the Reuters wire service. Reuters cameraman Taras Protsyuk and Spanish cameraman Jose Couso, were killed. A Japanese cameraman working for Fuji TV, three other Reuter's journalists and another Western reporters were also injured.

Two French and British journalists at the Palestine Hotel were quoted by Arab TV stations as strongly denying initial U.S. military claims that the tank was returning fire from inside the hotel. A reporter from Britain's Sky News also working from the Palestine concurred that no outgoing fire was heard from the hotel.

Western journalists said they saw the tank pointing its barrel at the hotel and heard no explosion or fire prior to the attack.

Al-Jazeera reporter Taysir Allouni said the journalists at the Palestine Hotel were now almost certain that it was the U.S. military that fired at the balcony of the 15<sup>th</sup> floor where Reuters cameraman Protskyuk and other cameramen were filming. Allouni said Arab and Western journalists were in a state of anger, wondering what they should do.

"We are only witnesses of events we want to document and transmit to the world," he said. "They [U.S. forces] want these witnesses to disappear so that no one can testify to the actions they commit, whether a small or big crime."

Dozens of Jordanian journalists staged a sit-in outside the Jordan Press Association in the [Jordanian] capital, Amman, chanting anti-American slogans and calling for an end to the "massacres of journalists and civilians" in Iraq. The Jordanian syndicate accused U.S. forces of "targeting the media as part of an effort to block media coverage of the crimes, massacres and barbaric destruction these forces are committing."

Lebanese President Emile Lahoud condemned the U.S. bombardment that targeted journalists in Baghdad, saying it was an attempt to prevent them from "transmitting the truth."

Lebanese information Minister Ghazi Aridi also denounced the attacks saying, "the freedom the U.S. is talking about is the freedom of killing everyone without exception, especially journalists to prevent them from informing public opinion about massacres committed in Baghdad and Iraqi cities."

Aridi reminded that U.S. State Secretary Colin Powell called on journalists to leave Baghdad before the war started 20 days ago "so that no witness remains to testify about the committed massacres."

## **Shooting At and Imprisonment of Journalists**

Shooting at journalists was compounded by imprisonment without charges. One example was detailed in a *New York Times* article (September 15, 2005):

#### Detention of Iraqi Employees Angers Western News Media

Baghdad. On April 5, Abdul Ameer Younis Hussein, an Iraqi cameraman for CBS News, was struck in the thigh by an American sniper's bullet while filming the aftermath of a suicide bombing in Mosul. As he recovered in a military hospital, the Americans arrested him. They later said the film in his camera suggested he was working for insurgents.

More than five months later, Mr. Hussein is still in an American military prison. The Iraqi criminal authorities have reviewed his case and declined to prosecute him. Colleagues who were with him that day have produced affidavits supporting his innocence. The American military has not released any evidence against him, despite repeated requests for information by CBS producers, lawyers and even the network's president, Andrew Heyward.

Mr. Hussein's case exemplifies a quandary faced by Western news organizations here. Their own reporters are mostly confined to fortified compounds and military bases. As a result, they are forced to rely on Iraqis, who work in increasingly dangerous settings, where the line between observer and participant is not always clear.

One thing is clear: dozens of Iraqis who carry out assignments for the news organizations have been detained while on the job, and sometimes released weeks or months later with no explanation. American forces have mistakenly [?] killed a dozen others, including a soundman working for Reuters who was shot dead by a U.S. sniper on Aug. 28.

Western bureau chiefs say the military often seems to arrest their Iraqi employees merely for getting too close to the action—in effect, for doing their jobs too well. When journalists are killed, the bureau chiefs say, the military often does little more than a cursory investigation.

A number of Reuters Iraqi employees have been detained by the American military, including three who said after being released that they were abused by American interrogators while being detained in Falluja last year.

Iraqi employees with many other companies, including CNN, As-

sociated Press Television News and Agence France-Presse have been detained for long periods in the past year. But some companies declined to comment about the detentions, saying they feared that doing so might harm their relations with the military.

Western bureau chiefs also say that after being detained by American forces, their Iraqi employees often disappear into a void, where nothing can be learned about the case against them and their legal status is unclear. Mr. Hussein, for instance, was initially scheduled for a hearing with the Combined Review and Release Board, a nine-member panel formed to review detention cases. It is made up of American military officials and six Iraqi government officials from the Justice, Human Rights and Interior Ministries.

On Wednesday, Iraq's justice minister, Abdul Hussein Shandal, criticized the detentions of Iraqi journalists in an interview with Reuters, saying he wanted to change a United Nations resolution that gives American troops immunity from Iraqi law. He said journalists were not free to report on all sides of the conflict.

He also dismissed American claims that his ministry had an equal say in detentions, suggesting that the American military controlled the Combined Review and Release Board.

#### Harbinger of Things to Come for All Americans?

The denial of due process and detention without any signs of having done anything wrong was a sampling of what the Bush administration had sought to legislate and bring about by administrative fiat. A federal district court judge held that people charged with being a terrorist can be detained indefinitely without charges being filed. Government bureaucrats can charge *anyone* with being a terrorist!

# **Humiliation and Rage Throughout the Arab World**

Although Arabs generally despised Saddam Hussein, they recognized that due to his age he would not be Iraq's ruler for many more years. Talal Salman, the publisher of the prestigious Beirut newspaper, *Al-Safir*, wrote:

What a tragedy again plaguing the great people of Iraq. They have to choose between the night of tyranny and the night of humiliation stemming from foreign occupation. They know that the Saddam Hussein regime will eventually end one day, he will die. With America you have a whole system, an entirely different system. The threat from America is far greater than the threat from a government that will disappear one day.

#### Pressure on the Press Not to Criticize U.S. Politicians

Two publications, *Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting* and *Extra*, described the pressure on the press to support Bush's policies:

With American flags adorning networks' on-screen logos, journalists are feeling rising pressure to exercise "patriotic" news judgment, while even mild criticism of the military, George W. Bush and U.S. foreign policy are coming to seem Taboo.

Some journalists have loudly proclaimed their support for the government and military action. CBS Evening News anchor Dan Rather was the most conspicuous, declaring on CBS's "Late Show" with David Letterman (September 17, 2001): "George Bush is the president. He makes the decisions, and you know, it's just one American, wherever he wants me to line up, just tell me where. And he'll make the call."

"The Most Biased Name In News: Fox News Channel's Extraordinary Right-wing Tilt." Fox News Channel wraps itself in slogans of journalistic objectivity like "Fair and Balanced" and "We Report, You Decide," but FAIR has found a dramatic right-wing tilt in the network news.

Recent issues reported on USA Today (8/8/02) repeated a common myth about the history of U.S./Iraq relations. Reporter John Diamond wrote that "Iraq expelled U.N. weapons inspectors four years ago and accused them of being spies." But Iraq did not "expel" the UNSCOM inspectors; in fact, they were withdrawn by Richard Butler, head of the inspection team. It's not just USA Today that gets this one wrong—the August 13 edition of ABCs Nightline claimed that Hussein "tossed out UN weapons inspectors. But all that is old news."

A central tenet of Fox News Channel's war reporting is the steadfast belief that dead Afghan civilians don't merit much media attention. As Fox's lead anchor Brit Hume told the New York Times (12/3/01), "The fact that some people are dying, is that really news? And is it news to be treated in a semi-straight-faced way? I think not."

# Emboldened by U.S. Media and Public Support: More War Talk

Bush stated during a question and answer session at the White House (April 13, 2003), in response to a reporter's question that Secretary Rumsfeld said that he thinks the United States should take military action against Syria, Bush responded:

Syria just needs to cooperate with us. I made that clear on Friday. I will, if need be, reiterate it today. The Syrian government needs to cooperate with the United States and our coalition partners (Britain] and not harbor any Ba'athists, any military officials, any people who need to be held to account for their tenure during what

we are learning more and more about. It was one of the most horrendous governments ever.

I think that we believe there are chemical weapons in Syria, for example, and we will—each situation will require a different response, and of course we're—first things first. We're here in Iraq now, and the second thing about Syria is that we expect cooperation. And I'm hopeful we'll receive cooperation.

The Syrian ambassador, Imad Moustapha, responded to an NBC's reporter question:

Every day you will have new reports against Syria, accusing Syria of things it has not done. It's not about what Syria has done; it's about how they are trying to portray Syria here, but certain groups and individuals in Washington. We do not require visas from any single Arab nationals, so any Arab—from Morocco, from Kuwait—he can go to Syria.

Syria has long maintained one of the most liberal entry policies that have been released. Anyone holding a passport from any Arab country can enter or leave. If anyone is going, it's beyond our control as the government said, the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry: "We have long borders with Iraq, and we can't put a policeman on every single meter." What is your response to this? [Even the United States couldn't control its border crossings!]

The Syrian ambassador replied:

First, you have a huge U.S. Army in Iraq that has secured Iraqi western borders, and you are controlling the situation there. If you have problems, please let your U.S. Army deal with these problems.

Let me say this: it's about divergence of attention. The chaos and the lawlessness and the catastrophe, the human catastrophes that are taking place in Iraq today are really embarrassing lots of people in this administration. And the only way to deal with them is to divert attention. And they will keep on doing this and accusing Syria of things that Syria is not doing, just to divert attention. Please, let us go to the basics and understand what is going on here.

The Iraqi people have had their historic capital bombarded with B-2s and Tomahawks and missiles for 15 days, and huge casualties, civilian casualties, have been inflicted, and then decent people were really at their homes? What happened is people who were looting, and thieves and hooligans, once they receive the approval from the press, they will just draw the V sign and then continue their looting. Yesterday, decent people from Baghdad that were very angry came out, and they had their first expression of what they thought of the U.S. troops. I saw it on CNN. They were shouting. Decent people

from Baghdad were not looters—they were shouting, "Yankees, go home!"

The naïve *NBC* reporter asked: "So the Iraqi people have not been liberated? They do not have more freedom now?" The Ambassador responded:

Is liberation about the destruction? Have you seen hospitals being looted? Universities in Iraq? Those universities are public property being destroyed and smashed. You know those archaeological artifacts, they are not Iraqis'—they are yours, they are mine, they are everybody else's. This human tragedy, is this the liberation of Iraq? Have you heard about what's happened in Mosul? People are terribly, terribly upset about what's happened in Mosul.

The NBC reporter asked: "You just heard Secretary Rumsfeld at this very table in that chair say that you are harboring members of Saddam's regime?" The ambassador responded:

Let's start with the weapons of mass destruction and then I will move to this accusation. Syria is not only accepting, it is warmly welcoming. It's our desire, our wish. Please help us free this region from all weapons of mass destruction. We will not only accept the most rigid inspection regime, but we will welcome it heartily. Please, come go wherever you want. It's not that we will be cooperating—we will be happy. Go everywhere, but please to every country in this Middle East—every country—and we will be very happy. You know very well that Israel is the country that is stockpiling nuclear weapons.

#### Refreshing Tell-It-Like-It-Is Columnist

One of several syndicated columnists who dared to call it like it is, Arianna Huffington wrote in one article (May 22, 2003):

I've been racking my brain, trying to reconcile the ever-widening chasm between what the White House claims to be true and what is actually true. After all, we know the president and his men are not stupid. And despite the tidal wave of misinformation pouring out of their mouths, I don't believe they are consciously lying. [Arianna—they are lying!]

The best explanation I can come up with for the growing gap between their rhetoric and reality is that we are being governed by a gang of out-and-out fanatics. The defining trait of the fanatic—be it a Marxist, a fascist or, gulp, a Wolfowitz—is the utter refusal to allow anything as piddling as evidence to get in the way of an unshakable belief.

Who else but a fanatic would have made the outrageous claim, as the president did last Friday, just four days after the deadly reemergence of al-Qaida in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, that "the United

States people are more secure, the world is going to be more peaceful?? More peaceful than what? The West Bank?

"Life is returning to normal," he proclaimed just two weeks after the fall of Baghdad. "Things have settled down inside the country." Really? Did he bother consulting any Iraqis about "normal" life there? Probably not. One of the keys to being a flourishing fanatic is to surround yourself with those of a shared—and equally deluded—mindset.

And according to that mindset, the definition of "settling down" can be expanded to include looting, sporadic water and electrical service, hospitals in disastrous condition, outbreaks of cholera and dysentery, streets filled with uncollected garbage and raw sewage, ransacked nuclear facilities, missing radioactive material, growing anti-American sentiment, and disparate ethnic and religious groups, arming themselves.

# Financial Aid to Rebuild What the U.S. Military Destroyed in Afghanistan

After destroying much of Afghanistan's structures, the Bush White House promised financial aid that would stabilize the country after the Taliban government was bombed out of existence. But years went by and meaningful aid never arrived., as reflected in an *Associated Press* article (April 8, 2003):

The soldiers and police who were supposed to be the bedrock of a stable postwar Afghanistan have gone unpaid for months and are drifting away. At a time when the United States is promising a reconstructed democratic postwar Iraq, many Afghans are remembering hearing similar promises not long ago.

Instead, what they see is thieving warlords, murder on the roads, and a resurgence of Taliban vigilantism. "It's like I am seeing the same movie twice and no one is trying to fix the problem," said Ahmed Wali Karzai, the brother of Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his representative in southern Kandahar. "What was promised to Afghans with the collapse of the Taliban was a new life of hope and change. But what was delivered? Nothing. Everyone is back in business."

From safe havens in neighboring Pakistan, aided by militant Muslim groups there, the Taliban launched their revival to coincide with the war in Iraq and capitalize on Muslim anger over the U.S. invasion, say Afghan officials.

Karzai said the Taliban are allied with rebel commander Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, supported by Pakistan and financed by militant Arabs. In the latest killing in southern Afghanistan, gunmen shot to death Haji Gilani, a close Karzai ally, on Thursday in southern Uruzgan province. Gilani was one of the first people to shelter Karzai when he secretly entered Afghanistan to foment a rebellion against the Taliban in late 2001.

#### **Deceiving Spin and Lies Relating to Female Soldier:**

The White House concocted a story about the female soldier, Private Jessica Lynch, who was allegedly saved from her Iraqi captives in a fierce military fight. The young female soldier later claimed she remembered nothing of the ordeal or her injuries. It turned out that there was a good reason she didn't *want* to remember; she was made a pawn in the White House's deceptive public relations. Columnist Robert Scheer, quoting a British *BBC* report, stated in a syndicated article (May 23, 2003):

In the 1998 film "Wag the Dog," political operatives employ special editing techniques to create phony footage that will engender public sympathy for a manufactured war. Now we find that in 2003 the real-life Pentagon's ability to manipulate the facts make Hollywood's story lines look tame.

After a thorough investigation, the British Broadcasting Corp. has presented a shocking dissection of the "heroic" rescue of Pvt. Jessica Lynch, as reported by the U.S. military and a breathless American press. "Her story is one of the most stunning pieces of news management ever conceived," the BBC concluded—the polite British way of saying "Liar, Liar, pants on fire."

Though the Bush administration's shamelessly trumped-up claims about Iraq's alleged ties to al Qaeda and Sept. 11 and its weapons of mass destruction take the cake for deceitful propaganda, the sad case of Lynch's exploitation illustrates that the truth once again was a casualty of war.

Sadly, almost nothing fed to reporters about either Lynch's capture by Iraqi forces of her "rescue" by U.S. forces turns out to be true. Consider the April 3 Washington Post story on her capture, which reported, based on unnamed military sources, that Lynch "continued firing at the Iraqis even after she sustained multiple gunshot wounds," adding that she was also stabbed when Iraqi forces closed in

It has since emerged that Lynch was neither shot nor stabbed, but rather suffered accident injuries when her vehicle overturned. A medical checkup by U.S. doctors confirmed the account of the Iraqi doctors, who said they had carefully tendered her injuries, a broken arm and thigh and a dislocated ankle, in contrast to U.S. media reports that doctors had ignored Lynch.

Where the manipulation of this saga really gets ugly is in the pre-

premeditated manufacture of the rescue itself. Eight days after her capture, American media trumpeted the military's story that Lynch was saved by Special Forces who scooped her up and helicoptered her out.

However, according to the BBC, which interviewed the hospital's staff, the truth appears to be that not only had Iraqi forces abandoned the area before the rescue effort but that the hospital's staff had informed the United States of this and made arrangements two days before the raid to turn Lynch over to the Americans. "But as the ambulance, with Pvt. Lynch inside, approached the checkpoint, American troops opened fire, forcing it to flee back to the hospital. The Americans had almost killed their prize catch," the BBC reported.

"We were surprised," Dr. Anmar Uday told the BBC about the supposed rescue. "There was no military, there were no soldiers in the hospital. It was like a Hollywood film. The U.S. forces cried, 'Go, go, go,' with guns and blanks without bullets, blanks and the sound of explosions," Uday said. "They made a show for the American attack on the hospital—like action movies starring Sylvester Stallone or Jackie Chan."

The footage from the raid, shot by soldiers with night-vision cameras, was artfully edited by the Pentagon and released as proof that a battle had occurred when it had not. The Lynch rescue story will probably survive as the war's most heroic moment.

If the movies, books and other renditions of "saving Private Lynch" were to be honestly presented, it would expose this caper as merely one in a series of egregious lies marketed to us by the Bush administration.

### **Paying for Lies**

It has been a long-standing practice by Justice Department prosecutors to pay in one way or another for perjured testimony or false statements to insure convictions or insure the success of whatever scheme is being concocted. In the case of Private Lynch, the Iraqi lawyer who allegedly risked his life to reveal the location of Private Lynch and his statement that the female army private had been slapped around by Iraqi security guards was immediately flown with his family to the United States and granted political asylum. He refused all interviews upon arriving in the United States, except to enlarge upon Private Lynch's convenient total loss of memory of all the events that occurred.

# "Bring them on," said Bush"—and Sure Enough, They Came!

During a news conference addressing attacks upon U.S. troops in Iraq, Bush said dared the Iraqis who were fighting the invading U.S.

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troops, "Bring them on." It wasn't long before they came, and they came from all over the world to fight the U.S. troops.

# Déjà vu Invasion Consequences

Preserved to the could be expected by invading Iraq occurred. Worldwide, people who wanted to kill Americans grew dramatically; Afghanistan and Iraq were destabilized; and anarchy and civil war erupted in Iraq. In addition, hatred and loss of respect for America and Americans increased dramatically.

# **Extension of White House Culture to Iraqi Prisons**

In 2003, reports were made to various levels of the Bush administration of humiliating treatment and physical abuse of Iraqi detainees, including murder, by U.S. military personnel, receiving the usual cover-up that has been standard in America for decades.

#### Additional Justification for Worldwide Outrage Against U.S.

Inflicting still further damage to America's image was the widespread brutality inflicted upon detainees held by the United States in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo Bay. This brutality was first reported by the International Red Cross, and then revealed through hundreds of pictures taken by American GIs. Many of these detainees were innocent people who were simple caught up in the dragnet by U.S. military personnel.

When pictures and publicity first appeared of Iraqi detainees being physically abused, tortured, and even murdered, the Bush White House attempted to state that these actions were limited to one block of that prison. Eventually it was revealed that this abuse occurred throughout Iraq, Afghanistan, and at Guantanamo Bay.

In December 2004 the International Red Cross issued a report about U.S. treatment of detainees at Guantanamo Bay, stating that the United States was engaging in conduct tantamount to torture:

The construction of such a system, whose stated purpose is the production of intelligence, cannot be considered other than intentional

system of cruel, unusual, and degrading treatment, and a form of torture

"Prisoner abuse widespread, routine, Red Cross Asserts," was the heading on an *Associated Press* article (May 11, 2004). Another article in the *New York Times* (May 10, 2004) stated:

For months, human rights groups and Iraqi leaders say, they have complained to American officials about the treatment of prisoners. They say that their appeals received little attention.

For over three years the detainees were held, without charges, and without access to legal defenses. Most were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time and got caught up in the U.S. dragnet. Some tried to commit suicide while detained, suggesting the extent of the brutality.

The Red Cross report indicated that physicians were used by U.S. forces in groups known Behavioral Science Consultation Team (BIS-CUIT), consisting of doctors and psychiatrists, who advised the U.S. personnel on their conduct of the detainees—that the International Red Cross stated was a form of torture.

The *New York Times* described the statements made by a GI who was in the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba prison camp.

Female interrogators tried to break male Muslim detainees at the United States prison camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by sexually touching the men, by wearing miniskirts and thong underwear and in one case, by smearing a Saudi man's face with red ink, which he was led to believe was menstrual blood, according to part of a draft manuscript written by a former Army sergeant.

# Only the Acts of a Few, or System Wide?

President Bush claimed that these abuses were the acts of only a few people. But it soon became known that the abuses were widespread, condoned and even ordered by higher levels, and that the cover-ups were throughout the military and civilian administration. Worldwide reaction was severe.

An Associated Press article (May 10, 2004) stated:

A Red Cross report disclosed Monday said coalition intelligence officers estimated that 70-90 percent of Iraqi detainees were arrested by mistake and said Red Cross observers witnessed U.S. officers mistreating Abu Ghraib prisoners. The report by the International Committee of the Red Cross supports its allegations that abuse of Iraqi prisoners by American soldiers was broad and "not individual acts"—contrary to President Bush's contention that the mistreatment "was the wrongdoing of a few."

"ICRC delegates directly witnessed and documented a variety of methods used to secure the cooperation of the persons deprived of their liberty with their interrogators," according to the confidential report. "Upon witnessing such cases, the ICRC interrupted its visits and requested an explanation from the authorities," the report said. "The military intelligence officer in charge of the interrogation explained that this practice was 'part of the process.'" The report cites abuses—some "tantamount to torture"—including brutality, hooding, humiliation and threats of "imminent execution."

"Arresting authorities entered houses usually after dark, breaking down doors, waking up residents roughly, yelling orders, forcing family members into one room under military guard while searching the rest of the house and further breaking doors, cabinets and other property," the report said.

Even FBI agents were aghast at the abuses inflicted upon detainees at the Guantanamo Bay naval air station in Cuba. In late 2002, a year before a U.S. service man gave graphic photographs to a military investigator, an FBI agent sent an e-mail to a colleague complaining about the misconduct.

"You won't believe it," he wrote. Another FBI agent, two years later, sent another e-mail to a colleague stating he had seen reports that a general from Guantanamo had been sent to Abu Ghraib to use the same torture tactics, which he referred to as "Gitmo-ize" the detainee abuses.

# Russ Limbaugh's Approval of Torture

One of Russ Limbaugh's ridiculous statements was his reference to the torture at Abu Ghraib: "I'm talking about people having a good time, these people, you ever heard of emotional release? You ever heard of the need to blow some steam off? No worse than fraternity hazing."

Compounding the torture was the involvement of Jewish interrogators. "Israel Interrogator was at Abu Ghraib," was the title to an article on *Aljazeera.net*. (July 3, 2004), stating:

The US general who was in charge of Baghdad's notorious Abu Ghraib prison has said she had met an Israeli interrogator in Iraq. The controversial allegation is likely to irritate many in the Arab world. Brigadier General Janis Karpinski, who was responsible for military police guarding all Iraqi jails at the time prisoners were abused by US troops there, told the BBC she met the Israeli at a Baghdad interrogation centre.

"He was clearly from the Middle East and he said: "Well, I do some of the interrogation here and of course I speak Arabic, but I'm not an Arab. I'm from Israel," she said. "My initial reaction was to laugh because I thought maybe he was joking, and I realized he was serious," said Karpinski who has been suspended from her command for failings at Abu Ghraib but has not been charged with any wrongdoing. Israeli involvement in Iraq could anger Arabs who

doing. Israeli involvement in Iraq could anger Arabs who accuse Washington of favoring the Tel Aviv in its conflict with the Palestinians and in wider disputes with its Arab neighbors.

#### **U.S. Deviates Sodomizing Arab Detainees**

"Secret film shows Iraq prisoners sodomized," was the title to an article (July 16, 2004) in the London newspaper, *The Independent*:

Young male prisoners were filmed being sodomized by American soldiers at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad, according to the journalist who first revealed the abuses there. Seymour Hersh, who reported on the torture of the prisoners in New Yorker magazine in May, told an audience in San Francisco "it's worse." But he added that he would reveal the extent of the abuses: "I'm not done reporting on all this," he told a meeting of the American Civil Liberties Union.

He said: "The boys were sodomized with the cameras rolling, and the worst part is the soundtrack, of the boys shrieking. And this is your government at war." He accused the US administration, and all but accused President George Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney, of complicity in covering up what he called "war crimes." "Abu Ghraib, Whitewashed," was the title on a New York Times editorial

(July 24, 2004), stating:

A week ago, John Warner, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he was satisfied that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was keeping his promise to leave no stone unturned to investigate the atrocities of Abu Ghraib prison. [Sure!] A newly released report by the Army's inspector general shows that Mr. Rumsfeld's team may be turning over stones, but they're not looking under them.

The authors of this 300-page whitewash say they found no "systemic" problem, even though there were 94 documented cases of prisoner abuse, including some 40 deaths, 20 of them homicides.

The report pins most of the blame on that depressingly familiar culprit, a few soldiers who behaved badly. It does grudgingly concede that "in some cases, abuse was accompanied by leadership failure at the tactical level," but the report absolves anyone of rank, in keeping with the investigation's spirit.

The inspector general's staff did not dig into the abuse cases, but merely listed them. It based its findings on the comical observation that "commanders, leaders and soldiers treated detainees humanely" while investigators from the Pentagon were watching. And it made no attempt to find out who authorized threatening prisoners with dogs and sexually humiliating hooded men, to name two Ameri-

can practices the Red Cross found to be common. The inspector general's see-no-evil team simply said it couldn't find those "approach techniques" in the Army field manual.

The Defense Department has consistently tried to stymie Mr. Warner's investigation. It "misplaced" thousands of pages from Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba's report on Abu Ghraib, the only credible military account so far. It stalled the completion of a pivotal look at Army intelligence by two other Army generals until lawmakers went off to the political conventions and summer vacations. And it ignored Senate demands for the Red Cross reports on American military prisons for months. The only way to learn why innocent Iraqis were tortured by American soldiers is a formal Congressional inquiry, with subpoena power.

#### New York Times

Referring to the highly criticized indefinite imprisonment of detainees, the *New York Times* editorial (October 17, 2004) stated:

American citizens were detained for long periods without access to lawyers or family members. Immigrants were rounded up and forced to languish in what the Justice Department's own inspector general found were often "unduly harsh" conditions. Men captured in the Afghan war were held incommunicado with no right to challenge their confinement. The Justice Department became a cheerleader for skirting decades-old international laws and treaties forbidding the brutal treatment of prisoners taken during wartime.

Mr. Ashcroft appeared on TV time and again to announce sensational arrests of people who turned out to be either innocent, harmless braggarts or extremely low-level sympathizers of Osama bin Laden who, while perhaps wishing to do something terrible, lacked the means.

The Justice Department cannot claim one major successful terrorism prosecution, and has squandered much of the trust and patience the American people freely gave in 2001. Other nations, perceiving that the vast bulk of the prisoners held for so long at Guantanamo Bay came from the same line of ineffectual incompetents or unlucky innocents, and seeing the awful photographs from the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad, were shocked that the nation that was supposed to be setting the world standard for human rights could behave that way.

Mr. Bush's obsession with Saddam Hussein seemed closer to zealotry than mere policy. He sold the war to the American people, and to Congress, as an antiterrorist campaign even though Iraq had no known working relationship with Al Qaeda. His most frightening allegation was that Saddam Hussein was close to getting nuclear weapons. It was based on two pieces of evidence. One was a story about attempts to purchase critical materials from Niger, and it was the product of rumor and forgery.

The other evidence, the purchase of aluminum tubes that the administration said were meant for a nuclear centrifuge, was concocted by one low-level analyst and had been thoroughly debunked by administration investigators and international vetting. Top members of the administration knew this, but the selling went on anyway. None of the president's chief advisers have ever been held accountable for their misrepresentations to the American people or for the mismanagement of the war that followed.

The international outrage over the American invasion is now joined by a sense of disdain for the incompetence of the effort. Moderate Arab leaders who have attempted to introduce a modicum of democracy are tainted by their connection to an administration that is now radioactive in the Muslim world. Heads of rogue states, including Iran and North Korea, have been taught decisively that the best protection against a pre-emptive American strike is to acquire nuclear weapons themselves.

We have specific fears about what would happen in a second Bush term, particularly regarding the Supreme Court. The record so far gives us plenty of cause for worry. Thanks to Mr. Bush, Jay Bybee, the author of an infamous Justice Department memo justifying the use of torture as an interrogation technique, is now a federal appeals court judge. Another Bush selection, J. Leon Holmes, a federal judge in Arkansas, has written that wives must be subordinate to their husbands and compared abortion rights activists to Nazis.

We look back on the past four years with hearts nearly breaking, both for the lives unnecessarily lost and for the opportunities so casually wasted.

#### Pattern of Abuse Associated with U.S. Wars

U.S. politician's version of freedom and democracy in the countries they authorized to be invaded repeatedly showed the U.S. military and CIA personnel engaging in brutality. In Vietnam, there was the machinegunning by "brave" U.S. military personnel of groups of Vietnamese men, women and children; the napalming of peasants, and the murders of tens of thousands of Vietnamese peasants under the CIA's Phoenix program.

Some of the people associated with the Phoenix program, responsible for many killings, were selected by the young President Bush for key assignments in the administration where lies and duplicity were common and used to invade and murder Iraqis.

#### U.S. Troops Using Napalm in Iraq

An article in Britain's *Sunday Mirror* (November 28, 2004) stated that U.S. troops were secretly using napalm in and around Falluja, despite its horrible effects and being banned by the United Nations since 1980. The article stated that innocent civilians were turned into human fireballs as the gel in the napalm bonds the flames to the flesh. The article said there were reports of "melted" corpses that appeared to be napalm injuries.

The article stated that the United States was forced to admit that it used napalm. The United States was the only nation that did not ratify the treaty banning napalm and was the only nation using it.

#### Strip-Search Humiliation in the United States

Public shock over the humiliating treatment of Iraqis shows ignorance of what goes on in prisons throughout the United States. For instance, in California it is not unusual for people to be humiliated through dehumanizing body cavity searches perpetrated upon simply visitors to jails or prisons, or who are arrested on minor charges, many of which are never prosecuted.

For instance, protestors against the invasion of Iraq, arrested in San Francisco, were stripped-searched and subjected to humiliating body cavity searches. These practices surely discouraged people to protest wrongful acts by government personnel. Instances have been reported where people were photographed in the nude and the records made available to others.

Activist Mary Bull was arrested in Sacramento (2000) for singing a protest song during a legislative hearing related to logging in California redwoods, and then subjected to a humiliating body cavity search.

# Fictitious Transfer of Sovereignty by Invading Forces

On June 28, 2004, the "sovereignty" of Iraq was allegedly transferred from the U.S. military to a group selected by the United States, and headed by a former CIA asset. An editorial in the *New York Times* (June 29, 2004), titled, "A Secretive Transfer in Iraq," stated:

Two days early, with a veil of secrecy and a tight security lock-down, Washington's proconsul in Iraq, Paul Bremer III, handed a hollow and uncertain sovereignty to Iyad Allawi, a former Baathist collaborator of Saddam Hussein who spent most of the past three decades exiled in London, the last one of those in the pay of America's Central Intelligence Agency.

The United States representative in Iraq was John Negroponte. Taking his former position was Richard Armitage, both of whom had a highly questionable past during the Reagan-Bush administrations. The so-called return of sovereignty to Iraq didn't quite do what the Bush

administration claimed. The interim government was headed by Salem Chalabi, the nephew of Ahmad Chalabi—accused of spying for Iran while being paid by the United States and working for the CIA.

The prime minister in the interim government, Lyad Allawi, was a "former" CIA operative who conducted bombing terrorist activities in Iraq; he was a member of the Baath Party that the United States had accused of having weapons of mass destruction, and engaged in torture and similar activities.

Syndicated columnist Robert Scheer's article (June 30, 2004), titled, "A thief to build a democracy?" explained it as follows:

According to several former intelligence officials interviewed by the New York Times this month, the political group run by interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi in the 1990s, but financed by the CIA, "used car bombs and other explosive devices smuggled into Iraq" in an attempt to sabotage and destabilize Hussein's regime. With such a record, it is perhaps not strange then that Allawi, who built his exile organization with defecting Iraqi military officers, is already proclaiming the need to delay elections scheduled for January and impose martial law.

Allawi is also demanding that Hussein be put under his government's control and tried quickly by an Iraqi court, probably a strategic move to seize Hussein's strongman crown quickly.

When Allawi was first picked for the prime minister post through an opaque selection process ostensibly run by a U.N. representative, former CIA Iran-Iraq analyst Kenneth Pollack justified the agency's earlier use of Allawi as a terrorist with the comment "send a thief to catch a thief." But the question now is: do you send a thief to build a democracy?

There has been little media follow-up to reports in early June that Allawi's work for the CIA amounted to much more than trying to win hearts and minds. Yet what we do know is damning enough. In 1996, one of Allawi's top officers and his group's self-proclaimed chief bomb-maker detailed the mechanics behind Allawi's murderous actions in a videotape subsequently obtained by a British newspaper, the Independent. On the tape he even expresses annoyance that the CIA had shortchanged him on one job, a car bombing, allegedly paying only half the agreed-upon amount.

According to one of the New York Times' sources, Allawi's group, the Iraqi National Accord, was the only exile group the CIA trusted to unleash violence inside Iraq under the agency's direction.

Now, Allawi has made control over his former rival Hussein a loud demand of his appointed government. Such a plan must be

tempting for the United States. A show-trial under Allawi would be designed to get Hussein out of the way as quickly and quietly as possible, which might save the United States some embarrassment.

In an open, unbiased trial, the former dictator could talk about his cooperation with the Reagan and Bush administrations during the 1980s, when he committed many of the alleged crimes, including the use of poison gas, for which he will be brought to trial. He might even discuss his two visits back then with Donald H. Rumsfeld.

But even though a fair public trial might prove uncomfortable for our government, Hussein is a prisoner of war captured by the United States, and Washington is responsible for his treatment under international standards. We have no right to turn him over to the tender mercies of a former CIA-financed archrival. That is simply an abdication of responsibility that violates international law.

There is a good argument for not trying Hussein under international law, as has been done with former Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic. A fair public trial would reveal the crimes of Hussein as well as the machinations of those U.S. officials and agencies that aided him.

#### U.S. Representative in Iraq Murdering Detainees

"Allawi shot prisoners in cold blood," was the title on an article in the Sidney Australia *Morning Herald* (July 17, 2004), adding:

Lyad Allawi, the new Prime Minister of Iraq, pulled a pistol and executed as many as six suspected insurgents at a Baghdad police station, just days before Washington handed control of the country to his interim government, according to two people who allege they witnessed the killings.

They say the prisoners, handcuffed and blindfolded, were lined up against a wall in a courtyard adjacent to the maximum-security cell block in which they were held at the Al-Amariyah security centre, in the city's southwestern suburbs. They say Dr. Allawi told onlookers the victims had each killed as many as 50 Iraqis and they "deserved worse than death."

The informants told the Herald that Dr. Allawi shot each young man in the head as about a dozen Iraqi policemen and four Americans from the Prime Minister's personal security team watched in stunned silence. Iraq's interior Minister, Falah al-Naqib, is said to have looked on and congratulated him when the job was done. [Great culture for a democracy!]

The names of three of the alleged victims have been obtained by the Herald. One of the witnesses claimed that before killing the prisoners, Dr. Allawi had told those around him that he wanted to send a clear message to the police on how to deal with insurgents.

"The prisoners were against the wall and we were standing in the courtyard when the Interior Minister said that he would like to kill them all on the spot. Allawi said that they deserved worse than death, but then he pulled the pistol from his belt and started shooting them"

Re-enacting the killings, one witness stood three to four metres in front of a wall and swung his outstretched arm in an even arc, left to right, jerking his wrist to mimic the recoil as each bullet was fired. Then he raised a hand to his brow, saying: "He was very close. Each was shot in the head."

The witnesses said seven prisoners had been brought out to the courtyard, but the last man in the line was only wounded, in the neck, said one witness; in the chest, said the other.

A former CIA officer, Vincent Cannistraro, recently told The New Yorker: "If you're asking me if Allawi has blood on his hands from his days in London, the answer is yes, he does. He was a paid Mukhabarat [intelligence] agent for the Iraqis, and he was involved in dirty stuff."

The witnesses did not perceive themselves as whistle-blowers. In interviews with the Herald they were enthusiastic about such killings, with one of them arguing: "These criminals were terrorists. They are the ones who plant the bombs."

The witnesses said the Iraqi police observers were "shocked and surprised." But asked what message they might take from such an act, one said: "Any terrorists in Iraq should have the same destiny. This is the new Iraq."

"Allawi wanted to send a message to his policemen and soldiers not to be scared if they killed anyone, especially, they are not to worry about tribal revenge. He said there would be an order from him and the Interior Ministry that all would be fully protected. He told them, 'We must destroy anyone who wants to destroy Iraq and kill our people.' At first they were surprised. I was scared. But now the police seem to be very happy about this. There was no anger at all, because so many policemen have been killed by these criminals."

Neither witness could give a specific date for the killings. But their accounts narrowed the time frame to on or about the third weekend in June, about a week before the rushed handover of power in Iraq and more than three weeks after Dr. Allawi was named as the interim Prime Minister. They said that as many as five of the dead prisoners were Iraqis, two of whom came from Samarra, a volatile town to the north of the capital, where an attack by insurgents on the home of Mr. Al-Naqib killed four of the Interior Minister's bodyguards on June 19.

The Herald has established the names of three of the prisoners alleged to have been killed. Two names connote ties to Syrian-based Arab tribes, suggesting they were foreign fighters: Ahmed Abdulah Ahsamey and Amer Lufti Mohammed Ahhmed al-Kutsia. The third was Walid Mehdi Ahmed al-Samarrai. The last word of his name indicates that he was one of the two said to come from Samarra, which is in the Sunni Triangle.

The three names were provided to the Interior Ministry, where senior adviser Sabah Khadum undertook to provide a status report on each. He was asked if they were prisoners, were they alive or had they died in custody. But the next day he cut short an interview by hanging up the phone, saying only: "I have no information—I don't want to comment on that specific matter."

One of the witnesses spoke of the distinctive appearance of four as "Wahabbi," the colloquial Iraqi term for the foreign fundamentalist insurgency fighters and their Iraqi followers. He said: "The Wahabbis had long beards, very short hair and they were wearing dishdashas [the caftan-like garment worn by Iraqi men.]"

Raising the hem of his own dishdasha to reveal the cotton pantaloons usually worn beneath, he said: "The other three were just wearing these—they looked normal."

One witness justified the shootings as an unintended act of mercy: "They were happy to die because they had already been beaten by the police for two to eight hours a day to make them talk."

After the removal of the bodies, the officer in charge of the complex, General Raad Abdullah, is said to have called a meeting of the policemen and told them not to talk outside the station about what had happened. "He said it was a security issue," a witness said.

One of the Al-Amariyah witnesses said he watched as Iraqis among the Prime Minister's bodyguards piled the prisoners' bodies into the back of a Nissan utility and drove off. He did not know what became of them. But the other witness said the bodies were buried west of Baghdad, in open desert country near Abu Ghraib.

The Herald has established that as many as 30 people, including the victims, may have been in the courtyard. One of the witnesses said there were five or six civilian-clad American security men in a convoy of five or six late model four-wheel-drive vehicles that was shepherding Dr. Allawi's entourage on that day. The US military

and Dr. Allawi's office refused to respond to questions about the composition of the security team. It is understood that the core of his protection unit is drawn from the US Special Forces units. The Interior Ministry denied permission for the Herald to enter the heavily fortified police complex.

The two witnesses were independently and separately found by the Herald. Neither approached the newspaper. They were interviewed on different days in a private home in Baghdad, without being told what the other had spoken. A condition of the cooperation of each man was that no personal information would be published. Both interviews lasted more than 90 minutes and were conducted through an interpreter, with another journalist present for one of the meetings. The witnesses were not paid for the interviews.

U.S. officials in Iraq have not made an outright denial of the allegations. An e-mailed response to questions from the Herald to the US ambassador, John Negroponte, said: "If we attempted to refute each rumor, we would have no time for other business. As far as this embassy's press office is concerned, this case is closed."

Ironically, something of such major ramifications as this was shown no interest in receiving evidence or further investigation.

#### **Egyptian View of Sovereignty Transfer**

A front-page editorial in Egypt's *Nahdet Misr* referred to the transfer of sovereignty in Iraq:

In a scene bordering on the ridiculous, the United States transferred power to an interim Iraqi government. The formalities took place in the atmosphere of a funeral. Iraq was not liberated from the grip of the American occupation. American troops are going to stay for years to come, according to American officials themselves.

#### **Never Reads, and Never Looks Back**

Bush stated that he never reads books or newspapers, and never looks back upon his decision to invade Iraq. He stated during a mid-2004 interview that his "only miscalculation about the rise of the insurgency grew from the "catastrophic success of the military invasion." Later, Senator Jack Reed said: "Mr. Bush is still trying to put a good face on serious mistakes. This is the continuing motif: Everything is working, and we should reward ourselves for that."

A *New York Times* editorial (October 23, 2004) titled, "How to Skew Intelligence," stated:

It's long been obvious that the allegations about Saddam Hussein's dangerous weapons and alliance with Osama bin Laden were false. But as the election draws closer, the remaining question is to what extent President Bush's steam knew the allegations were wrong and

used them anyway to persuade Americans to back the invasion of Iraq.

#### Military Screwup Enabled Defenders to Seize Weapons

Failure to anticipate, and failure to deal with the observed looting, allowed large quantities of explosives to be looted. Referring to the looting of nearly 400 tons of high explosives in Iraq, the International Atomic Energy Agency referred to the theft as "the greatest explosives bonanza in history," Those explosives, far more powerful than ordinary TNT, were the primary source of explosives killing the invading U.S. military and non-military personnel. They could be used to destroy airliners, useful in missile warheads, useful in nuclear weapons.

For years these explosives were kept under the control of the United Nations inspectors. But after Bush's invasion of Iraq, with the usual incompetence that appears to be associated with government operations, the explosives fell into the hands of Iraqi defenders and those the White House called terrorists, who promptly used them to kill Americans.

# **Media Complicity in Lies and Consequences**

ost media people protected President Bush and his team from the consequences of their lying. I had discovered and documented for years the cover-ups by media people of corrupt and criminal activities that I and a group of other former government agents had discovered. Never once did they report or ask for evidence relating to the serious matters that we professionals had discovered during our official duties. With the invasion of Iraq, the cover-ups became much worse than in the past, compounded by unprecedented levels of outright lying and deception like I had never seen before in my lifetime.

Most Fox News Channel personnel and Rush Limbaugh engaged in such blatant lying that it was difficult to understand the lack of public outrage or outrage by other media people (who were guilty of, at most, covering up for the lies and the consequences. They were all shills for White House politicians.

During the frequent appearances of White House officials on television, media personnel continued to protect the Bush cabinet—and themselves—by refusing to ask probing questions, or challenging the repetition of the blatant false statements that had been long disproved.

No questions were asked about the lies relating to such matters as the chemical factories, the raw uranium from Niger, the balsa-wood aircraft, the absence of any prohibited weapons, or the facts disproving every single charge made by the Bush group and their shills.

#### **Congratulatory Comments Before Soft Questions**

Often, the questioning by media sources was preceded by congratulatory comments, such as occurred when Fox's Chris Wallace, interviews Secretary of State Colin Powell. Wallace started the questions with the statement (and false remark):

Mr. Secretary, I know that you were reporting the best intelligence

that you had from not only the U.S. intelligence community, but the whole world. But when David Kay came back that month and reported that they had found no stockpiles at all, on a personal level, how did you feel?"

A wandering, vague, or totally non-responsive answer was often given to a question, and almost never challenged. If such questions *were* asked, it would be difficult to get politicians to appear on future shows, giving competitive shows an advantage in listener ratings.

#### Media Cover-Ups for White House Misconduct To Protect Against Exposing Media Complicity

The editorial in *Extra*, (October 2003), the magazine for *FAIR*, the Media Watch Group, had the title, "The Fragile Republic," stating:

The paternalistic attitude can be seen in coverage of the famous "16 words" from Bush's State of the Union speech. Why the focus on this one phrase—asserting that Iraq had tried to obtain uranium from Africa—among all the other false claims that were used to justify an unprovoked invasion of Iraq?

Part of the media's reluctance to fully debunk all of the Bush team's propaganda—the aluminum tubes, the nonexistent Al Qaeda links and so on—is simply self-protection. If the media were to acknowledge how thoroughly the war rationale was based on lies, it would reflect very poorly on our leading news organs, which overwhelmingly swallowed the lies with gusto.

#### [Protecting the Government Structure— Those in Control of the System]

But from establishment media's point of view, more is at stake than just their own reputations. During any political scandal, there is concern that the issues be kept sufficiently narrow so as to avoid calling the government structure as a whole into question. It's permissible to call for an admission that mistakes were made, and perhaps for rogue underlings to be sacrificed—but in the end, one must always be able to draw the moral that the system works.

[Referring to the Iran/Contra Scandal] I couldn't help but notice the many ties between the secret army that the U.S. had created and the cocaine trade—ties that the most prominent papers did their best to ignore or dismiss. I asked a New York Times reporter why he had avoided interviewing sources who had made credible charges about CIA connections to the drug trade, and his answer (In These Times, 8/5/87) was shocking in its honesty: "This story can shatter a republic."

#### **Enormity of High Level Corruption Prevented Exposure**

I felt for many years that the cover-ups by media people were partly due to the fact that the enormity of the corruption in government and the tragic consequences for many people and great harm to national security. The catastrophic consequences were so serious, involved so many groups in and out of government, that an exposure would threaten the whole system. Another factor that I thought might be involved was the loss of confidence in government, in the checks and balances, and the financial consequences. Better to protect the corruption than address the cancerous problems.

#### Media and Politician Spin—Dumbing Down the People

The polite word used for lying by media people and politicians is "spin." With the continued dumbing down of the people, the spin worsened, and in many cases has become so blatant as to insult the intelligence of even today's population. Sometimes there was an element of truth to what was being said by the spin masters, giving it the appearance of accuracy, and then followed with deception and lies, resulting in an absolutely false statement.

#### **Definition of Spin**

Spin is the subject of derision or chuckles by those who recognize it, and accepted as truth by the mostly uninformed, misinformed, and unsophisticated public. But it has had deadly consequences, and these will worsen.

The spin given to justify the invasion of Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and other crimes. Spin reverses the truth. It is sometimes more innocent and does not harm anyone and is not a crime. In today's level of comprehension by the public, the politician with the best spin and presentation gains control of the most powerful office in the world.

Many reporters and television commentators spin the spinners, never before as with the Bush administration and the invasion of Iraq. Never in the nation's history has the comments by Mark Twain been more prominent: "There are three kinds of lies: lies; damned lies; and statistics."

# Spin in "News" Reporting

CBS' Internet site carried the headline, "Bush Knew Iraq Info Was False," but then quickly changed it to "Bush Knew Iraq Info Was Dubious." In the book, *Bias*, former CBS insider, Bernard Goldberg, revealed how the media distorted the news. Goldberg described how reporters routinely regurgitated the propaganda of pressure groups and government agencies, to the detriment of honest reporting, and how fairness, balance, and integrity had disappeared from network television. Goldberg was in a high CBS office for three decades and had received seven Emmy awards, along with being featured in TV Guide. He obviously was in po-

sition to know, and also had the courage to expose this deadly practice. Goldberg wrote:

If learning anything after all these years after all these years as a network newsman, I know this much: never-never! underestimate how low news executives, and TV people in general, will go in the pursuit of higher ratings. If CBS, ABC, and NBC news could frighten main street America, they would.

#### **Prostituting Media Reports**

An announcement on Houston's KPFT News described manipulating the facts:

A recent CBS story—attributed to the U.S. Central Command—raises important questions about the role of media and journalism in general. Specifically: CBS carried the headline: "Civilians Turning on Saddam!"

It is significant that this headline seemed to have come at the end of several days in which an overwhelming number of stories would have led dispassionate observers to the opposite conclusion: that instead of rallying to the American "liberators," the Iraqi people were instead stiffening their resistance, even as revulsion throughout the Middle East seemed to rise with each new story involving the deaths of Iraqi civilians, rifts between Rumsfeld and the Pentagon brass and British soldiers refusing to carry out orders certain to result in civilian deaths.

#### Wall Street Journal Editorial Self-Praise Reversing the Facts

A half-page *Wall Street Journal* editorial (January 9, 2002) by publisher Peter R. Kann stated the very opposite of what I had observed of that newspaper's culture for many years:

This progress report carries forward a custom begun 25 years ago. It reflects our belief that publishing a newspaper is a public trust for which we are accountable first of all to you our readers. ... that quality, above all, is what the Journal prides itself on providing to its readers. It's a quality that has never been more essential than in these months of cascading news events. ... the response to these challenges has left me as proud of this publication, and as optimistic about its prospects, as I have ever been in the 20 years I have been responsible for it.

I had been making the *Wall Street Journal* aware for the past 30 years of the corruption that I and other government agents had discovered. I had even filed a lawsuit against the *Wall Street Journal* in 1990 on the basis of its cover-up of criminal activities of key government officials.

#### White House Politicians' Muzzling Media People

Christiane Amanpour, one of CNN's top war correspondents at the time, stated during CNBC's *Topic A With Tina Brown*:

I think the press was muzzled, and I think the press self-muzzled. I'm sorry to say, but certainly television and, perhaps, to a certain extent, my station was intimidated by the administration and its foot soldiers at Fox News. And it did, in fact, put a climate of fear and self-censorship, in my view, in terms of the kind of broadcast work we did.

Asked if there were any stories during the US invasion of Iraq that she couldn't report, Amanpour responded:

It's not a question of couldn't do it, it's a question of tone. It's a question of being rigorous. It's really a question of really asking the questions. All of the entire body politic in my view, whether it's the administration, the intelligence, the journalists, whoever, did not ask enough questions, for instance, about weapons of mass destruction. I mean, it looks like this was disinformation at the highest levels.

#### Fox "News" Channel's Double Standards

Fox News Network sued author Al Franken, claiming that he satirized the Fox News Channel in his book, *Lies, and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right.* In the lawsuit, Fox claimed that they trademarked the phase, "Fair and Balanced," which they claimed described their news coverage, and that Franken's use of that phase tarnished Fox's claim. In the lawsuit Fox claimed:

Franken is neither a journalist nor a television news personality. He is not a well-respected voice in American politics; rather, he appears to be shrill and unstable. His views lack any serious depth or insight. Instead of using facts, the Fox complaint accused Franken of being "either intoxicated or deranged" at a press correspondents' dinner occurring several months earlier. One trait that most of Fox News commentators could never claim, and especially Bill O'Reilly, was fair and balanced reporting.

# Media People and Public Relation Firms as Fronts for the CIA

Covert Action, in its Spring 1993 issue, told how U.S. intelligence agencies use public relation firms, journalists, and authors to print what they want the American public to hear. The article reported:

In a typical issue of the Wall Street Journal, more than half the news stories were based solely on [government-provided] press releases." The article continued: "Reporters were paid by the CIA, sometimes without their media employer's knowledge, to get the material in print or on the air." They reported that news organizations ordered their writers to repeat what was fed to them by the CIA.

The spring 1993 issue of *Covert Action* described the misleading news given to the American public:

In a typical issue of the Wall Street Journal, more than half the news stories were based solely on press releases from government personnel. Hill and Knowlton...were perfect "cover" for the everexpanding CIA. The CIA...used its H&K connections to put out press releases and make media contacts to further its positions.

H&K employees at the small Washington office and elsewhere, distributed this material through CIA assets working in the United States news media. Since the CIA is prohibited from disseminating propaganda inside the U.S., this type of "blowback"—which former CIA officer John Stockwell and other researchers have often traced to the Agency—is illegal. While the use of U.S. media by the CIA has a long and well-documented history, the covert involvement of PR firms may be news to many.

#### Slanted "News" and Who Rules America?

Covert Action described how reporters depend upon the close intelligence community for much of their "news," and how the media protects these sources. Another article written by the research staff of National Vanguard Books described the slanted news by the press and entertainment media: Who Rules America?

Their power...reaches into every home in America, and it works its will during nearly every waking hour. It is the power which shapes and molds the mind of virtually every citizen, young or old, rich or poor, simple or sophisticated. The mass media form for us our image of the world and then tell us what to think about that image. Essentially everything we know—or think we know—about events outside our own neighborhood or circle of acquaintances comes to us via our daily newspaper, our weekly news magazine, our radio, or our television.

Employing carefully developed psychological techniques, they guide our thought and opinion...Most Americans fail to realize that they are being manipulated. Even the citizen who complains about "managed news" falls into the trap of thinking that because he is presented with an apparent spectrum of opinion he can escape the thought controllers' influence by believing the editor or commentator of his choice. Every point on the permissible spectrum of public opinion is acceptable to the media master, and no impermissible fact or viewpoint is allowed any exposure at all, if they can prevent it.

# Media Circus and Lack of Investigative Reporting

In the book, *Media Circus*, written by *Washington Post* media critic, the author ridicules the lack of investigative reporting, absence of pene-

trating insight, or newsworthy news that exists in America's newspapers:

The nation's watchdogs have become lap-dogs, and groveling spineless mutts at that. And nobody, the American public especially, appears to give a thinker's damn.

#### **Media Admission of Being CIA Fronts**

It is well known in the intelligence community that the intelligence community has many media personnel and corporations on their payroll, insuring that the public is denied knowledge of the high-level corruption throughout government offices. Many articles have been written about this fact of life, including, for instance, a *Washington Post* February 16, 1996 article describing the CIA's use of American journalists and news organizations during "the past 19 years," and even using them as cutouts or fronts for CIA activities.

#### **Using Covert Media Sources Continues as CIA Policy**

The article made reference to earlier discoveries "that the CIA had clandestine agents posing as American journalists for decades." Executive editor of the *Washington Post*, Leonard Downie, Jr., stated:

It's disturbing to hear that the CIA has either used the cover of legitimate journalistic organizations without their knowledge, or somebody working for them has been recruited by the CIA. CIA spokesman Mark Mansfield said the use of the media is permitted by a regulation "waived by the agency's director…and has been and continues to be the CIA's policy.

# Over 800 News and Public Information Sources Under CIA Control

A December 1977 article in the *New York Times* reported that in the mid 1960s the CIA "owned, subsidized or otherwise influenced...more than 800 news and public information organizations and individuals."

Author Ralph McGehee states in *Deadly Deceits: My 25 years in the CIA*, "There's a little bit of fear that if you go after the intelligence community, your career is threatened." Several CIA operatives have told me that the CIA had blackmailed Senator Boren, head of the CIA Senate Oversight Committee, <sup>88</sup> warning him in 1992 that they would release pictures of his alleged homosexual and pedophile activities if he didn't cease his opposition to the nomination of Robert Gates as Director of the CIA.

# **Americans Suffered Greatly for Media Cover-ups**

Americans have paid a terrible price for the media's cover-ups and disinformation related to corrupt and criminal activities throughout government offices and in covert operations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>88</sup> Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The drug smuggling into the United States by people in government positions, October Surprise, looting of the savings and loans, corruption in the federal courts, and especially the bankruptcy courts, and the many other areas of corruption I detail in my various books, could not have occurred without media cover-ups.

Nor would the conditions have existed that enabled terrorists to hijack four airliners on 9/11, without media cover-ups. See my book, Blowback, 9/11, and Cover-Ups.

The lies that got the United States embroiled in the war against Iraq and the massive blowbacks from that fiasco will last and effect Americans for decades to come. These were enabled to occur by the cover-ups, the disinformation, the outright lying, by media people. You aren't going to learn about this from your media people.

#### Much of the Public Shares Media Complicity

Despite all the information showing these conditions to exist, most of the American public supported the lies, the actions, and the perpetrators. Some of them later voiced disapproval, but only when the going got ugly and would adversely affect *them*.

#### Filing Complaint Against Fox "Fair and Balanced" Spin

Two groups filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (July 19, 2004) charging Fox News Channel with deceptive advertising. The basis was the slogan "fair and balanced" on the basis that it is deceptive in that Fox New Channell was more involved in propaganda to protect the Bush administration than any other television channel. The complaint was filed by Common Cause, a political watchdog group, and MoveOn.Org. Another complaint was filed by the Independent Media Institute. The complaint stated:

MoveOn.org.Inc. and Common Cause hereby petition the commission to initiate a Complaint ... for deceptive practices in the advertising and marketing of cable television programming. Specifically, Fox News has advertised and promoted the Fox News Channel ("FNC" using the slogan and mark "Fair and Balance,") but FNC's news and commentary programming is not remotely "fair" or "balanced." To the contrary, that programming is deliberately and consistently distorted and twisted to promote the Republican Party of the U.S. and an extreme rights-wing viewpoint.

The Commission should institute an enforcement proceeding against Fox News; order Fox News to cease and desist from using the slogan and mark "Fair and Balanced;" and take such other action as may be appropriate to remedy the injury to consumers from Fox News' deceptive practices.

#### **SUMMARY**

By the network's own account, Fox News has consistently and regularly used the phrase "Fair and Balances" to promote FNC's television programming. Fox News has, in fact, registered as a trademark the phrase "Fair and Balanced" for television news and for certain classes of merchandise.

By any objective measure, FNC's programming is not "Fair and Balanced." To the contrary, recent research and studies of the network's programming demonstrate that:

- Network management instructs line producers and correspondents to structure their coverage of events in a way that specifically promotes the positions of the Bush Administration and the Republican Party.
- The network's coverage of current events is grossly distorted and biased. For example, a recent survey showed that much higher percentages of viewers whose main source of news is FNC have misperceptions about indisputable facts about the war, than do viewers of other news outlets.
- The network makes no effort whatsoever to achieve any semblance of balance on its many interview shows.
- For example, a study of the interview show "Special Report with Brit Hume" for the last six months of 2003 concluded that conservative guests outnumbered progressive guests five to one; and a similar study of the program in 2002 concluded that conservative guests outnumbered progressive ones, 14 to one.

The FTC's policy is to find advertising to be deceptive, within the meaning of section 5 of the Act, if a claim was made; the claim was likely to mislead a reasonable consumer; and the claim was material. In the case of FNC, a viewer of television news who does not strongly identify with either political party or any particular ideology, or who is seeking balanced, neutral, objective news coverage, might well be induced to view FNC by reason of the claim that its coverage is "Fair and Balanced." There can be no doubt that such a consumer would be seriously misled, in that FNC's coverage is grossly distorted, unfair and unbalanced.

MoveOn co-founder Wes Boyd said: "It's no longer about the search for the truth. Fox has taken up a truly partisan role." The Fox News Channel was started by Roger Ailes, a Republican political consultant, in 1996, and staffed it with such spin masters as Bill O'Reilly and Sean Hannity.

# Communists Had Pravda; Republicans Have Fox

"The Communists had *Pravda*; Republicans have *Fox*," was the halfpage title in the *New York Times* (July 20, 2004). The informational ad was placed by MoveOn.Org, and described the slanted stories covering up for the lies by the Bush administration. It stated:

Fox News calls itself "fair and balanced." But in the words of our greatest living newsman, Walter Cronkite, Fox has always intended to be "beyond conservative, a far-right wing organization." All the Fox news programs get daily marching orders from the top, specifying the day's stories and slant. Says Cronkite: "I've never heard of any network, or any other legitimate news organization doing that."

Bad news from Iraq is minimized, while the patriotism of war opponents is questioned. This conservative ideology is effectively being packaged in Fox's "high-tech tabloid" style, where commentators and reporters are interchangeable, sarcasm and hyperbole commonplace, and fear mongering is the order of the day.

#### [State of the Art Mass Propagandists]

We're petitioning the Federal Trade Commission this week, to deny Fox permission to use the slogan "fair and balanced." Ultimately, Fox doesn't really do the news; they are state of the art mass propagandists. It's a simple question of false advertising.

#### The Party Line

Recent excerpts from the daily instructions given to Fox News reporters and producers by senior management:

"The so-called 9/11 commission has been meeting. Do not turn this into Watergate."

"Today is likely to be the apex of the so-called 9/11 commission hearings. Remember that while there are obvious political implications for Bush, the commission is looking at eight years of the Clinton Administration versus eight months for Bush."

"Do not fall into the easy trap of mourning the loss of U.S. lives in Iraq and asking out loud why we are there." (4/4/04)

Let's refer to the US marines we see in the foreground as 'sharpshooters,' not 'snipers,' which carries a negative connotation." (4-28-04)

"The president and VP are MEETING with the 9/11 commission. They are NOT testifying..." (4/29/04)

# New York Times Apologizing for Supporting Lies

An apology editorial appeared in the *New York Times* (July 16, 2004), apologizing for its prior publishing of information supporting President Bush's charges related to Iraq. The editorial, titled "A Pause for Hindsight," stated:

Over the last few months, this page has repeatedly demanded that President Bush acknowledge the mistakes his administration made when it came to the war in Iraq, particularly its role in misleading the America people about Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction and links with Al Qaeda. If we want Mr. Bush to be candid about his mistakes, we should be equally open about our own.

During the run-up to the war, The Times ran dozens of editorials on Iraq, and our insistence that any invasion be backed by "broad international support" became a kind of mantra.

We agreed with the president on one critical point: that Saddam Hussein was concealing a large weapons program that could pose a threat to the United States or its allies. We repeatedly urged the United Nations Security Council to join with Mr. Bush and force Iraq to disarm.

As we've noted in several editorials since the fall of Baghdad, we were wrong about the weapons. And we should have been more aggressive in helping our readers understand that there was always a possibility that no large stockpile existed.

At the time, we believed that Saddam Hussein was hiding large quantities of chemical and biological weapons because we assumed that he would have behaved differently if he wasn't. It there were no weapons, we thought, Iraq would surely have cooperated fully with weapons inspectors to avoid the pain of years under an international embargo and, in the end, a war that it was certain to lose.

That was a reasonable theory. But it was only a theory. American intelligence had not received any on-the-ground report from Iraq since the Clinton administration resorted to punitive air strikes in 1998 and the U.N. weapons inspectors were withdrawn.

The weapons inspectors who returned in 2002 found Iraq's records far from transparent, and their job was never made easy. But they did not find any evidence of new weapons programs or stocks of prohibited old ones. When American intelligence agencies began providing them tips on where to look, they came up empty.

We're not blaming ourselves for failing to understand the thought process of an unpredictable dictator. Even if we had been aware before the war of the total bankruptcy of the American intelligence estimates on Iraq, we could not have argued with any certainty that there were no chemical or biological weapons.

But we do fault ourselves for failing to deconstruct the W.M.D. issue with the kind of thoroughness we directed at the question of an Iraq-Al Qaeda link. We did not listen carefully to the people who disagreed with us. Our certainty flowed from the fact that such an overwhelming majority of government officials, past and present, top intelligence officials and other experts were sure that the weapons were there. We had a groupthink of our own.

Saddam Hussein was indisputably a violent and vicious tyrant, but an unprovoked attack that antagonized the Muslim world and fractured the international community of peaceful nations was not the solution. There were, and are, equally brutal and potentially more dangerous dictators in power elsewhere. Saddam Hussein and his rotting army were not a threat even to the region, never mind to the United States.

Many politicians who voted to authorize the war still refuse to admit that they made a mistake. But they did. And even though this page came down against the invasion, we regret now that we didn't do more to challenge the president's assumptions.

# **New York Times Had Access to Same Evidence Proving the Accusations Against Iraq Were False**

Whatever was the reason for that *New York Times* editorial, the fact remains that the editors of that paper had the same access to reliable information showing the statements from the White House to be lies long before Iraq was invaded.

#### Almost Total Blanket of Support by Republican Politicians

Aiding and abetting the deception foisted upon the American people by the Bush administration were almost *all* of the republican politicians. Despite knowing of the lying and catastrophic consequences, their interest was more in protecting their own positions rather than protecting the interests of the United States and its people.

# Prior History of Disinformation by Media Personnel

I and many other present and former government agents had for decades reported and offered evidence of criminal and even subversive activities by people in key government offices and in covert operations. And in almost every case, media people covered up for the crimes that were inflicting great harm upon major national interests. In the aviation field, the consequences were decades of easily preventable airline disasters—including those of 9/11.

Cover up of a federal crime is a felony. <sup>89</sup> Most of the mainstream media, members of Congress, are guilty of this crime. Those in the media, who refused to report the charges of government crimes, or knowledge of the crimes, are morally and criminally guilty. Those who engaged in deliberate misinformation to cover up for these crimes were guilty of even worst crimes, under federal law.

# Minimum Number of Publishers Compound the Problem

Broadcast and print media are controlled by a relatively small number of conglomerates that control what news is broadcast, the slant given

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<sup>89</sup> Title 18 U.S.C. § 4.

to the news, what corruption of high level officials is to be covered up, what books are published The conglomerates have interests throughout our society that are controlled by government personnel, and can be rewarded, or caused to suffer financially, depending upon how they protect the people in control of powerful government offices.

One of my first experiences with media cover-up involved NBC in late 1977, when Alan Goldstein and Linda Ellerbee contacted me concerning a lawsuit that I filed relating to my charges of corruption in the government's aviation safety offices that were related to a series of fatal airline disasters.

NBC read the U.S. Supreme Court's decision refusing to vacate the lower court's dismissal of my action. I was seeking to report federal crimes related to a series of airline disasters, under the federal crime reporting statute, Title 18 U.S.C. § 4,90 and federal judges were blocking me from making the reports. NBC was initially interested, and then suddenly dropped the matter, even though the mere filing of such an action was newsworthy.

#### **Media People Aware of Federal Lawsuits**

Media people routinely examine lawsuits filed in federal courts, making them aware of the actions I filed and the charges I made, along with the unlawful blocks by federal judges. The first filings addressed the corruption that I discovered as a key federal aviation safety agent that caused and enabled a series of specific airline crashes to occur. In later years, as I and other government agents discovered and sought to report corruption in other areas of government, such as CIA drug smuggling, media people covered up for our actions, the charges, and the unlawful block by federal judges and Justice Department lawyers. In this way, media people held primary blame for many tragedies that did, and continue to occur, gravely affecting many innocent Americans.

#### Media Cover-Ups of Chappaquiddick

During an appearance on Larry King's television program on June 28, 1989, Leo Demoore, the author of *Senatorial Privilege*, told of the cover-up he witnessed as a reporter covering Kennedy's Chappaquiddick accident. He discussed the cover-up by media people of the more sensitive and sordid parts of the Kennedy's conduct, claiming that most if not all the papers omitted extremely serious misconduct by Kennedy and those who covered up for him, distorting what the media people reported. He said that the press protected Kennedy as much as possible. The press

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>90</sup> Title 18 U.S.C. § 4. Misprision of felony. Whoever, having knowledge of the actual commission of a felony cognizable by a court of the United States, conceals and does not as soon as possible make known the same to some judge or other person in civil or military authority under the United States, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.

didn't want to hear anything that might blemish Kennedy's image. Demoore made it clear that both the press and the publishing houses wanted the matter kept as quiet as possible.

Demoore had a firm contract with Random House to publish *Senatorial Privilege*, which had already been accepted in 1985. Suddenly, Random House refused to go to print, claiming they were dissatisfied with the contents, even though they had already expressed complimentary approval of the first half. Demoore felt that unknown people pressured Random House not to publish the book. Random House was also one of the publishers that had tentatively agreed to publish my first printing of *Unfriendly Skies*, and then suddenly refused to do so.

Peter Brewton had a similar experience. He had a firm contract with Doubleday to publish *The Mafia, CIA, and George Bush*, giving assurances that the book would be published by the summer of 1992, before the presidential elections, Doubleday suddenly stalled and refused to proceed with publication. Brewton then had his book published by SPI Books, a division of Shapolsky Publishers.

#### **Censorship by the Publishing Industry**

When I finished the first manuscript of *Unfriendly Skies* in the late 1970s I queried several publishers, some of whom requested to see a copy of the manuscript. Two expressed interest in publishing the manuscript, but each suddenly canceled at the last minute. When Ballantine Publishing Company returned the manuscript after showing a strong initial interest, they accidentally left an interoffice memorandum in the returned manuscript. One of the editors referred to the manuscript as a "blockbuster." That first draft submitted in 1976 was mild compared to subsequent editions.

In late 1992, one of the editors for Sheridan Square Press contacted me after being referred by Ari Ben-Menashe, author of *Profits of War*, asking that I send him some material concerning my manuscript on *Defrauding America*. I sent them an early chapter on the October Surprise, which contained many statements made by CIA operative Russbacher, including the role played by Israel and the Mossad in that scheme. I never heard from them again, despite four subsequent letters. In April 1993, I requested that they return to me the chapters that I had sent. They wouldn't even answer that letter.

# Media Cover-Ups Made Such Disasters as 9/11 Possible

Cover-ups, obstruction of justice, by media people, are not simply academic matters. The tragedies arising from the documented corruption and other problems within the government's aviation safety offices enabled many deadly airline disasters to occur that could have been prevented by ordering the known preventative measures. The same can be

said for the years of CIA people smuggling drugs and the many other criminal activities described in my various books.

#### Framing the news for Washington

A San Francisco Examiner article by Mark Hertsgaard<sup>91</sup> criticized the press for "framing the news according to what the movers and shakers of official Washington wanted, rather than thinking through the relevant issues for themselves, and [holding] the national political dialogue hostage to the debate within the Washington policy elite." He added, "Journalists got so carried away that instead of being honest brokers of information, many fell into the role of Pentagon cheerleader."

# Some in the Publishing Industry Paid With Their Lives for the Cover-Up

Among the members of the publishing industry who knew of the air safety corruption that I reported, and whose silence made possible its continuation, were people at *Playboy* magazine. I offered *Playboy* my manuscript in the mid-1970s, depicting the ongoing air safety and government corruption and its relationship to several recent air disasters. They didn't accept the manuscript, or publish any articles on the relating to the information I presented. A year later, several *Playboy* people perished in an American Airlines DC-10 crash at Chicago DC-10, associated with several of the problems I had brought to their attention.

After the Chicago DC-10 crash, *Playboy* published a nineteen-page article complaining of the status of air safety, but totally omitted the underlying corruption that brought on the problems. Without revealing the serious internal problems in the government's aviation safety offices, nothing could be expected to change, and no change occurred. The article was entitled, "Airline Safety, A Special Report," and stated in part:

The closer you look at airline travel, the more it looks like a game of angels and great good luck, rather than skill and know-how and high technology based on the same statistical manipulations, it was safer to walk the tightrope than fly his planes and it was also safer to repair your roof then to take a bath. Statistics can devil the hell out of you if you let them, but you pay your money and you take your chances, and in this game, undelivered goods are non-returnable.

Even the *Airline Pilot's* magazine refused to accept advertisement for my book, *Unfriendly Skies*, which could have exposed and led to corrective measures for the problems that killed many of their own members. It was ironic that the Air Line Pilots Associated lost a former president, Clarence Sayen, in the United 727 crash into Lake Michigan, which was caused by one of the problems I had frequently reported.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>91</sup> December 30, 1990. Author of *On Bended Knee: The Press and the Reagan Presidency*.

But then, cover-ups and refusal to act on major problems has been an American culture that I observed since before the Japanese attack upon Pearl Harbor, which occurred after I had been in the Navy for a year. Nothing has changed that problem, except other problems have been added.

#### **Knowingly Duplicating My Title**

One of the publishing houses to which I offered my nearly completed third edition of *Unfriendly Skies* in 1988 was Bantam-Doubleday. Doubleday responded they were not interested in the subject matter. You can imagine my surprise when I saw my exact title, *Unfriendly Skies*, heavily promoted on the *Today Show* (April 26, 1989), in a book published by Doubleday, listing the authors as Captain X and Reynolds Dodson.

Doubleday spent huge sums promoting their book as an exposé, expending money far beyond that which was justified by its contents. Doubleday claimed that the highly sensitive nature of the book required that the name of the pilot not be revealed. That was a snow job, possibly to divert attention away from my book. The book didn't contain any specifics, nothing of a sensitive nature, and did not warrant a pseudo author. The book dealt heavily with the dating habits of flight attendants and ramblings by a pilot, suggesting limited experience.

Several hours before Captain X appeared on the May 1, 1989, *Larry King Live* show, I talked to Pat Piper, an associate producer on the show, advising him I was the author of *Unfriendly Skies*, and that Doubleday copied my title. Piper replied that he had read Doubleday's *Unfriendly Skies*, remarked about its absence of substance, stating he didn't know why Captain X was asked to appear.

I requested an explanation from Doubleday (May 10, 1989) as to why they copied the title of my book. Their law firm replied that they had a right to duplicate any title they wished. While this was true, a major publishing house does not duplicate the title of another book that is being actively promoted. It is my strong belief that some group paid Doubleday to duplicate my title, possibly to shift attention from the serious corruption and deadly consequences detailed and documented in my book.

The Air Line Pilot magazine gave Doubleday's version a glowing review. 92 They had refused to address the contents of my book and had even refused to accept advertising for it when it came out. The article stated that the book tells it like it is and that air safety was in good shape. This was contrary to earlier Air Line Pilot magazine articles written by their technical staff. The reference to Captain X book stated in part:

There's just a pilot's and copilot's seat. Some 600 functions have

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>92</sup> July 1989 Air Line Pilot.

been eliminated from the control panels. On the wall to the right, where the engineer was sitting, there's a box with some shelves. Behind that, there's a wardrobe closet. How simple it is! It's not much worse than...a sports car dashboard! You've got some computerterminal screens, and they have some weird-looking graphics on them, but other than that it doesn't seem all that complicated, and you have dreams (foolish dreams!) that you might be able to fly this bugger.

In a chapter entitled "The High But Not Necessarily Mighty," the authors discuss "built-in risk factors" like the "noise pollution factor," the "bird factor," and "the airline versus the fork-tail doctor killers." The latter refers to those general aviation aircraft like the Piper Cherokees and Seminoles flying down in "Indian Country," many of them, the author claims, owned by rich doctors or movie producers. These aircraft menace his skies, especially in Southern California.

Following this book review, there was a multi-page article relating to an interview with Captain X in which he gave details of how Doubleday approached him to write the book. Captain X had no writing abilities; his airline experience was limited; and he lacked access to and knowledge of the internal problems within government and at United Airlines.

The so-called Captain X described how he and co-author Reynolds Dodson prepared the book's contents, sitting in his backyard and relating "war stories I've told a hundred times before—both to fellow pilots and to friends and relatives."

One of the so-called exposé stories concerned a captain correcting a landing by a copilot, an event as routine as getting up in the morning. Captain X said he put into some typewritten pages his back-yard description of the rough-landing story, and the great anxiety it caused him. The article continued: "I've got problems. My company won't want to come within 10 miles of a story about a copilot who almost broke one of its airplanes."

First of all, a hard landing doesn't normally break an aircraft. Second, a competent captain will correct an approach made by a copilot before it becomes a hard landing. Third, a hard landing occasionally occurs to all pilots, and normally is not grounds for disciplinary action.

This embarrassing naiveté was evident throughout the book. Nothing in the book constituted an exposé. Captain X continued his description of how Doubleday arranged for his participation. His first-person writing suddenly took the position of a third person:

He [co-author to Captain X] sent the first chapter, plus an outline, to his agent. His agent in turn sent it to 15 different publishers, and 13

expressed interest in it. Within days, Ren was calling excitedly. Three of the publishers had gone into auction, and the winning bid had been quite considerable. [No legitimate publishers would have gone into auction on such a bland and poorly written book, when other books far more creditable manuscripts were available.]

I am not always the most patient guy, and a couple of times we almost came to blows over whether a pilot would "shout" or "speak" during the throes of a thunderstorm and whether the emotions that a pilot feels would be fear or hostility. [big deal!]

Now a mini-bureaucracy sprang up, and suddenly I was confronting a new group of personalities....When the time came for me to sit down with Doubleday's executives—who still didn't know who I was: as far as they knew I was "Captain X," and to this very day, that is all they know me by—I suddenly found myself sitting in a high-rise conference room staring at a bunch of women who, to my middle-aged eyes, looked like fresh-scrubbed flight attendants.

Captain X made reference to Doubleday's statement that book sales depended on media exposure and advertising, as much as the contents of the book. In this case, far more depended on hype than on contents. Doubleday then arranged for Captain X to be coached in preparation for radio and television appearances. A Los Angeles newspaper review<sup>93</sup> summarized the contents of what Doubleday called an exposé:

Captain X said the worst is over. Air travel is actually safer than ever as far as Captain X is concerned. The future is bright for aviation.

The book received one of the most unusual book reviews ever written, appearing in the October 1989 Flight Training magazine:

This is a bad book. I suspect Captain "X" elected anonymity after reading what he dictated, and some residue of both ego and pride required that he divorce himself from it....This is a book that simply mocks maturity and professionalism....Beware! This is not the way it is. The incidents he reports, and which he allowed to happen (and from which he extricated the airplane) bespeak an impaired captain, unable to recognize acceptable aircraft performance. They are not the compliments to himself that he solicits.

During a radio appearance with host Anthony Hilder in Anchorage on July 19, 1989, Hilder mistakenly introduced me as Captain X, assuming that I was the author of the books that he saw stacked on the floor of local bookstores. He had earlier recommended the new book to his listeners.

"Anthony, I'm not Captain X," I explained, and then proceeded to

<sup>93</sup> Los Angeles Herald Examiner May 10, 1989.

describe the deception by Doubleday. Hilder angrily advised his listeners to return the books they had bought, adding that this explains the reason that he heard from his listeners who read Doubleday's *Unfriendly Skies*, complaining there was nothing to the book.

#### **Buying Media Cover-Up**

A *Harper's* article (July 1989) stated how politicians leak the "news" to favored reporters, who then reciprocate by rarely reporting unfavorable articles about those who give them the "news." The article described the government oligarchy in which power vests in a few persons doling out "news." Harper's stated:

By their subjugation of the press, the political powers in America have conferred on themselves the greatest of political blessings—Gyges'ring of invisibility.

## Waiting for Spoon-Fed Instructions

A January 15, 1990, *Newsweek* article stated, "While the White House press corps waited to be spoon-fed instructions, scandals in housing programs and savings and loan regulation went unreported." The article continued:

No administration really wants reporters snooping through the Agriculture Department or other places they can break new ground; better to have them hanging around the White House briefing room, waiting for handouts. It's this system, rather than any particular handler or press secretary, that conditions and corrodes Washington coverage. That's why it's up to reporters to redefine the concept of news so that it relies more on what they find, and less on what the president—or his press secretary—would have them believe.

## **Watergate Reporting Had Media Problems**

Occasionally the system goes out of whack, such as in Watergate. For weeks, most newspapers kept the lid on the relatively minor scandal until the *Washington Post* stirred up public interest to the point where the press could not ignore the drum beating. But even that had its problems. Watergate was a two-bit burglary that President Nixon had no knowledge of until it happened, and then tried to stonewall a cover-up. But the same newspaper ignored lies, cover-ups, and even criminal misconduct of subsequent presidents whose offenses were far greater—with greater harm—than that of Nixon's after-the-fact cover-up.

#### Ethics, Conflicts of Interest, and the Press

In an editorial that is as true today as the day it was published (July 25, 1967), the *Wall Street Journal* identified the news distortion and cover-up: "Ethics & the Press, Conflicts of Interest, Pressures Still Distort Some Papers' Coverage." The in-depth article told how "Advertisers and outside work of newsmen color stories," thereby halting investigations. The article stated:

In Boston and Chicago, newspaper investigations into suspected

hanky-panky suddenly are aborted. In one case, a subject of inquiry turns out to be a stockholder of the paper and friend of the publisher. In the other, the investigation threatens to embarrass a politician who could help the paper in a building project.

#### [Fabricated Favorable coverage for Advertising]

In Denver, the advertising staff of a big daily wrestles with an arithmetic problem. A big advertiser has been promised news stories and pictures amounting to 25 percent of the ad space it buys; the paper already has run hundreds of column inches of glowing prose but is still not close to the promised allotment of "news" and now is running out of nice things to say.

#### Victimized Readers

All this hardly enhances the image of objectivity and fierce independence the U.S. press tries so hard to project. Yet talks with scores of reporters, editors, publishers, public relations men and others reveal that practices endangering—and often subverting—newspaper integrity are more common than the man on the street might dream. Result: The buyer who expects a dime's worth of truth every time he picks up his paper often is short-changed.

All newspapers, including this one, must cope with the blandishments and pressures of special interests who seek distortion or omission of the truth on some papers the trouble starts at the top; it is the publisher himself who lays down news policies designed to aid one group or attack another.

It is plain, however, that a sizable minority of newspapers still are putty in the hands of their advertisers, that they allow personal as well as business considerations to favor the news to a marked degree that they tolerate staff practices hardly conducive to editorial independence and objectivity.

Blackouts of news involving newspapers are quite common; hardly a working journalist could deny that one of the gravest weaknesses in coverage exhibited by the American press is its coverage of itself....another grave fault of a good many papers: Favoritism toward business in general and advertisers in particular....the paper itself, by actual policy or common practice, distorts the news to suit advertisers or literally hands over news space to them....Everyone in newspapering pays lip service to the ideal that a paper's news columns should not be for sale,...a staffer is "on the take"...

#### **Two-Sided Morals Covers Their Own Sins**

Ironically, the *Wall Street Journal's* morals are selective, or two sided. Since the 1960s, when I was an FAA investigator seeking to report the deadly air safety corruption involved in a continuing series of airline

crashes, I reported these matters to the editors and publishers of the *Wall Street Journal*, and in every instance, they refused to accept the evidence and covered up for the serious problems, a condition that has simply gotten worse with the political decision to invade Iraq.

Since 1987, I offered details and documentation on the corruption that I and a group of other government agents had discovered, and even sent their editors a copy of the book, *Defrauding America*. I even filed a federal lawsuit against the paper charging them with the federal crimes of misprision of felonies and obstruction of justice, among others. They never reported the lawsuit.

The Journal wrote in a January 12, 1993, issue:

This progress report carries forward a custom begun 16 years ago. It reflects our belief that publishing a newspaper is a public trust for which we are accountable first of all to you, our readers.

Their responsibility to the public was correctly stated, but their own conduct was the opposite. This one-sided slant worsened with the Iraq invasion and anything that affected Israel.

## Example of Cover-Up by San Francisco Chronicle

In February 1988, two reporters<sup>94</sup> from the *San Francisco Chronicle* contacted me after they were given information by a friend of mine, Graydon Milton. I gave the reporters details of the corruption in the government's aviation safety offices, in the federal bankruptcy courts, and the felony cover-ups, and offered to provide them with considerably more documentation

They showed no interest, and then contacted Milton and stated that they did not write an article on the matters I brought to their attention because I refused to give them supporting material. That was a lie. I had supplied them with a sampling, and offered to have them see boxes of government documents showing the extent of the misconduct. I referred them to specific federal filings at San Francisco and Sacramento that enlarged upon the corruption that I had found, and which were now of judicial record.

## "There is no such thing as an Independent Press"

Giving a toast in 1953 before the New York Press Club, the former Chief of Staff of the *New York Times*, John Swinton, stated:<sup>95</sup>

There is no such thing, at this date of the world's history, in America, as an independent press. You know it and I know it. The business of the journalist is to destroy truth; To lie outright; To pervert; To vilify; To fawn at the feet of mammon, and to sell his country and his race for his daily bread. You know it and I know it, and what folly is this

95 Contact, July 20, 1993.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>94</sup> Jeff Palline and Bill Wallace.

toasting an independent press? Our talents, our possibilities and our lives, are all the property of other men. We are intellectual prostitutes.

#### **Complicity of Silence**

"The Complicity of Silence" was the heading on an article in *Lies of Our Times* (June 1993), as it related to the media cover-up of the U.S.—directed assassinations occurring in Central America and particularly the El Mozote massacre in El Salvador (December 1981). The article told how *New York Times* reporter Raymond Bonner sent an article to the home office describing the brutal assassination at El Mozote, primarily of women and children, by the U.S.-trained Atlaeatl Battalion. Bonner was at the assassination site and personally interviewed the handful of survivors. He then became the target of a media smear campaign to discredit him and to remove him from his reporting activities.

#### Wall Street Journal Cover-Up of Massacre—and Retaliation

Wall Street Journal editor Robert Bartley savagely attacked Bonner and his reports, which caused other newspapers and magazines to instruct their reporters to keep the lid on the massacre. This media blackout ensured that the massacre of other civilians would continue. The Wall Street Journal editorial caused one major newspaper to send copies of that editorial to its correspondents in Central America warning them, "Let's not let this happen to us." The newspaper then transferred Bonner out of the Central America assignment to quiet him.

On March 15, 1993, the U.N.-sponsored Truth Commission on El Salvador released its report on the El Mozote massacre, proving that the massacre had occurred, that the CIA, which the media had known and covered up for years, directed it.

The *Wall Street Journal* was selective in its integrity, biased in favor of the Republicans and Israel. In matters relating to the crimes of Governor and then President Bill Clinton, the Journal reported the details of misconduct that most of the other newspapers were covering up.

## Writings on Tragedies While Covering Up Their Causes

The press repeatedly printed articles on the sufferings arising from air disasters, drug smuggling, and other matters that inflicted great harm upon a large number of people. But currently with reporting on these problems—which they really had to do—they omitted the behind-thescene misconduct that made the events being reported possible.

An article in *Aviation Week & Space Technology* (May 1, 1989) reported:

ATA President Blasts U.S. government's Failure to Reform Aviation Agency. The article stated "The U.S. government has failed inexcusably to respond to reforms recommended by the Aviation Safety

Commission a year ago," according to Robert J. Aaronson, the new head of the Air Transport Assn.

The basis for these charges was a fraction of the actual misconduct. No one could blow the whistle on anyone else without implicating themselves, or some vested and protected interests.

#### Pressure on Advertisers to Remain Silent

Following a series of Delta Air Line mishaps in mid-1987, Delta Airlines put pressure on the media to stop reporting the matters, or they would cancel valued advertising accounts with the newspapers and radio stations making these reports. An Associated Press article (August 13, 1987) described Delta's threats to cancel large blocks of advertising. Delta responded by saying there was a "misunderstanding." What else could they say?

Yearly advertising budgets for a major airline easily exceeds one hundred million dollars, ensuring that any newspaper, radio station or network will withhold any unfavorable information if possible. Federal Express dropped its ads on ABC prime-time television network after a critical report on ABC's 20/20. The program<sup>96</sup> reported Federal Express mishandled government and military documents and packages, and that drug activities were rampant at the airline.

Federal Express's president, Frederick Smith, wrote (July 14, 1989) that the company was canceling its prime-time advertising with the exception of commercials scheduled for the ABC telecast of the World Series and Monday Night Football. Federal Express spent over \$40 million a vear on advertising, according to the Standard Directory of Advertisers, an industry publication. In another letter, Smith wrote that this cancellation would cost ABC "in excess of \$100 million." It's easy to understand how the news media hesitates to print anything that would dissatisfy a valuable customer.

An Air Transport World article (March 1970) described the value of airline advertising: "Airlines are a major source of ad revenue." Airlines such as Delta run full-page ads in the Wall Street Journal, which rarely runs articles detrimental to the airlines' interests.

Boston radio station WHDH experienced the consequences of offending Procter & Gamble. The station had broadcast the activities of a local citizen group that was critical of one of the company's products. Procter & Gamble then pulled local ads for all of its products from the station, resulting in the loss of \$1 million of advertising revenue. Procter & Gamble reportedly warned that it would pull commercials from any station broadcasting the announcement from the citizen group.<sup>97</sup>

New York Times, October 18, 1989 report of July 7, 1989, show.
 April 1, 1991 San Francisco Daily Journal.

A newspaper article stated: "P&G's message reinforced what station managers already believed: don't criticize business, and stay away from controversial topics, or it will cost the station business. Actions such as Procter & Gamble's don't have to happen often before media outlets become self-censoring."

Automobile manufacturers retaliated against magazines printing articles reporting weaknesses or defects in their products. General Motors, for instance, withdrew advertising for three months after a magazine's editor, David E. Davis, delivered a speech against the automaker concerning the closure of twenty-one plants, eliminating 74,000 jobs. Toyota Motor Corporation withdrew ads after its models did not make *Road and Track's* 1991 "10 Best List." The loss of this type of advertising can make the difference between profit and loss.

## Media Cover-Ups of HUD and Savings and Loan Corruption

The massive corruption in the HUD housing program and savings and loans, that went on for several years, was covered up by the media, which was receiving large sums for real estate-related advertising. The results: the American people have yet to pay for the billions of dollars of fraud from those debacles and the cover-ups.

#### Washington Post October Surprise Cover-Up

A Washington Post article (June 22, 1992) misstated facts relating to the 1980 October Surprise operation. Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and John Mintz sought to squelch the October Surprise story by discrediting CIA whistleblowers and their statements about the October Surprise. Intelligence agency newsletters and magazines described the Washington Post as having close ties to the CIA.

In the Iran-Contra affair that was heavily involved with the CIA and White House misconduct, Committee Chairman Charles Rangel charged the *Washington Post* with misleading reporting in the Iran-Contra affair. The CIA was after President Nixon, and the *Washington Post* accommodated them. The *Post* also used Mark Hosenball to ridicule the idea that Oliver North and his CIA-associated renegades had done anything wrong, despite the overwhelming evidence that they financially supported the assassination squads and drug trafficking.

The *Post* censored a Drew Anderson column revealing the actions by Oliver North and his co-conspirators in the Iran-Contra affair, assisting the overall scheme to deny the public knowledge of the corruption in the CIA, National Security Council, and the White House. Anything unfavorable to this group during the Iran-Contra misconduct was heavily censored by the *Post*.

## Washington Post Ridiculing Whistleblowers

The Washington Post (June 22, 1992) chastised Presidential candi-

date Ross Perot for attempting to expose what they implied were nonexisting criminal activities by President George Bush, including Bush's role in October Surprise and its progeny, Iran-Contra.

I wrote to Katherine Graham, the publisher of the *Washington Post*, pointing out the errors in the articles on October Surprise, advising her that I was a former federal investigator and that my CIA sources had given me considerable information that established the existence of that operation. My letter expressed the opinion that the *Washington Post*, including Bob Woodward, were involved in obstructing justice by the fact that they withheld data, supplied disinformation, and deliberately misstated facts. She did not respond.

#### Media Withholding of Clinton's Misdeeds

A 1994 *Newsweek* article followed the standard tactic of discrediting those who spoke out, as it related to Clinton's many misdeeds:

The national press has been restrained in its accounts of Bill Clinton's private life, and with good reason. Most of those who have made charges against him have been despicable people, jealous, stunted sorts.

The Washington Post reporter who interviewed Paula Jones, and who wrote an article concerning the encounter, was suspended after presenting the article to the editor. For years, concerned reporters told me and people with whom I had been in contact that they had written articles of government criminality which their editors refused to print.

#### CIA Director and the Media

In November 1984, CIA Director William Casey complained to the Federal Communication Commission about the ABC television network having aired a show featuring CIA agent Scott Barnes. In the television presentation, Barnes said he was asked by two CIA agents in Honolulu to kill Ronald Rewald, a CIA asset sacrificed to cover up for a CIA financial operation in Hawaii (BBRDW).

That show revealed the CIA's role in BBRDW, and could alert the public to the CIA's role in drug trafficking and drug-money laundering, among other covert operations. Casey was a founder, <sup>98</sup> major investor, and director, in Capital Cities Corporation, which then took over the ABC television network the following year (March 1985). I have written extensively about this operation, based upon information and documentation provided to me by the head of the CIA operation, and by Scott Barnes.

## Obstacles to the Public Discovering CIA Drug Smuggling

In 1996 the *San Jose Mercury* ran a comprehensive series of three articles describing the CIA's links to drug smuggling in the San Francisco

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>98</sup> Along with Lowell Thomas and others.

and Los Angeles area, and the drugging of the Blacks. Immediately, the key media sources, the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, and *Los Angeles Times*, ridiculed the articles.

Pressure was put on the editor and publisher of the *San Jose Mercury*, causing them to disown the credibility of the articles, to retaliate against the investigative reporter, and join the felony cover-ups. The reporter later committed suicide.

An article written by the research staff of *National Vanguard Books* described the slanted news by the press and entertainment media:

Who Rules America?:

Their power...reaches into every home in America, and it works its will during nearly every waking hour. It is the power which shapes and molds the mind of virtually every citizen, young or old, rich or poor, simple or sophisticated. The mass media form for us our image of the world and then tell us what to think about that image.

Essentially everything we know—or think we know—about events outside our own neighborhood or circle of acquaintances comes to us via our daily newspaper, our weekly news magazine, our radio, or our television. Employing carefully developed psychological techniques, they guide our thought and opinion...

Most Americans fail to realize that they are being manipulated. Even the citizen who complains about "managed news" falls into the trap of thinking that because he is presented with an apparent spectrum of opinion he can escape the thought controllers' influence by believing the editor or commentator of his choice. Every point on the permissible spectrum of public opinion is acceptable to the media masters—and no impermissible fact or viewpoint is allowed any exposure at all, if they can prevent it.

#### Nader Cover-Up

Ralph Nader's aviation group, consisting of lawyers, kept the lid on the air-disaster related scandals for years, while professing to be active in protecting the public's welfare. I contacted Nader and his group in the mid 1960s, requesting assistance to expose the corruption related to an ongoing series of airline crashes.

Reuben Robertson, a lawyer for the group, traveled from Washington to my residence near San Francisco to obtain information from me. He admitted the gravity of the problem. Despite recognition of the serious issues, the Nader group did nothing to publicize and correct the matter. Robertson later accepted a position with the Civil Aeronautics Board, which had been heavily involved in the cover-up.

Some years later, after leaving the CAB, Robertson and the Nader group filed a federal lawsuit in the District of Columbia under the Freedom of Information Act<sup>99</sup> against the FAA,<sup>100</sup> seeking information on safety problems discovered during inspections by FAA Washington inspection teams. The FAA refused to release the information, saying it was confidential and against the national interest. A federal judge upheld the FAA's position and refused to require the information to be released. In 1988, I again contacted the Nader group concerning the misconduct that I had earlier brought to their attention the worsening problems. They wouldn't answer.

A *Forbes* magazine cover story (September 17, 1990) portrayed Nader as overseer to a vast network of organizations financed in part by wealthy lawyers and special interest groups. The story reported that Nader controlled twenty-nine organizations with combined revenues exceeding seventy-five million dollars. The Forbes article said that Nader had an "umbilical" connection with rich plaintiff's lawyers who receive huge fees in Nader-backed lawsuits against industry. In return, these law firms contribute to his "consumer" organizations.

#### **Bush Administration Paying Media People**

In 2005, newspaper articles described how the Bush administration was paying journalists and public information firms to broadcast and print stories and slant to stories that public officials wanted. During a press conference (January 26, 2005), President Bush responded to a question about such payments. A *Washington Post* article (January 27, 2005) stated:

President Bush said Wednesday that federal agencies should stop awarding contracts to outside commentators. Separately, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and nine colleagues released a report showing that the Bush administration spent more than \$88 million last year on contracts with public relations firms.

The news followed an earlier controversy over conservative commentator Armstrong Williams, who has apologized for failing to disclose a \$241,000 contract to promote the president's No child Left Behind law.

Asked about the issue at a news conference, Bush said: "Mr. Armstrong Williams admitted he made a mistake.

Another editorial, this one by the *New York Times* editorial (January 27, 2005), titled, "The Best Coverage Money Can Buy," stated:

President Bush says he has ordered his cabinet not to rent any more journalists to promote his policies. But he still seemed as much bemused as discomfited yesterday that administration officials have

<sup>99</sup> Title 5 Section 552.

Robertson, III, et al., v. Butterfield, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, et al., C.A. No. 72-2186.

been caught making payoffs for positive "news coverage" from ostensibly independent journalists. We were puzzled as to why Mr. Bush had not said that earlier; his administration was caught hiring a public relations specialist last year to pose as a news reporter and peddle propaganda spots. The president also did not say whether his new policy of an "independent relationship" between the White House and the press corps extended to staff members who deny airplane seats and other access to reporters as punishment for their coverage.

Mr. Bush was plainly irritated by having to field questions about administration officials who tapped taxpayers to finance spin-formoney deals. The most prominent sellout was Armstrong Williams, the conservative television commentator who took \$240,000 to do administration bidding on behalf of the No Child Left Behind Act while making a show of tough-minded candor.

Syndicated columnist Maggie Gallagher did not disclose a \$21,500 government writing contract for her promotion of Bush policy. Within a few days another journalist receiving money from the government to promote pet programs of the Bush Administration. On January 28, 2005, it was reported that officials at the Department of Education and Health and Human Services had made similar payments. That latest journalist, who wrote a syndicated column, was identified as Michael McManus.

Syndicated columnist Maureen Dowd, with tongue in check, stated in one of her articles (January 27, 2005):

George Bush's administration was running up his astounding deficit paying "journalists" to do what they would be happy to do for free—just to be friends with benefits, getting access that tougher scribes are denied. Consider Charles Krauthammer, who went to the White House on Jan. 10 for what the Washington Post termed a "consultation" on the inaugural speech and then praised the Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> address on Fox News as "revolutionary," with Media Matters, a liberal watchdog group.

I still have many Christmas bills to pay. So I'd like to send a message to the administration: THIS SPACE AVAILABLE. I could write about the strong dollar and the shrinking deficit. Or defend Torture Boy, I mean, the esteemed and sage Alberto Gonzales. Or remind readers of the terrific job Condi Rice did coordinating national security.

## Reporters' Disclosure of Killed Stories

For years, reporters have stated to me that they have written stories on various government scandals and that the stories were killed, despite the gravity of the corruption and the harm continuing to be inflicted. That coincided with the media cover-up that I encountered during the past 30 years of attempting to expose these crimes. Nearly a half page was devoted by the *Wall Street Journal* (January 6, 1997) to the matter of media cover-up relating to major government misconduct. The article stated in part:

One of the striking things about press coverage of Whitewater is the number of star reporters who, for one reason or another, are no longer on the beat. Investigative reporter Douglas Frantz quit the Los Angeles Times over its handling of a December 1993 Troopergate story that he co-authored with Bill Rempel. ABC's Jim Wooten took himself off the scandal beat after the network killed a Troopergage-related story, Mr. William Powers reported. Washington Post reporter Michael Isikoffileft the paper after a bitter internal dispute over the Paula Jones story...the tabloid New York Post let reporter Christopher Ruddy go...

Survivors on the Whitewater beat report, both on and off the record, that life is uncomfortable. [Referring to the pressure from "cooperating" journalists], in what Mr. Powers called a chilling "divide-and-conquer approach," whispering campaigns about allegedly shoddy work are launched in an effort to convince reporters to ignore the work of their colleagues...

[In referring to the death of Kevin Ives and Don Henry, related to the Arkansas CIA drug trafficking that also implicated then-Governor Bill Clinton, and the killing of that story by CBS and "60 Minutes"], reporters view [these] attacks as a kind of drip-drip water torture to try to undermine the credibility of journalists working the story.

In 1994, when the [ABC] network was set to run a story including Gov. Clinton's use of state troopers to procure women, Mr. Clinton's private lawyer, David Kendall flew to New York to lobby against the piece [and applied pressure to kill the story]...In June, the White House launched a furious blitz at ABC executives to block former FBI agent Gary Aldrich from appearing on "This week with David Brinkley" to discuss his book on White House mores...NBC's "Dateline" and CNN's "Larry King Live" canceled plans to interview Mr. Aldrich. "We killed it," Mr. Stephanopoulos later boasted.

[In another similar case] White House spokesman Mike McCurry was furious and...complained to network executives, and in an angry call to [ABC investigative producer] Chris Viasto, he screamed: "You're never going to work in this town again."

New York Daily News reporter David Eisenstadt was fired Nov. 11 after filing a story linking top Clinton fund-raiser Terry McAuliffe

to Asian fund-raising and Mr. Huant. Mr. Eisenstadt's lawyer sent the Daily News a letter saying he would file a lawsuit because the paper had "improperly thwarted the truth and succumbed to political pressure" in terminating the reporter. James Ledbetter of the Village Voice reported that Mr. Eisenstadt was fired "after the Clinton campaign reportedly complained to News co-publisher Mort Zuckerman," a frequent White House guest.

The *Wall Street Journal* article did address the problem of media coverup. Unfortunately, the Journal itself practiced the same cover-up in scandals involving their vested interests or political interests, as I discovered over the years.

#### **Cover-Up of Abandoned POWs**

Another example of repeated cover-ups by the U.S. broadcast and print media can be found in *Kiss the Boys Goodbye*. Co-author and former CBS producer of the 60 Minutes Show, Monika Jensen, described the cover-up and disinformation by CBS that aided and abetted the abandonment of U.S. prisoners in Indochina after U.S. forces were driven out. The book describes in detail the cover-up of abandoned U.S. personnel by members of Congress, the White House, the National Security Council, the military, and most of the print and broadcast media.

The sacrifice and abandonment of American GIs should not be surprising to Americans, considering the pattern of harm inflicted upon them by people who have taken control of key segments of government. Many of these corrupt and harmful activities are described within these pages.

Despite repeated reports by American and foreign personnel of American GIs being seen in Indochina after the U.S. pullout, many of the same government personnel described in these pages as part of other corrupt activities blocked any meaningful investigation or rescue attempts.

Many of those who were in covert and military operations in Indochina, including the abandoned American POWs, knew of the heavy CIA drug trafficking, which could be one of the reasons for denying the existence of these POWs.

## Some of the Most Gregarious Shills for Bush's Lying

American Compass, a conservative group, issued an October 2004 mailer stating

Our Mission: American Compass was founded to be a resource for intelligent, conservative men and women who care deeply about America's political social, economic, and spiritual life. We promise to deliver books that enlighten, entertain, and energize our members.

It equated patriotism as supporting the likes of Ann Coulter, Bill Bill O'Reilly, and others of like mind. The distributed material included a

statement in her book called *How to Talk to a Liberal (If You Must):* 

I am often asked if I still think we should invade their countries, kill their leaders, and convert them to Christianity. The answer is: Now more than ever."

Investigative reporter for the San Jose Mercury, Gary Webb, was found dad at his home near Sacramento, California on December 12, 2004. Local authorities stated that he killed himself by a shot to his head. His death adds to the long list of those people with the courage to report corrupt and criminal conduct in government offices

Webb wrote a series of articles in 1996 appearing in the *San Jose Mercury* that the CIA, during the 1980s Contra operation, acted with Nicaraguan drug traffickers to bring tons of cocaine into the United States. Although many government insiders, including some of my reliable sources, confirmed the truth of those articles, the major newspapers sought to discredit the reports, especially the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*. Even the editor of the *San Jose Mercury*, where the articles were published, retracted the articles and retaliated against Webb by transferring him into an obscure rural assignment out of the area, causing him to resign.

Webb was part of a team winning the 1990 Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of the San Francisco area earthquake. Webb authored the book, *Dark Alliance: The CIA, the Contras, and the Crack Cocaine Explosion*, that was published in 1999.

#### Harm to Another Media Source Displeasing Government Insider

In the same year that Webb was found dead, television anchorman Dan Rather was removed from his job after airing a documentary showing President Bush as having failed to continue his Air National Guard duties. The documentary was based upon testimony of several people, including the secretary that had typed out a report showing that Bush was removed from flying status after he refused to show up for a physical and pilot duties.

It turned out that a document used in the story was a copy of the original that someone had prepared retyped, and contained minor typographical errors. But the secretary who prepared the original document appeared on the television show stating that the facts in that document were correct

Powerful pressure then caused CBS management to claim the story was not correct, when it was correct, except that the document that was part of the story had been retyped from the original document. Most of the broadcast and print media then reported the story as being totally in error, when it was not in error. In that way, the entire media then acted to

protect Bush and inflict harm upon the person exposing one of Bush's many lies. The consequences from exposing matters showing powerful politicians in an unfavorable light was not lost on other media personnel—including those being paid to cover up for corruption in government offices.

#### **Exposing Operation Tailwind and Suffering the Consequences**

Veteran journalist Peter Arnett aired the Tailwind documentary on CNN (June 7, 1998), and suffered the consequences. Operation Tailwind was the operation in which U.S. politicians ordered the murder of defecting U.S. troops in Laos, using sarin gas, during the Vietnam War. Several of my CIA and other insiders had described this operation to me over the years, but in 1998 publicity was given to this by a CNN documentary broadcast and a *Times* magazine article.

The first Tailwind broadcast was on CNN's Newsstand program on June 7, 1998, and involved many interviews between the show's producers, April Olive, Jack Smith, and Peter Arnett, and U.S. military personnel. These included CIA and Army General John Singlaub, Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff under President Nixon, Admiral Thomas Moorer, among others. During many interviews, Singlaub stated that that the CIA and SOG groups had used the deadly gas during operations in Laos.

#### Valley of Death

The broadcasts were titled, Valley of Death, and described operations in September 1970 where U.S. military personnel used sarin nerve gas on U.S. military personnel who had defected to the other side. This new program called NewsStand was the combined efforts of CNN and *Time* magazine launching a new program. Immediately after the first airing, Colin Powell and Henry Kissinger called CNN and stated that sarin was never used by the United States. Overt and covert pressures and threats caused CNN and Time to issue a retraction and blame the reporters and producer.

The tailwind broadcast occurred less than a year after a prior broadcast produced by April Oliver called "Impact," during which Singlaub had described similar missions. But this time efforts were made to deny the exposures, which required retaliation against the producers in order to discourage other journalists from exposure tactics.

White House politicians, including Colin Powell, and Henry Kissinger. Singlaub, who had previously repeatedly described the use of the nerve gas, Sarin, now retracted his earlier statements, claiming he never made any such statement. Singlaub filed a lawsuit against Oliver and CNN for slander and defamation.

During depositions, and using Oliver's notes taken during earlier interviews, Moorer admitted that he had made many of the statements to

Oliver, including that Sarin gas was used in missions; and that defectors were targeted. During questioning, Moorer admitted that the entire script used by CNN was presented to him before the show, and he voiced no objection to the validity of the statements. Moorer alleged that his statements were improperly framed.

If the facts stated by CNN's broadcast were true—and several of my CIA and other insider sources had earlier told me about the practice of going after military defectors—then the lawsuits and pressure against CNN would also be covering up for serious misconduct by White House politicians and government personnel acting on their orders.

# South Carolina Lawyer, Law Firm, and Judge, Seeking to Block Exposure of Criminal and Subversive Activities

Among the lawsuits filed against CNN included those filed by the Charleston, South Carolina lawyer David Collins and the law firm of Smith and Collins. In 2000, that same David Collins and the Smith and Collins law firm filed a lawsuit against me that was clearly an attempt to silence my efforts to expose the corruption of government personnel. Upon discovering this, I wondered if this lawyer and law firm were one of the many covert fronts used by people in the CIA and other powerful government positions.

Collins and his law firm filed a sham action against me and the publishing company that published the books exposing corruption in government offices. The cause of action was clearly a sham, but they filed the lawsuit in South Carolina and named me who resided in California and the publishing company in Nevada. I knew that the cost of defending a lawsuit on the other side of the country, and in a small town court where judges are often corrupt, would insure that they prevail. Knowing this, I simply filed papers showing that the South Carolina judge lacked jurisdiction over me and the Nevada corporation, which the judge simply ignored. A \$3 million default judgment was entered.

The Collins law firm then hired California lawyers to file papers to enter the South Carolina default judgment as a local judgment. The same California judicial system that had been involved with a CIA-front law firm to seize all my assets (described in other books) then denied me every defense in California law, including the SLAPP defense, which is a legal defense against lawsuits seeking to silence protest, or retaliate against those who protest what they consider improper acts.

The facts strongly implied that the Collins law firm was another one of many CIA-front law firms that are used for various purposes—such as silencing those who expose corruption of government officials.

When I advised the local law firm in California that it was simply an effort to ban my books and that I had no available assets, the local firm sent me a letter stating they would not pursue the matter.

#### **Lawsuits Also Contribute to Cover-ups**

The threat of lawsuits also contributed to withholding information about corruption in government offices. Numerous lawsuits were filed, some against the producers. April Oliver filed a lawsuit against CNN and Time Warner, and counter sued the lawsuit filed by retired Army general Singlaub, on May 7, 1991.

CNN hired for Oliver's legal defense Floyd Abrams, who was also representing CNN. This would be a conflict of interest as CNN succumbed to the warnings that it denies the truthfulness of the earlier broadcasts. CNN's future could be seriously affected by decisions of various government offices.

"CNN Still Suffering From Legal Fallout Over Tailwind" was the heading on a *New York Observer* article. The article stated:

The cable network last year fired two producers, sacked correspondent Peter Arnett, split up its investigative team, issued a public apology to veterans and the estate of Richard Nixon, plastered a harsh retraction on its Web site and installed a new quality control vice president, yet its Operation Tailwind debacle refuses to stay safety consigned to the past.

In describing various lawsuits arising out of the broadcast, the *Observer* article referred to one filed by former CNN producer April Oliver:

Her combative courtroom strategy and tone is set to collide with CNN's legal goals. The resulting messy court embarrassment is likely to cost CNN mightily in its pocketbook, raise afresh questions about the network's integrity and plunge its employees back into doubt and defensiveness.

The litigation [by April Oliver] got more tangled and interesting this past June, when she filed her suit charging defamation, breach of contract, fraud and intentional infliction of emotional distress-in other words, that CNN generally hung her out to dry. "Many of the so-called "efforts" in the broadcast are actually attributable to the CNN managers" she asserted in her 71-page complaint. "By blaming Oliver for these decisions and then firing her to appease highlevel military officials, CNN maliciously destroyed Oliver's reputation as a journalist."

The suit leaves CNN and Time Warner over a strategic barrel. CNN's easiest defense against General Singlaub would be to blame Ms. Oliver. But she will do everything in her power to prove that, in fact, the story was properly reported and sourced according to the

highest journalistic standards, throwing the legal responsibility back into CNN's court.

## [CNN's Top Lawyer Approved the Program]

CNN's top lawyer, David Kohler, who had vetted both programs, wrote a 16-page memorandum detailing CNN's sourcing. So sure was he, he wrote, that in one instance he had authorized the use of "confirmed" over the more prudent "corroborated." He reportedly remarked to a group of producers that the script was "bulletproof."

"CNN, Time Warner and CCC [the insurance carrier] all have an interest in subverting the truth in this case," she wrote in her suit against the insurance carrier. "CNN and Time Warner's reputation in the media will be impaired if the truth comes out that it capitulated to the military establishment's demands over a story which was properly substantiated."

## **Recanting Exposing Misconduct of Government Officials**

"60 Minutes" apologizes for inaccurate report, was the heading on one short news article, that read:

For the second time in four months, "60 Minutes" apologized on the air for a report on drug smuggling, acknowledging that a memo cited by the newsmagazine had turned out to be bogus. The apology was part of a settlement reached with a customs official who had sued CBS

"60 Minutes" issued the apology Sunday night over a report on April 20, 1997, about drugs flowing across the U.S.-Mexico border at San Diego. Correspondent Lesley Stahl, who made the apology, emphasized that CBS stuck by the underlying theme of the report.

The report on smuggling along the Mexican border cited a memo calling for customs agents to quickly process trucks owned by a company linked to Mexican drug cartels.

## Problems in Customs Offices Revealed by Customs Agent

A former customs inspector at that same location, John Carmen, and other government insiders, had told me for years of the protection of certain drug smugglers by high government officials. My book, Drugging America, shows other examples.

## Financial Aid to Rebuild What the U.S. Military Destroyed

After destroying much of Afghanistan's structures, the Bush White House promised financial aid that would stabilize the country after the Taliban government was bombed out of existence. But years went by and the aid did not arrive. This abandonment was addressed in an *Associated Press* article (April 8, 2003):

The soldiers and police who were supposed to be the bedrock of a stable postwar Afghanistan have gone unpaid for months and are drifting away. At a time when the United States is promising a reconstructed democratic postwar Iraq, many Afghans are remembering hearing similar promises not long ago.

Instead, what they see is thieving warlords, murder on the roads, and a resurgence of Taliban vigilantism. "It's like I am seeing the same movie twice and no one is trying to fix the problem," said Ahmed Wali Karzai, the brother of Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his representative in southern Kandahar. "What was promised to Afghans with the collapse of the Taliban was a new life of hope and change. But what was delivered? Nothing. Everyone is back in business."

From safe havens in neighboring Pakistan, aided by militant Muslim groups there, the Taliban launched their revival to coincide with the war in Iraq and capitalize on Muslim anger over the U.S. invasion, say Afghan officials.

Karzai said the Taliban are allied with rebel commander Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, supported by Pakistan and financed by militant Arabs. In the latest killing in southern Afghanistan, gunmen shot to death Haji Gilani, a close Karzai ally, on Thursday in southern Uruzgan province. Gilani was one of the first people to shelter Karzai when he secretly entered Afghanistan to foment a rebellion against the Taliban in late 2001.

## **Earlier Movie Depicted U.S. Assassination Teams**

In the 1979 movie, "Apocalypse Now," produced by Francis Ford Coppola, an assassination team was sent into enemy territory to kill defecting U.S. military personnel during the Vietnam War.

A half-page article relating to Operation Tailwind in the San Francisco Chronicle (June 12, 1998), written by Yoichi Clark Shimatsu, a staff reporter for the Japan Times Weekly in Tokyo and Pacific News Service. stated:

A Vietnam War movie produced in 1979 by Francis Ford Coppola, "Apocalypse Now," turns on the idea that the U.S. military would send an assassination team into enemy territory to terminate one of its own, a renegade American officer. Critics of the movie found this hard to swallow. But now, veterans of a covert Special Forces unit are saying that Uncle Sam did exactly that with more than 20 missions into Laos and North Vietnam to assassinate U.S. servicemen presumed to be deserters—and any noncombatants, including women and children, caught in the same gusts of the nerve gas called sarin.

Their account, disclosed by an eight-month-long CNN-Time investigation includes aerial gassing of more than 100 Laotian villagers. It tells of blowing up bodies beyond recognition with grenades,

of steps taken to guarantee no survivors, no witnesses and no evidence.

The very name of the alleged mission, Operation Tailwind, implies the use of nerve gas when ground forces in chemical-warfare gear advance behind a rolling curtain of death.

The methods and location of the mission indicate three obvious violations of U.S. or international law:

- 1. Use of nerve gas in combat, outlawed since World War I under the Geneva Protocol.
- 2. Military action in Laos during the so-called Secret War, unauthorized by Congress.
- 3. Summary executions of U.S. servicemen without any attempt to retrieve them for court martial, a basic requirement of a modern military code of conduct as opposed to tribal vendettas or guerrilla action.
- 4. The alleged murders of innocent civilians.

## Further Issues Raised in the

## **Report of Assassination Missions**

Further issues were raised in the report of assassination missions of 16 soldiers in the Study and Observation Group, or SOG, an elite Special Forces unit trained at the time in Okinawa.

A platoon scout interviewed by CNN said the only guideline for distinguishing between POWs and the targeted "defectors" was whether the "long shadows"—Americans who were taller than Asians—were being held forcibly, for example in shackles, or kept under a "lack of restraint." But lack of restraint—the Americans could move about somewhat freely inside the village—is understandable, given the circumstances. Between them and South Vietnam was 60 miles of the deadliest real estate on Earth—swarming with troops along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, planted with land mines and regularly carpet-bombed and napalmed by U.S. warplanes—a jungle infested with tigers and snakes.

By assuming that servicemen under low-security detention were acting voluntarily, the White House and Pentagon essentially issued a death sentence for POWs. In 1970, two years after the disastrous Tet Offensive, with U.S. advantage sliding precipitously, POWs were a political inconvenience for Washington.

The idea that the U.S. government was not just turning a blind eye to the POWs, but actively hunting them down for execution, is beyond even the deepest paranoia of "Rambo" movies. Yet the mass killing of American servicemen by other Americans would solve a 20-year-old mystery. It could settle remaining questions about the

still-missing America's lost legion.

An intensive, no-holds-barred investigation—with public hearings and independent review—is desperately needed to address this report which, if true, is a revelation of cynical calculation, dishonor and possible treason in high office. If a search for the truth is not conducted with speed and integrity, Americans will be left only with yellow ribbons and the gasp of Kurtz, the renegade colonel in the "Apocalypse Now" adaptation very loosely based on Joseph Conrad's novel, "The Heart of Darkness": The horror, the horror."

Peter Arnett had won the Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of the Vietnam War in 1966, and won fame for CNN for his on-the-spot coverage of the American bombing of Iraq in 1991. He had been with CNN for eighteen years.

In a Letters to the Editor column of the *Wall Street Journal* (July 13, 1998) April Oliver wrote:

Last week CNN and Times retracted a story that I produced. This story is now caricatured as being "rich in absurdities." But to the men on the mission, who broke secrecy oaths to step forward and speak, it is hardly absurd. It was, for many, a defining moment of their lives. It took courage for them to speak out, and it took courage for CNN to broadcast it. Far from being embarrassed by this report, I remain proud. It is tough cracking a black operation, the very design of which is to deceive and cover up the truth.

The armchair critics are now belly-gazing about the problems of journalism represented by the "Valley of Death" report. They point to the fact that a confirming source was an aged gentleman, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Thomas Moorer. They insinuate that he, at his age, cannot be relied upon. And they undercut his confirmation by pointing out that in an early interview, preceding his final confirmation, Admiral Moorer suggested he knew nothing about the sarin gas usage on this mission. Adm. Moorer later reversed himself on that matter, however. Not only did he confirm that sarin was proven an effective weapon on the Tailwind mission, he also told CNN that the sarin cluster bomb unit was "by and large" available for search and rescue missions throughout Laos and North Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Finally, Adm. Moorer read the script a week before air, and gave it his explicit approval.

The felony here is not in the reporting. It is in the lack of guts by CNN management to back a controversial story that they nurtured and approved. The retraction was not based on inaccuracy, but on fear. Fear of controversy, fear of congressional hearings with retired Gen. Colin Powell opposing CNN, and fear of retribution by the

military establishment when the next Bosnia or Iraq crisis strikes, and CNN needs access. Even the superficial and flawed Abrams/Kohler report concedes that the research on the sarin gas story was exhaustive and that the story should be pursued further. But CNN made a corporate calculation: whatever happened 28 years ago in Laos was far less important that what will happen in CNN's future relationship with the military.

But now, CNN, in order to buttress its retraction and protect its relationships with the military, has decided to kill off the story entirely. According to one CNN executive, "We're going to try and kill this thing, drive a stake through its heart, and busy it, so it's gone." This is the speech of a corporate warrior, whose mission is to kill off fact-finding that might endanger the mother company. It is not the speech of a journalist.

CNN now seems more committed to public relations than to fact-find. But in the aftermath of the "Valley of Death" broadcast, CNN was flooded with new leads on the sarin gas story. We even shot another interview with a Vietnam veteran who claimed to have gone into Cambodia to kill defectors, and was pulled out of a dangerous situation with the use of nerve gas dropped by airplanes. All those who came into contact with the veteran found him to be credible, and his paper work checked out. What now happens to this tape? Does CNN burn it on the altar of its zealotry to kill the story? Is CNN afraid that—if the story is advanced—they will have to retract a retraction?

I and my coproducer, Jack Smith, were muzzled for three weeks by CNN, unable to defend the story. Now that we have been fired, we can finally speak out. Our story was grounded in multiple sources and carefully put together. We both stand by it, and believe that in this democracy, the truth, in its entirety, will eventually be told.

#### Washington April Oliver

In a July 17, 1998, writing, Joe Jordan, Executive Director of the National Vietnam POW Strike Force, wrote:

April said many generals in the pentagon called Ted Turner to threaten him. She was there when a very agitated Gen. Colin Powell called.

CNN issued a statement (July 1, 1998) retracting the Tailwind coverage, stating:

CNN NewsStand's recent coverage of Operation Tailwind, a covert action conducted by U.S. servicemen in Laos more than 28 years ago reported that a deadly nerve gas was used and that American defectors were a primary target of the military action.

The original report came to us from personnel involved in the Tailwind Operation and was supported by individuals who were in a position to know about the operation.

Since the first NewsStand Tailwind broadcast, hundreds of veterans and other former government officials have denied the reports. As a result, CNN commissioned an independent investigation of NewsStand's reporting on Operation Tailwind, led by a highly respected outside media attorney, Floyd Abrams.

The report concludes that NewsStand's broadcast on Operation Tailwind cannot be supported. There is insufficient evidence that sarin or any other deadly gas was used. Furthermore, CNN cannot confirm that American defectors were targeted or at the camp as NewsStand reported.

We acknowledge serious faults in the use of sources who provided NewsStand with the original reports and therefore retract the Tailwind story.

#### A New York Times article (June 27, 1998) stated:

A former military officer on whom the Cable News Network relief prominently for a report maintaining that nerve gas was used in an American attack during the Vietnam War has disputed key points of CNN's representation of his account. In a telephone interview yesterday, that former officer, Robert Van Buskirk, a lieutenant in a Special Forces platoon that made a raid into Laos from Vietnam in 1970, said that given the network's other sourcing, he believed that its report of the attack was basically accurate.

But he said that contrary to the network's implication, he had not confirmed that a gas dropped on the area by American aircraft in that raid was sarin, a nerve gas whose use is barred by international law. He said that he did not know what gas had been dropped but that he had been told by a superior later that it was "a lethal gas." In addition, he said, he did not tell CNN that a soldier he confronted and killed during that raid, on a village occupied by Laotian Communist guerrillas, was definitely an American defector. Rather, he said, he told the producer that his victim was a blond Caucasian, possibly Russian.

In the CNN report, however, Mr. Van Buskirk clearly says, "This is a GI." Yesterday he said that this had been his "gut feeling" but that he had no proof.

The CNN report, which was part of a new collaboration between the network and its sister magazines at Time Inc., called "CNN NewsStand," appeared on June 7. The next day a similar version was published in Time magazine. Both reports asserted that the United States military dropped sarin on the Laotian village in 1970 as part of a secret mission called Operation Tailwind, and did so in pursuit of American defectors who has been ordered killed. Both reports cited as sources military officials with knowledge of the secret mission, who were not identified by name, and also quoted eight former servicemen, who were.

Mr. Van Buskirk gave the most vivid account, about encountering the blond man in the Laotian village, offering to rescue him after he fled down a "spider hold" and then, when he refused, throwing a grenade into the hole. He also told CNN's producer, April Oliver (who as co-author of the article in Time, with Peter Arnett), that he had repressed all memory of this encounter until Ms. Oliver began questioning him for her report.

In a message sent to me (June 9, 1998) by Dick McManus, quoting a statement made by radio host and former DEA agent Michael Levine, he wrote:

Michael Levine told me that Col Tom McKenny said as a Marine commander of the hunger-killer sniper squads, he was sent to Cambodia after peace was signed to kill American POWs whom the CIA said were deserters and traitors. McKenny, who comes from a military family that dates back to the Civil War, learned that the CIA's "hit list" was a lie; that the Americans his snipers were killing were just guilty of being in POW camps that were not supposed to exist.

An article in *Newsweek* (June 22, 1998) addressed the matter:

From the beginning of Operation Tailwind, the 16 special-forces commandos, along with some 140 Montagnard tribesmen hired to fight the communists, encountered stiff resistance. All the commandos were wounded, though none died. The CNN/Time story reported that 60 Montagnards were killed; official records put the death toll at three.

On the fourth day, the American force came across a rear-guard base for a North Vietnamese unit. Lt. Robert Van Buskirk, a platoon leader, gave CNN/Time a dramatic account of what happened next. Entering the enemy base, Van Buskirk says he spotted two Caucasians. One was sliding down a "spider Hole" into an underground

tunnel. The other was running toward it. The lieutenant gave chase, but just missed the blond man as he slipped down the tunnel. Van Buskirk said he offered to take the man home. "F—you," came the reply. "No, it's f—you," answered Van Buskirk, as he dropped a grenade down the hole.

Van Buskirk repeated this story to Newsweek. But, he said, he had forgotten it entirely for 24 years—until he suddenly recalled the event during a five-hour interview with CNN producer April Oliver earlier this year. Van Buskirk told Newsweek that he had repressed the memory on Easter Sunday 1974. At the time, Van Buskirk said, he was in a German prison on charges that he had sold weapons to a terrorist gang (the charges were later dropped). Van Buskirk, now a prison minister in North Carolina, said that until he had a vision of Christ on that Easter morning, he had been drinking heavily and was haunted by nightmares.

Two special-forces scouts, viewing the base from a distance of about two miles, told CNN they had seen "round eyes." One enlisted man, Sgt. Mike Hagen, says he saw a "blond guy from a distance." He thought the man might been a Russian adviser

#### **Associated Press Report**

An Associated Press report (June 18, 998) stated:

A top Vietnam-era military officer says he heard rumors but saw no direct evidence that nerve gas was used in the war, contradicting a report that he had confirmed the deadly chemical as used. "I've never seen any documentation of any operation using nerve gas," retired Adm. Thomas Moorer said Tuesday. Instead, Moorer, who was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1970 to 1974, said he had simply heard unconfirmed stories that the toxic gas sarin had been used by Special Forces units, including in a 1970 operation in Laos that is under review by the Pentagon.

"Whether they (Special Forces) had sarin, you can't prove it by me either way," he said, "These were rumors that this gas had been used.

CNN said Tuesday that it stood by he story. "Two hundred interviews and eight months of research, including the statement of Adm. Moorer, leads us to absolutely believe in the truthfulness of the story," said Steve Haworth, vice president of news at CNN's Atlanta headquarters. "Our story does not completely and solely depend on Adm. Moorer, but Adm. Moorer certainly does support our story and in no way contradicts our story."

Melvin Laird, a Vietnam-era defense secretary, and retired Gen. William Westmoreland, the commander of U.S. forces for most of the

war, have also said they didn't know of any use of sarin gas in the war, although a small amount was shipped to the region in 1967.

#### **Earlier Report**

An earlier report by the Associated Press (June 8, 1998) stated:

The so-called Operation Tailwind was approved by the Nixon White House as well as the CIA, the report said, quoting as its main source retired Adm. Thomas Moorer, a Vietnam-era chief of naval operations and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Former military officials who participated in then September 1970 operation said their job was to kill defectors from the U.S. military, but it was not known for sure whether the suspected defectors died during a preparatory nerve gas assault or a subsequent assault with conventional weapons carried out by Special Forces troops.

"It was pretty well understood that if you came across a defector, and could prove it to yourself beyond a reasonable doubt, do it, under any circumstance, kill them," said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert Van Buskirk, who was a platoon leader in the operation. "It wasn't about bringing them back. It was to kill them."

Several officers who served in Operation Tailwind told the premier episode of "NewsStand: CNN & Time" that the government liked to call the gas "incapacitating gas" or "knockout gas"—but that its true makeup was widely known. "Nerve gas, the government don't want it called that," said Mike Hagen, a platoon sergeant in Operation Tailwind. "They want to call it incapacitating agent or some other form, but it was nerve gas."

The report said Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1970, did not admit on camera that nerve gas was used but confirmed off camera that it was. "I would be willing to use any weapon and any tactic to save the lives of American soldiers," Moorer said on camera, adding that he had no figures on how often lethal gas was used during the war. "I never made a point of counting that up," he said. "I'm sure you can find out from those that have used them."

The soldiers involved in the nerve gas operations were part of the Studies and Observations Group, or SOG, a small, elite unit of the Special Forces.

CNN quoted John Singlaub, a former SOG commander, as saying it could be more important to the survival of U.S. troops to kill defectors than enemy soldiers because the defectors" knowledge of communications and tactics "can be damaging."

Van Buskirk said the team attacked a village base camp in Laos after observing American men—believed to be defectors—among the

people. He said he even threw a hand grenade down a hole to kill two American men who were fleeing.

"We basically destroyed everything there," Hagen said. Van Buskirk described the scene as "a mess. It was just pieces of human beings," he said, adding that among more than 100 bodies, soldiers saw more than a dozen Americans they believed to be defectors.

One Tailwind veteran described seeing the enemy forces throwing up and in convulsions on the ground.

Veteran activist Ted Sampley of Kinston, N.C. reacted with disbelief Sunday. He said he remembers only being warned of deserters fighting with enemy troops and being told to kill those soldiers, if found.

On March 20, 2002, the U.S. court of appeals in San Francisco reinstated a lawsuit filed by former Green Beret, Lieutenant Robert Van Buskirk, who claimed he was ridiculed by CNN after government officials pressured them to withdraw support for the report that the U.S. used nerve gas in Laos. With all of this information, there surely was an element of truth to the serious charges.

In my book, *Defrauding America*, there is considerable information in it from people who were either directly involved in Operation Tailwind or knew about it, which they had conveyed to me several years before the television broadcast.

## **Using Presidential Office to Retaliate Against Government Personnel Exposing Corruption of Government Officials**

Displeased with CIA insiders who sought to expose the lying by the Bush administration, President Bush ordered CIA director Porter Goss (November 13, 2004) to terminate any CIA people leaking information to the public, in formation that showed Bush lying.

A Newsday article (November 13, 2004) stated:

The White House h as ordered the new CIA director, Porter Goss, to purge the agency of officers believed to have been disloyal to President Bush or of leaking damaging information to the media about the conduct of the Iraq war and the hunt for Osama bin Laden, according to knowledgeable sources.

"The agency is being purged on instructions from the White House," said a former senior CIA official who maintains close ties to both the agency and to the White House. Tensions between the White House and the CIA have been the talk of the town for at least a year, especially as leaks about the mishandling of the Iraq war have dominated front pages.

## **Another Example of Bush Administration Retaliation Against Those Exposing the Truth**

Bush officials revealed to syndicated columnist Robert Novak that the wife of former ambassador Joseph C. Wilson was a CIA asset, after Wilson stated in the New York Times Op-Ed page that (July 6, 2003) that his investigation showed the Iraq had not sought to purchase uranium ore from Nigeria. Novak then revealed the CIA status in a July 14, 2003, article. That position contradicted the Bush administration's claims that were used to support the invasion of Iraq.

## Retaliation Against Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency

Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, repeatedly stated the harm brought about by the invasion of Iraq. During a speech at Stanford University (November 4, 2004), as reported in the *San Francisco Chronicle* (November 5, 2004):

The chief U.N. nuclear arms inspector sharply criticized the Bush administration Thursday, saying the American invasion and occupation of Iraq had damaged the credibility of the United States.

ElBaradei opened by noting that his prewar conclusions that Saddam Hussein did not have any nuclear weapons programs had been proved correct, despite Bush administration claims to the contrary. "Inspections were working," ElBaradei said, referring to the constant scouring of Iraq by U.N. arms experts.

"The coalition lost in credibility in some people's eyes by proceeding to use force without the enforcement of the Security Council," he said. ElBaradei rebutted the U.S. argument that despite the failure to find weapons of mass destruction, the Iraqi people had benefited from the U.S. invasion. "Perhaps it is the Iraqi people who have lost the most ...." He said. "They have had still more misery brought on by the ravages of war and the unforeseen and extended period of insurgency and civil disorder."

The Bush administration has been pressing the IAEA to declare Iran in violation of its treaty obligations and to send the case to the Security Council, where economic sanctions could be imposed. This push has caused speculation in world capitals that despite its current problems in Iraq, the United States would try for "regime change to topple Iran's Shiite Muslim government.

ElBaradei said that often-bogus intelligence information about Hussein's alleged arsenal before the Iraq war had made him look closely at information given by Western intelligence agencies. "What I do not want is disinformation," he said. "There's a difference between robust inspection and harassment, and I do not want to end up

in a situation where I'm continuously harassing a country based on misinformation."

# Earlier Similar Lying and Media Complicity That Led to 58,000 Dead GIs

"President Johnson has ordered retaliatory action against gunboats and certain supporting facilities in North Vietnam after renewed attacks against American destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin," was stated in a *New York Times* article. (August 5, 1964). White House politicians claimed that a North Vietnamese torpedo boat engaged in an unprovoked attack against a U.S. destroyer that was on routine patrol in the Tonkin Gulf on August 4, 1964.

President Johnson stated during a speech on August 4, 1964, that they must "face the fact that the Communists, by their attack on American vessels in international waters, have themselves escalated the hostilities."

Navy Pilot and squadron commander James Stockdale, who was flying over the Gulf of Tonkin at the time and witnessed the Navy destroyer firing, stated: "I had the best seat in the house to watch that event, and our destroyers were just shooting at phantom targets; there were no PT boats there. There was nothing there but black water and American fire power."

Overwhelming facts proved that the alleged gunboat attack never occurred, and that it was a hoax upon the public to support invading Vietnam on the basis of changing the form of government. The facts indicated that the U.S. destroyer Maddox was engaging in intelligence-gathering maneuvers while the South Vietnamese navy and Laotian air force were engaged in hostile actions against North Vietnam.

Several years later, as the lies became more widely known, President Johnson said in 1965, "For all I know, our Navy was shooting at whales out there." U.S. journalists had facts showing President Johnson to be lying, but repeated the White House lies as facts, refusing to challenge the official announcements. Congress, without questioning the truthfulness of President Johnson's statements, passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution that was close to a declaration of war against North Vietnam.

With that lie by White House politicians, and the media cover-up, the United States invaded Vietnam, leading to the deaths of 58,000 Americans, thousands more maimed, and several million Vietnamese killed, including over 10,000 murdered in the CIA's Phoenix program.

#### A Few Journalists Gave Their Opinions Based on Lies

"White House of Horrors," wrote Maureen Dowd in an article appearing in the *New York Times*. (October 28, 2004)

Dick Cheney peaked too soon. We've still got a few days left until Halloween. It was scary enough when we thought the vice president had created his own reality for spin purposes. But if he actually believes that Iraq is "a remarkable success story," it's downright spooky. He's already got his persona for Sunday: he's the mad scientist in the haunted mansion, fiddling with test tubes to force the world to conform to his twisted vision.

His ghoulish imagination ran wild, and he dragged the untested president and jittery country into his house of horrors, painting a gory picture of how Iraq could let fearsome munitions fall into the hands of evildoers.

He yanked America into war to preclude that chilling blood-bath. But in a spine-tingling switch, the administration's misbegotten invasion of Iraq has let fearsome munitions fall into the hands of evildoers. It's also forged the links between Al Qaeda and the Sunni Baathists that Mr. Cheney and his crazy-eyed Igors at the Pentagon had fantasized about to justify their hunger to remake the Middle East.

It's often seen in scary movies: you play God to create something in your own image, and the monster you make ends up coming after you. Determined to throw a good scare into the Arab world, the vice president ended up scaring up the swarm of jihadist evil spirits he had conjured, like the overreaching sorcerer in "Fantasia." The Pentagon bungled the occupation so badly, it caused the insurgency to grow like the Blob.

Like Catherine Deneuve having bizarre hallucinations in the horror classic "Repulsion," Mr. Cheney and the neocons were in a deranged ideological psychosis, obsessing about imaginary weapons while allowing enemies to spirit the real ones away.

The officials charged with protecting us set off so many false alarms that they ignored all the real ones.

President Bush is like one of the blissfully ignorant teenagers in "Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>" movies, spouting slogans like "Freedom is on the march," while Freddy Krueger is in the closet, ready to claw his skin off.

Mr. Bush ignored his own experts' warnings, that Osama bin Laden planned to attack inside the U.S., that an invasion of Iraq could create a toxic partnership between outside terrorists and Ba'athists and create sympathy for them across the Islamic world.

And, of course, the president ignored Colin Powell's Pottery Barn warning: "If you break it, you own it."

Cheney introduced President Bush after the election outcome

was known: "This has been a consequential presidency which has revitalized our economy and reasserted a confident American role in the world. Now we move forward to serve and to guard the country we love."

#### Primary Recruiter for Al Qaeda Terrorist Group

Not only did Bush's invasion of Iraq prove to be an explosive growth of people worldwide seeking to kill Americans, but it also put hundreds of tons of high explosives into their hands.

#### **Molly Ivins**

An article by syndicated columnist Molly Ivins (December 2, 2004): My question is this: What are you going to do about this? It's your country, your money, your government. You own it, you run it, you are the board of directors. They are doing this in your name. The people we elect to public office do what you want them to. Perhaps you should get in touch with them.

## **Primary Causes for Hatred Against Americans**

iddle East experts, and especially those who lived in the Middle East for years and had direct contact with the people, including heads of state and journalists, had repeatedly stated that the primary reason for terrorist attacks upon the United States was the U.S. funding, arming, the one-sided support for Israel; Israel's occupation of the seized territory, and the brutal treatment of the people in the occupied land.

Jordan's King Abdullah II, speaking before the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco (April 16, 2004), said that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict generates the greatest reason for terrorism:

At the end of the day, you're [United States] being held responsible. I am very, very frightened by that perception. I can't impress it enough on this audience that the core instability of the Middle East, the core problem in everybody's hearts, is the Israeli-Palestinian problem. It's not rocket science. We know what needs to be done.

He called on Israel to halt its occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza strip, as the United Nations had repeatedly stated, and as Israel had repeatedly rejected. He also stated that the twin images of Israelis battling Palestinians, and American troops occupying Iraq, generated more hatred toward the United States than the world had ever seen.

#### Palestine under Attack

"Palestine under attack" was the title on an article in the *Palestine Monitor*, stating:

International humanitarian agencies have characterized the situation across the West Bank as a humanitarian catastrophe. Visiting Jenin refugee camp, where rescue workers are still pulling out survivors and combing the rubble to retrieve bodies, UN special envoy Terje Roed-Larsen described the devastation as "horrific beyond"

belief." While the US remains silent about Israel's massive violation of fundamental human rights and humanitarian norms, including war crimes, the EU has at least called upon Israel to accept a UN probe into the atrocities at the camp or face "colossal damage" to its reputation.

No one knows yet what the price tag will be for repairing the catastrophic damage inflicted by Israel since the end of March 2002. International aid agencies, donors and Palestinians are still unable to access many areas to carry out an accurate damage assessment. World Bank officials, however, estimate that total damage assessment to Palestinian infrastructure will more than double to US \$600 million. It is impossible to put a price tag on the loss of life, estimated at well over 400 persons, trauma and long-term psychological damage caused by the brutal military assault.

#### **Routine Torture of Palestinians by Israel**

An Israeli human rights group<sup>101</sup> charged *their own government* with routinely torturing Palestinian political prisoners. They charged, "Violence and ill-treatment have become an expected part of interrogations." The report stated that at least 5,000 of the 25,000 Palestinian prisoners jailed in the previous year had been tortured, while Palestinians reported that the percentage was much higher. An April 3, 1993, *New York Times* article was entitled, "Israeli Study Finds Torture Common."

## U.S. Politicians' Support for Occupying Country: Israel

Israel had received billions of dollars a year in grants, loans, economic aid, and war equipment, making possible the continued occupation and brutal treatment of the Palestinians. This financial largess had continued even as Israel inflicted various forms of harm upon the United States. In *Defrauding America*, I detail some of this harm, which includes, for instance:

- Israel's Mossad involvement in smuggling drugs into the United States, especially during the Iran-Contra affair.
- Israel's attack upon the U.S.S. Liberty that killed many U.S. sailors.
- Israel's spying upon the United States, as in the Pollard affair.
- Israel's attack on any U.S. politician who dared to address these matters or criticizes Israel in other ways.

An article in the *San Francisco Chronicle* (March 27, 2002) referred to the fear of U.S. politicians from the powerful Jewish influence in the United States:

Sharon's hard line was an unprecedented slap at the Bush administration. U.S. officials' response was merely to turn the other

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>101</sup> Betselem, the Israeli Center of Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

cheek, indicating they are unwilling to criticize Sharon. If Sharon can get away with so publicly defying the United States, which gives Israel \$2.8 billion per year in military and economic aid, then Arab cooperation with the war on terrorism may weaken, and the Arab world's opposition to any future U.S. attack on Iraq will harden.

Israel has used military jets to fire missiles and drop bombs into heavily occupied areas in the West Bank, killing many innocent people. They have used military weapons, furnished by the United States, to kill thousands of Palestinians. In one such example, on July 22, 2002, an Israel jet fighter fired a missile into a highly concentrated civilian area during the night, killing a Hamas leader, his wife and family, and 13 other children. Israel, and many "news" reporters in the United States (including Dennis Ross) supported the slaughter.

## Israel's Brutal Occupation Treatment in Occupied Land

"Israel gets OK to ruin houses. Court allows action in time of war without warning," was the headline on a *New York Times* article (August 7, 2002), and stated:

Saying Israel was in the middle of a war [military occupation of the West Bank], the [Israel] Supreme Court gave the army approval to destroy without notice the homes of 43 families related to suicide bombers.

#### Israel Massacre at Jenin

Israel's killing in Jenin, West Bank, was televised by CNN. As a result, three Israeli cable companies cancelled their CNN links. (Wall Street Journal, August 5, 2002). Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak called the killings, "despicable crimes." The news reports by CNN, BBC, and other media called the Israeli attacks as war crimes. President Bush and much of the U.S. media supported the attacks.

Israel had been receiving nearly \$3 billion dollars per year in military and economic aid, which continued even after Israel used its U.S. funded military to kill sailors on the U.S.S. Liberty, and caused conditions to exist by their occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza strip that played a key role in the hatred of the United States by Middle East people, and brought about the terrorism crisis.

During the 1948 war in which Israel fought to acquire the land as the state of Israel, over 750,000 Palestinians fled or were forced out of their homes in what is now Jerusalem. Then in 1967, Israel invaded the West Bank in what was Jordan and have occupied the land ever since as an occupying army and built Jewish settlements in the occupied territory.

#### Israel's Human Shield Policy

An *Associated Press* report (August 16, 2002) described Israel's use of human shields by military personnel in the occupied territory:

The Israeli soldiers strapped a bulletproof vest on a Palestinian teenager and ordered him to approach a house where a Hamas militant was hiding, with instructions to bring out everyone inside. As he neared the house in the West Bank village of Tubas on Wednesday night, a 19-year-old Nidal Daraghmeh, was shot in the back of the head and killed, though it's not clear who pulled the trigger. Troops then flattened the house with bulldozers, killing the Hamas militant.

The operation outraged Palestinians and sparked a sharp debate in Israel over a tactic the army has used for years. The army calls it the "neighbor procedure." Critics say the army is using Palestinians as "human shields." Palestinians say the practice has been used more frequently during the past 2 months of fighting. Soldiers have in some instances forced Palestinian civilians to enter homes believed to be booby-trapped, Palestinians say.

### Continuation of Israeli Brutality on Defenseless Palestinians

Typical of the slaughter of Palestinians, including children, was the firing of rockets by Israeli troops against Palestinian marchers in Rafah, in Gaza, who were protesting the occupation. The *New York Times* showed a front-page picture of a father holding his dead child, murdered by the Israeli troops.

## Israel's Weapons of Mass Destruction: Nuclear Missile Buildup

Numerous reports and media articles over the years have described Israel's buildup of nuclear missiles, made possible by assistance of U.S. politicians—and the U.S. taxpayers. Israel has never denied having nuclear missiles, and has refused to allow inspection of its nuclear facilities. The United States had turned a blind eye to Israel's nuclear missile arsenal—and to Israel's invasion and occupation of what was originally Jordan—while simultaneously barring other nations from acquiring the same weapons.

## Nuclear Missiles and Submarines by the Israel Mini State

Israel, the size of New Jersey, added nuclear carrying submarines to its arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. One of many reports of Israel's nuclear missiles was a report by *MER* (July 1, 2004) showing Israel's intent to place missiles on submarines:

Latest reports are that Israel will soon begin deploying the latest design conventional (diesel) submarines armed with nuclear cruise missiles. Israel is acquiring at least three new subs for its nuclear missiles from Germany. The Germans are said to be subsidizing the design and building of the subs, paying more than 50% of the costs in what amounts to ongoing German reparations.

The new subs are expected to be armed with a new version of Israel's Jericho missile which has a range throughout the Middle East (estimated at 3000 miles) and can carry Israel's latest hydrogen and neutron bomb warheads.

Israel is now thought to have as many as 400 nuclear warheads with a total of approximately 50 megatons. And Israel is also thought to have been working closely for some years in secret with the Indian military, both on the development of India's nuclear arsenal and also on possible plans to attack any Islamic country attempting to build a nuclear arsenal, with Pakistan and Iran heading the list.

There are also substantial rumors that with great secrecy Saudi Arabia is also now attempting to arm itself with nuclear weapons, hoping to accomplish such a fait accompli before it becomes generally known.

### Killing People who Disagree with Israeli Policies

Israel's Mossad has a long reputation of killing people in foreign countries whose lawful conduct displeases Israel. Some of these killings have been reported by former Mossad officers, including Ari Ben-Menashe and Victor Ostrovsky, in their books.

Gerald Bull, a Canadian scientist who developed a long-range cannon (called the Super Gun), was killed by Mossad agents at his Brussels apartment in March 1990. Israeli assassination squads killed Bull to halt his development of the weapon project, despite the fact that it was really primitive in relation to the military and nuclear weapons in Israel's arsenal.

Israeli agents murdered nineteen people within several weeks in 1990, including eight German scientists hired by a company in Miami, who were traveling back and forth to Iraq. They included a German scientist, Hans Mayers, in a car "accident" in Munich, four Iraqi businessmen, and two Pakistani scientists in Britain.

A television production, aired on June 17, 1993, focused on the many killings by the Mossad, including the botched 1974 killing in Lillee-hammer, Norway by Mossad operative Michael (Freddy) Harari. A Mossad Kidon assassination team headed by Harari killed a Moroccan waiter who they thought was their intended victim, Ali Hassan Salameh. Instead, the victim was a plain waiter with a wife and two children. A panel of Norwegian judges convicted five Israelis of the murder, concluding that the assassination was run by Israel's intelligence agency, the Mos-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>102</sup> Profits of War, Ari Ben-Menashe; By Way of Deception, Victor Ostrovsky and Claire Hoy; The Other Side of Deception, Victor Ostrovsky.

sad. Israel agreed in January 1996 to pay compensation of \$283,000, and \$118,000 to the widow, a daughter, and a son.

One of the Mossad's assassination techniques was to put a pressure-sensitive plastic-explosive bomb in the victim's bed. When the intended victim lay on the bed, the bomb went off. Another tactic was to place plastic explosives in a telephone handset; when the person answered, and the caller identified him as the intended victim, the bomb would be set off by a signal carried over the telephone wire. Although the plastic explosive was small in size, it usually caused fatal injuries.

Victor Ostrovsky detailed the specifics of several of the killings by Israeli agents. He wrote that the Israeli assassination department inside the Mossad was a small unit called "Kidon," and was divided into three teams consisting of approximately twelve men each. Ostrovsky told of the shooting down by two Israeli jets of a Boeing 727 operated by Libyan Arab Airlines, killing over a hundred people. He told how two Israel agents killed Arab scientist Yahia El Meshad by slipping into his apartment with a passkey and then cutting his throat while he slept. He also told how the Mossad killed a PLO official in Paris who was preparing to meet with the French Secret Service.

An article in a December 14, 1992, publication carried a story about Israeli assassination squads operating in foreign countries under the title, "Foreign Killers Run Loose in U.S." The article related how Israelitrained assassins entered the United States, often with the help of the CIA, leaving a trail of unsolved and unreported killings. The report explained how the United States was funding Mossad's criminal operations in Third World countries.

Former Mossad agent Ben-Menashe's book described the Mossad's hiring of Arabs who unknowingly carried out terrorist attacks against Americans, inflaming the American public against the Arabs. He also wrote about Mossad agents paying Palestinians to seize the Mediterranean cruise ship *Achille Lauro* in 1985, which ended in the killing of one of the passengers. Ironically, the passenger was Jewish.

Ari Ben-Menashe wrote in his book, *Profits of War*, that the attack upon the cruise ship was financed by Israel, and its intent was "to show what a deadly cutthroat bunch the Palestinians were." The American public was told that the attack upon the *Achille Lauro* was a Palestinian operation, when in fact it was engineered and financed by Israel.

#### Israel's Admission of Worldwide Assassinations

A London Observer article carried in the San Francisco Examiner (November 24, 1993) was headlined, "Israeli official admits unleashing assassins." The article described the practice of Israel's military-security establishments carrying out assassinations on a global basis, many of

them specifically authorized by Israel's prime ministers, including Golda Meir.

The article admitted the mistaken assassination of a waiter in the Norwegian town of Lillehammer, thinking the victim was a member of the PLO, Ali Hasan Salameh. Israeli officials admitted the disclosures by retired Major General Aharon Yariv on state-controlled Israeli Television, arguing that the information should have remained secret.

## **Spreading Oppression**

An article in the now-defunct magazine, *Spotlight*, quoting Lager-krantz, stated:

Since Congress has decided to grant the most aid to governments who agree to let Israel train and equip their security troops, it has been precisely those African nations where the Mossad has been most active—Sudan, Zaire, Somalia, Liberia—that have suffered the worst outbreaks of famine, violence and disorder.

The article stated that covert activities carried out by the Mossad had brought "nothing but oppression, cruelty, bloodshed, corruption and ultimately turmoil" to the backward regions where it operated. (The same, of course, applies to the covert actions of U.S. Intelligence Agencies.)

### Murdering U.S. Navy Personnel

Israelis didn't limit their assassinations to Arabs. Israeli forces deliberately machine-gunned and bombed a virtually unarmed U.S. Navy communication ship, the *U.S.S. Liberty*, killing several dozen U.S. sailors. (June 8, 1967) The *Liberty* carried clear markings indicating it to be an American ship, and Israel knew that. The attack, occurring off the coast of Lebanon.

As Israeli fighter planes approached the *Liberty*, the pilots radioed and protested to their base, "It's an American ship!" Tel Aviv disregarded the pilot's protests and ordered the fighters to attack. The brutal and bloody assault continued for almost half an hour, during which time missiles, napalm, and torpedoes were used to kill thirty-four U.S. Navy men and injuring 171 others.

U.S. sailors had intercepted Israeli radio communications relating to a planned attack on Syria that occurred the following day, and Israel felt the Americans would expose the sneak attack. The attack on a U.S. navy ship was to prevent revealing the intended attack upon Syria.

# White House Politicians and Military Made U.S. Sailors Expendable As Israel Interests Protected

Other navy ships and aircraft started to go to the defense of the ship under attack by Israel, but were called back, probably due to orders from the White House. Despite the gravity of the Israel attack and the White House calling off defense aircraft, the U.S. media kept the lid on these

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matters. To prevent the American public from learning the truth, the powerful U.S.-funded Israel lobby in the United States sprang into action with disinformation to the media and pressure on members of Congress.



U.S.S. Liberty, Riddled by Israeli Fighter Planes

## **Example of Americans Denied the Truth**

The American public never learned the truth. Even White House officials acted to protect Israel, publicly accepting Israel's apology that the attack was an accident. American military personnel were equally expendable in Vietnam and other ventures by the politicians in the White House, including Iraq.

Israel asserted that they thought the *Liberty* was another ship, the *El Quseir*. But that Egyptian supply ship was in Alexandria, a fact known to Israel. The ugly truth of the deliberate killing of U.S. military personnel by Israel was shown through radio messages intercepted by the American embassy in Beirut, which were slowly being known.

In 1991, former U.S. Ambassador, Dwight Porter, revealed the radio communications intercepted by his office in Lebanon on that fateful day in 1967, revealing that Israeli commanders *knew* the ship was an American ship and that they knew they were killing American sailors.

Porter's revelations were supported by Seth Mintz, <sup>103</sup>a major in Israel's IDF, 104 who was present in IDF headquarters for several hours before the attack on the U.S. communication ship. Shortly after Mintz made these statements, he was threatened by Mossad agents, causing him to recant his earlier statements. In a dispatch in *Ha'aretz* on November 7. 1991, Mintz expressed "grave anxiety over the media interest in him" relating to the *Liberty* affair. He told *Ha'aretz*, "Everyone is after me now, and that is what I'm afraid of. I don't need the Mossad<sup>105</sup> and Shin Bet<sup>106</sup> knocking on my door." His insider knowledge of Mossad's assassination squads and their practice of assassinations justified his anxiety.

Israel's orders to attack the navy communication ship came from a high Israeli official, reportedly General Yitzhak Rabin, who later became Israel's Laborite Prime Minister. President George Bush's White House staff tried to portray Israel's Rabin as a peacemaker, despite his long history of terrorist activities. In 1996, a person intending to fund a TV documentary on the Israeli attack upon the Liberty was killed.

The media protecting those who perpetrated and covered up for the murder of U.S. sailors ignored the June 7, 1997, memorial services held by the surviving *Liberty* crewmen.

## Stealing U.S. Military Secrets

Numerous articles have been written about U.S. secret weapon technology sent to Israel that had been stolen and sold to foreign countries, violating agreements with the United States. In Dangerous Liaison-The Inside Story of the U.S.-Israeli Covert Relationship, authors Andrew and Leslie Cockburn wrote about the symbiotic relationship between the United States and Israeli intelligence networks: the stealing of nuclear fuel by Israel from the Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation plant at Apollo, Pennsylvania in 1968; Israeli and CIA involvement with the Medellin drug cartel; Guatemalan death squads; and other treasonous activities. I also describe many of Israel's activities against the United States in *Defrauding America*, based upon information provided to me by CIA and other insiders.

# Selling U.S. Secret Weapon Technology to U.S. Adversaries

Report in the March 15, 1992, New York Times revealed the pattern of illegal sales by Israel of U.S. weapon technology. The article revealed that Israel did this by either installing the U.S. components in an Israeli

<sup>105</sup> Mossad is the Israeli highly secret intelligence service and a worldwide network of agents, much of it funded by the United States.

Shin Bet acts in a similar manner as the Mossad, performing for the military.

<sup>103</sup> Residing in Houlton, Maine. He was a U.S. citizen who went to Israel in 1962, joining the Israeli Army in 1965, and assigned to the IDF war room during the Six-Day War.

104 Israel Defense Forces.

weapon system or disassembling the weapon to discover how it worked and then constructing their own, selling the secret technology to foreign countries, some being hostile to the U.S. interests.

Israel received Patriot missiles worth hundreds of millions of dollars from the United States, and instead of keeping the technology secret, sold the missiles with Patriot technology to other countries, including China, in clear violation of U.S. law. A State Department report<sup>107</sup> accused Israel of engaging, for nearly ten years, in a systematic pattern of reselling cutting-edge U.S. military technology to Third World countries.

## U.S. Politicians Protecting Israel's Harmful Acts

The report told how Washington officials protected this unlawful transfer of U.S. technology by ordering U.S. investigators in Israel not to check on the destination of U.S. technology sent to Israel, as is required of all other countries. Israel, using money supplied by U.S. taxpayers, retained powerful Washington law firms, and pays large contributions/bribes to U.S. politicians, all of whom work against U.S. interests.

#### **Dotan Affair**

One of many examples of Israeli attacks upon U.S. interests was the Dotan affair, in which U.S. corporations paid bribes to Israeli officials, which came from the billions of dollars given by the U.S. government to Israel. Over \$11 million in bribe money was diverted from the General Electric Company through a small New Jersey front company to European bank accounts controlled by Israel Brigadier General Rami Dotan. The case involved bribery, money laundering, and violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, insider trading, and espionage.

A General Electric official, Herbert Steindler, was considered a partner in the illicit schemes. Both General Electric and Pratt and Whitney knew the United States was being defrauded, but it was profitable for them to remain quiet, thereby becoming co-conspirators in the crimes against the United States. Falsified bills of lading and shipment of fictitious equipment, and shell companies, were all part of the scheme.

## Admitting Their Role, But None Went to Prison

General Electric agreed to pay \$69 million in fines, penalties and damages, and pleaded guilty to defrauding the United States in the sale of military equipment to Israel. However, Israeli officials impeded the investigation by U.S. officials, as Israeli government claimed itself innocent in the Dotan matter. The evidence showed otherwise.

## Members of Congress Protected Israel Instead of U.S.

Congressman and House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell stated that Congress has been reluctant to embarrass Israel politically. This attitude existed because of past retaliatory meas-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>107</sup> New York Times, April 4, 1992.

ures inflicted upon members of congress by the Israeli lobby when Israel's activities were questioned.

#### Pollard Affair

One of the most publicized examples of Israel spying upon the United States was the Pollard affair. Israeli agents paid a U.S. Navy intelligence analyst, Jonathan Jay Pollard, to steal military secrets, using a Washington apartment owned by lawyer Harold Katz. The seriousness of the spying operation was reflected by the life sentence given to Pollard (June 4, 1986) by Chief District Judge Aubrey Robinson in Washington. Israel's Zionist lobby in the United States protected Israel from the serious repercussions that should have occurred. After Pollard was convicted and sentenced to prison, Israel repeatedly requested of U.S. presidents that Pollard be released. But the massive protests by U.S. intelligence personnel blocked any of the presidents to respond to Israel's request.

## Israel's Involvement in October Surprise

In my book, *Defrauding America*, I go into great detail about the October Surprise operation and Israel's involvement in it. That secret operation involving the fraudulent acts by well-known political and intelligence personnel delayed the release of American hostages held by Iran until after the election between the President Jimmy Carter and the Republican candidate Ronald Reagan. It was felt that if the hostages were released prior to the election that Carter might be reelected. In exchange for delaying the release of the hostages, considerable money and military equipment were given to Iran.

Former Mossad agent Ben-Menashe described Israel's involvement in the October Surprise operation, which conformed to statements made to me by several CIA people with whom I had been in frequent contact for several years, including Gunther Russbacher and Oswald LeWinter.

Not only was Israel involved in the secret shipments of U.S. weapons to Iran, but Israeli agents were at the Madrid, Barcelona, and Paris meetings, as related to me by Russbacher and Ari Ben-Menashe. Israel knew the October Surprise operations were acts of treason.

#### CIA Collaboration with Israel's Mossad

Several of my CIA sources, some of whom were pilots, gave details of the role played by the Mossad in drug trafficking into the United States. These people, some of whom flew drugs during Reagan-Bush's Contra operation, described drug trafficking from South and Central America into the United States by Mossad agents. They told how Mossad agents, including Michael Harari and David Kimche, were present at many of the drug transshipment points, and especially in Panama. They also told me about the joint shipment of CIA and Mossad drugs in CIA and DEA aircraft.

#### **Enormous Power of the Israel Lobby**

Israel sources in the United States, including the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), whose parent is B'nai B'rith, exert considerable influence over members of congress and White House politicians, none of who dare not state anything negative about Israel. Through its powerful Zionist group, Israel can fund campaigns to defeat politicians not adhering to Zionist wishes.

One tactic used to silence those who report or criticize the Mossad or Israel's misconduct is to label them anti-Semitic. It is risky business for a public official to defend U.S. interests when it means confrontation with the Zionists. The vast control by Israel over the U.S. media makes certain that the American people hear Israel's version.

ADL has been able to defuse any attention focused upon unlawful activities of people connected with Israel or the Mossad. The ADL lauded a major Jewish crime figure, Morris Barney Dalitz of Las Vegas, who regularly donated heavily to the ADL. Dalitz was called Chairman of the Board to such crime figures as Meyer Lansky and Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel. Lansky and Siegel were members of the original "Murder Incorporated," also known as the Meyer and Bugsy Gang. JDL <sup>108</sup> chairman Irv Rubin was accused in 1992 of plotting a murder-for-hire operation.

In the book, *American Jewish Organizations and Israel*, author Lee O'Brien describes the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL):

In later years, ADL has turned to...aggressive measures...outright surveillance of individuals and groups, the results of which are fed into both the Israeli intelligence-gathering apparatus, via their consulates and embassy, and American domestic intelligence, via the FBI. Top ADL officials have admitted the use of clandestine surveillance techniques.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has been functioning as the action arm of Israel's Mossad in the United States for many years. In 1993, an ADL spy scandal erupted in San Francisco, after which it was learned that the ADL had been acting as proxy for the Mossad. The scandal surfaced after it was discovered that San Francisco police inspector Tom Gerard<sup>109</sup> was stealing police intelligence files and selling them to the ADL.

It was learned during the investigation that Roy Bullock was an ADL operative spying on numerous individuals and groups in the United

 <sup>108</sup> JDL, Jewish Defense League, is a group founded in the late 1960s to fight those opposed to Israel.
 109 San Francisco Chronicle, May 8, 1993.

States. According to an April 9, 1993, *Los Angeles Times* article, the ADL disguised payments made to Bullock by funneling the money through Beverly Hills lawyer Bruce Hochman, who in turn paid Bullock. Hochman was a prominent ADL figure, and a member of a panel appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to recommend the names of lawyers for federal judgeships. This helps explain the inordinately high percentage of Jewish federal judges.

#### "This was evil, evil!" stated Gerard

During a three-hour press interview in the Philippines, Gerard revealed that he was a former CIA operative and had evidence that the CIA trained, supported, and encouraged death squads operating in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala during the 1980s. He stated these death squads killed and tortured thousands of people, including political opponents, union members, peasants, and clergy.

The brutality of the carnage was too much for him; he left the CIA in 1985. "This was not good guys versus bad guys," Gerard said. "This was evil, evil; this was something the devil himself was involved in. And I wanted no part of it." Gerard said that the San Francisco police and the FBI had joined forces to discredit him.

#### **American Taxpayers Fund These Activities**

Israel depends upon the largesse of the U.S. politicians through pressure from the powerful Israel lobby, Zionist groups, and lobbyists, to fund the many diversified activities, including their assassination teams and development of nuclear missiles. Billions of dollars in loans have been given to Israel that will never be repaid, the cost of which must be borne by the American taxpayer, plus the interest on the money. In 1991, Israel literally demanded of President Bush that the U.S. guarantee \$10 billion in loans to build housing for Jews in land taken from Jordan.

Despite the enormous amount of gifts to Israel, their appreciation was reflected in a 1991 statement by Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as he attempted to lay a guilt trip on the United States, claiming it had an obligation to help settle Soviet Jews in Israel through the guarantee of the \$10 billion loan. In 1991, the United States taxpayers paid over \$4.3 billion in aid to Israel. Israel then invested these funds in U.S. savings bonds for which the United States paid Israel over \$34 million in interest (on the money that the United States gave to Israel in the first place).

From 1974 to 1989, Israel received \$16.4 billion in loans that were never repaid. The loans were secretly converted to grants, thereby avoiding repayment. The reason White House politicians referred to the money transfer as loans in the first place was to avoid U.S. oversight, which is required only on money grants. By this time the money was provided,

there was no control over how it was used and whether it had to be repaid.

#### Israel's Intelligence-Espionage Agency

Former Mossad officer, Colonel Victor Ostrovsky, was concerned about the conduct of a controlling faction in Israel's Mossad, including the Kidon assassination squads in friendly countries, undermining foreign governments, its drug trafficking. He exposed these activities in his books. 110 Ostrovsky described how the U.S. invasion of Panama dried up much of the Mossad's funds derived from shipping drugs into the United States and the thousands of Jewish assets in various countries, including the United States, who secretly feed information to the Mossad that is often harmful to the host country. Ostrovsky left the Mossad in the late 1980s but retained secret contacts with high-level Mossad officials, staying abreast of Mossad activities.

## Withholding Knowledge of Terrorist Attacks from U.S.

Ostrovsky describes how the Mossad planned events so that the blame would be on another group, and in that way accomplish what Israel or the Mossad wanted to achieve. He described how the Mossad knew about the impending bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut that killed nearly 300 American soldiers, and kept this information from the U.S. so as to continue the hostilities between the Americans and factions in the Middle East.

He described how the Mossad made possible<sup>111</sup> the explosion in a West Berlin night club<sup>112</sup> that killed one US serviceman and wounded several others, which President Ronald Reagan then used as an excuse to bomb Libya, 113 killing many innocent women and children. The Mossad called this plan, resulting in bombing Libva, Operation Trojan. France recognized the Mossad's role in Operation Trojan, and refused to allow U.S. aircraft to fly from France to bomb Libya, forcing some U.S. aircraft to fly from England and refuel in the air.

This bombing caused hostage-takers in Lebanon to break off negotiations with the Americans and the British related to the release of hostages. Instead, only French hostages were released because of the nonparticipation of France in the bombing of Libva.

## Mossad's Assassination of World-Famous Figure

Ostrovsky writes in The Other Side of Deception how and why a Kidon team killed long-time Mossad asset and British citizen Robert Maxwell. The Mossad's code name for Maxwell was the "Little Czech."

<sup>112</sup> La Belle discotheque.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>110</sup> By Way of Deception; The Other Side of Deception; Lion of Judah.

The Mossad funded several terrorist organizations in Europe, and monitored their telephone and radio communications.

U.S. aircraft bombed Libya on April 14, 1986.

Maxwell had threatened to expose the Mossad's attempts to halt the democratization of the Soviet Union, which Israel felt would remove the Soviet threat and lessen Israel's strategic value to the United States. This would result in a major reduction in financial aid and military equipment. Maxwell had financially funded many prior Mossad activities, and was now in need of immediate financial help himself. Maxwell reportedly warned that if Israel did not provide this help, he would publicize Israel's attempt to prevent the end of the Cold War.

In preparing to assassinate Maxwell, the Mossad reportedly instructed Maxwell to meet them in Los Cristos on the island of Grand Canary, and to get there via his yacht. A Kidon team, using a boat on the evening of November 4, 1991, climbed on board Maxwell's yacht and killed him. Maxwell was buried on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, while Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir eulogized the man that Israel's Mossad had reportedly killed.

## Mossad's Killing of an American Family in California

Ian Stuart Spiro's wife and three small daughters were killed in their San Diego home by large-caliber bullets shot into their heads on November 7, 1992. Spiro, a Mossad asset, 114 was found dead in a car parked in the desert, having died from ingesting cyanide. Spiro had connections to the CIA, British MI6, and Mossad, and had been involved in various CIA operations, including October Surprise, the Reagan-Bush Iran-Contra affair, and the Lebanese hostage crisis.

Spiro had worked with Oliver North in the arms-for-hostages schemes. He was helping CIA asset Michael Riconosciuto collect documents to present to a federal grand jury conducting hearings into the Inslaw matter<sup>115</sup> when he was killed. Before his death, Ian Spiro told friends that he was receiving phone threats from the people in the CIA or Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA).

The maid who worked part-time for the Spiro family identified Rafi Eitan from pictures as having been to the Spiro home several days before the Spiro murders. Eitan was known in the intelligence community as an assassin. Another possible witness who could identify the killers was found dead shortly after the Spiro family was killed. Jose Aguilar, a tree trimmer who worked at the Spiro property, was killed in Valley Center, California, by a bullet in the head (November 14, 1992) Aguilar reportedly identified a picture of Mossad agent Rafi Eitan<sup>116</sup> as a visitor to

116 Rafi Eitan was a member of the Mossad's LAKAM, a unit of the Mossad operat-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>114</sup> A sayan, or sayanim, is a Jewish asset in a foreign country, obtaining information for Israel and the Mossad. A spy would be another name for a sayan.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>115</sup> The Inslaw matter is described in Defrauding America, and involved the theft by Justice Department officials of the Promis software.

Spiro's home shortly before the Spiro family was found dead.

Another death related to Spiro and his activities was Howard Cerney. a lawyer from New York City, who represented Ian Spiro on some of Spiro's legal matters. He was found dead in July 1993.

One of my deep-cover sources, Ron Veatch, told me that Spiro was planning to duplicate a nationwide 900-sexually-orientated business, New Media Telecommunications (located in La Jolla, California). That company was operated by Jonathan Wise, whose father, John Wise, was a CIA asset. Spiro had become concerned about the harm being inflicted worldwide by the U.S., British, and Israel intelligence agencies, and began exposing some of their worse secrets.

Another one of my sources, Gunther Russbacher, said that his intelligence agency contacts revealed that the Spiro murders were carried out by Israel's Mossad and Britain's M-5 agents.

## **CIA Blackmailing People Through Sexual Activities**

Russbacher had told me in the past that one of the methods CIA agents used to blackmail people, including politicians, was through the promotion of the 900-sexual numbers and pedophile activities. When I quizzed Russbacher about this information he said that New Media Telecommunications was a CIA operation and that John Wise had been a CIA asset for many years. This discovery added additional support to who was involvement in the death of the Spiro family.

I received a letter on October 20, 1993, from Ron Veatch who had been in contact with Spiro, stating:

I had spoken to Ian Spiro a few days prior to his murder. Ian was working for a CIA cover and he became aware that Jonathan Wise, who was president of the Communications 900-type business, was also a CIA/NSA federal front. He begged me for help.

Jonathan called me the next day after the murders and tried to draw me into their scheme. Ian gave me some CIA/FBI top-secret papers to hold. He was murdered by the CIA/FBI-directed Mossad.

#### **Another Related Death**

A business associate of Ian Spiro, Robert Corson, was found dead in an El Paso motel room<sup>117</sup> a day before Gail Spiro and her three children were found murdered. Corson reportedly worked for the CIA in drug and arms trafficking. One of my sources, Basil Abbott, described his contacts with Corson and Corson's role in CIA drug trafficking. Corson had also been involved in the looting of savings and loans, another CIA-related activity. Another person killed shortly afterwards was Nassen Beydoun, who had worked with Spiro and Oliver North.

ing in the United States, gathering information about U.S. activities, and a unit directly under Israel's prime minister.

117 November 4, 1992.

### Other Support That Mossad Kidon Team Conducted the Spiro Family Murders on U.S. Soil

Ostrovsky published his book, *The Other Side of Deception*, stating that the Spiro family was killed by a Mossad Kidon team. Ostrovsky described how he was reminded of their deaths by his high-level Mossad contact that he identified only as Ephraim. Ephraim and other contacts informed Ostrovsky that Spiro was a sayan who had years of contacts with Israel's Mossad. Apparently Ian Spiro had received a large sum of money from the Mossad with which to obtain the release of an Israeli airman, Ron Arad, from Spiro's Lebanese contacts.

After his Lebanese contacts discovered Spiro's links to the Iran-Contra affair, they refused to deal with him. The Mossad wanted their money back, and Spiro claimed that he had given the money to the Lebanese. When the Mossad's Kidon team arrived at Spiro's home in the San Diego area on November 7, 1992, and could not get the money returned, the mother and three young girls were shot and Spiro was taken into the desert, where he was force-fed poison, causing his death.

## FBI Involved in Cover-Up Protecting Israel

As frequently happens, to cover up for CIA-related activities, the FBI pressured the media to report that Spiro had killed his family and then committed suicide. The San Diego sheriff's conduct and final report of the Spiro deaths indicated a cover-up, as often happened with other murders where intelligence agencies are involved. Lawyers Dexter Jacobson and Paul Wilcher, described in *Defrauding America*, were two examples.

The CIA, the Mossad, and British intelligence, are allies, and these intelligence agencies appear to have a greater loyalty to each other, rather than to their respective countries.

As usual, these revelations by a high-level Mossad officer went unknown to most of the American public, partly due to media cover-up and party due to lack of interest.

## **Rejection of Israel Money Request**

## May Have Cost First President Bush Reelection

President Bush strongly protested the continued building of Israeli settlements in the occupied territory and stated he would veto any legislation providing Israel grants or loans. This infuriated Israel, and it is very possible that this alienation cost Bush his reelection. The headline on a *Newsweek* article (September 23, 1991), Bush vs. the Israel Lobby. Why the president dared to break a political taboo," stated one factor in why President George Bush did not win reelection in 1991 after he angered the Israel lobby:

George Bush was furious. Bush wanted Congress to delay approval of \$10 billion in loan guarantees [to Israel]. He told a news conference he would veto any early action on the loan guarantee. Depicting himself as "one lonely little guy down here," he complained bitterly about the "powerful political forces" against him. [Israel lobby]

Publicly attacking Israel's American friends is risky political business. But Bush comes from an East Coast foreign-policy establishment whose members have often felt that U.S. interests in the Middle East were being sacrificed to domestic politics. He also resents suggestions that people who disagree with Israel are somehow guilty of anti-Semitism.

Bush is particularly angered by Israel's insistence on building new settlements on the West Bank, according to senior aides. The president believes he has a historic opening to make peace in the region. But he's afraid that the Arabs will not negotiate seriously as long as Israel is appropriating Palestinian homelands. His display of anger last week was a signal to Sharmir to curb his territorial ambitions.

Bush is calculating that the American people share his frustration with Israel. [What a dreamer!] "In the past," says a senior administration aide, "the Israeli lobby could always argue that the Arabs would run them into the sea. With a peace conference in the offing, that argument no longer works." By saying aloud what other presidents merely thought, Bush may have fundamentally changed the course of U.S.-Israeli relations. [And doomed his reelection!]

# Astronomical Cost to the American People for Arming, Aiding, and Abetting Israel's Occupation

The deadly one-sided support for Israel by U.S. politicians has been far more costly to the American people than they realize, which continues to this day. The financial cost being paid by American taxpayers for supporting Israel has been stated as over one trillion dollars. But that is only part of the picture. The hatred for Americans generated by the support of the brutal occupation of Palestine continues to generate an explosive increase worldwide in people who want to kill Americans. The events of 9/11 are only one day's consequences, and there will be more.

A *Christian Science Monitor* article (December 9, 2004) by economist David Francis stated:

Since 1973, Israel has cost the United States about \$1.6 trillion. Mr. Stauffer has tallied the total cost to the US of its backing of Israel in its drawn-out, violent dispute with the Palestinians. So far, the bill

adds up to more than twice the cost of the Vietnam War. And now Israel wants more.

[Another huge cost is] the higher cost of oil and other economic damage to the US after the Israel-Arab wars. In 1973, for instance, Arab nations attacked Israel in an attempt to win back territories Israel had conquered in the 1967 war. President Nixon resupplied Israel with US arms, triggering the Arab oil embargo against the US.

The shortfall in oil deliveries kicked off a deep recession. The US lost \$240 billion (in 2001 dollars) of output as a result, Stauffer calculates. And a boost in oil prices cost another \$450 billion.

In another article (October 10, 2001) by Charley Reese in *The Palestine Monitor*, the article, titled "Israel Is a Very Costly Ally," stated:

There are several reasons why all Americans should be interested in this issue. First, it is embarrassing that the government of the world's so-called last remaining superpower plays the role of the tail that is wagged by Israel, a nation about the size of New Jersey. Israel's influence in both the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government is so pervasive that Israeli politicians openly boast about it.

A few years ago when Egypt threatened not to renew the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty unless Israel signed it, the Israelis told the Egyptians that if they didn't shut up about the issue, their American aid would be cut off. This is a foreign country telling another foreign country that it, not the United States, has the final say over American aid.

The only nuclear power in the Middle East is Israel. The only country in the Middle East that refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is Israel. The only country in the Middle East that refuses to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities is Israel. Yet, all we hear from Washington politicians is criticism of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction. What weapons? He didn't use any in the Gulf War. Why is there never any criticism of Israel's weapons of mass destructions, which actually exists?

And now we are getting down to the areas where the Middle East actually affects Americans. Israel, armed to the teeth thanks to American taxpayers, continues to occupy Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese lands. It, and it alone, is a threat to peace in that region, and regional war would inevitably affect America's real interests.

Israel is the most expensive ally in the history of the human race. Depending on whose numbers you use, American aid to Israel has totaled \$81 billion to \$90 billion. There are so many monetary favors

tucked away in the Defense Department budget that an accurate number is hard to come by. The \$81 billion figure is the U.S. government's.

There is nothing in the Constitution that authorizes Congress to tax the labor of the American people and hand over the proceeds to a foreign government, any foreign government, much less one that has blown up our diplomatic facilities in Egypt and attacked one of our Navy ships in international waters. An ally like that ought to come a heck of a lot cheaper than Israel.

Finally, our support of Israel's aggression and cruel treatment of the Palestinians is alienating not only the Arab world but the entire Muslim world. This hatred will eventually be expressed in the form of terrorism directed at Americans and at American interests. Terrorism is the poor man's way of waging war.

America's blind support of Israel's gross violations of human rights and international law will not only cost billions of tax dollars but eventually American lives as well. No lobby for any foreign country should be allowed to jeopardize American interests and American lives just to serve the selfish interests of a foreign power. America's government has only one justification for existence, to protect the lives and interests of Americans. It's time to start asking Americans, including our elected officials: Which country are you loyal to?

Another article by the Arms Trade Resources Center<sup>118</sup> (May 6, 2002) described the ramifications of U.S. arms sales-gifts to Israel:

U.S. press coverage of Israeli attacks on the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian towns on the West Bank often treat the U.S. government as either an innocent bystander or an honest broker in the current conflict, often without giving a full sense of the importance of the United States role as a supplier of arms, aid, and military technology to Israel. In its role as Israel's primary arms supplier, the United States could exert significant potential leverage over Israeli behavior in the conflict, if it chooses to do so.

Since 1976, Israel had been the largest annual recipient of U.S. foreign assistance. According to a November 2001 Congressional Research Service report, Israel: U.S. Foreign Assistance, U.S. aid to Israel in the last half century has totaled a whopping \$81.3 billion.

Israel is one of the United State's largest arms importers. In the last decade, the United States has sold Israel \$7.2 billion in weaponry and military equipment. Israel is so devoted to U.S. military hardware that it has the world's largest fleet of F-16s outside the

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Arms Trade Resource Center (ATRC) 6 6 Fifth Ave. 9<sup>th</sup> Fl, New York, NY

U.S., currently possessing more than 200 jets. Another 102 F-16s are on order from Lockheed Martin.

# U.S. Department of Defense statement on Israel, in Joint Report to Congress, January 3, 2001.

"The scale of Israeli attacks on Palestinian towns and refugee camps in the West Bank has been "disproportionate and often reckless," according to a recent Amnesty International report. Amnesty estimates that in the six weeks from March 1, through mid-April [2000], more than 600 Palestinians had been killed and over 3,000 wounded by Israeli soldiers.

The use of U.S. weapons in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian authority was a clear violation of the U.S. Arms Export Control Act prohibiting U. S. weapons from being used for non-defensive purposes. The State Department's *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2001*, released in March 2002, stated that the IDF employed "excessive use of force" against the Palestinians, noting their use of live ammunition, even when not in imminent danger.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan expressed his concern with the use of U.S. weapons by the IDF, saying:

I feel obliged to call your attention to disturbing patterns in the treatment of civilians and humanitarian relief workers by the Israeli Defense Forces. Judging from the means and methods employed by the IDF—F-16 fighter-bombers, helicopter and naval gunships, missiles and bombs of heavy tonnage—the fighting has come to resemble all-out conventional warfare.

In the process, hundreds of innocent noncombatant civilians—men, women, and children—have been injured or killed, and many buildings and homes have been damaged or destroyed. Tanks have been deployed in densely populated refugee camps and in towns and villages; and heavy explosives have been dropped mere meters from schools where thousands of children were in attendance.

## Instances of the IDF's Use of U.S. Weapons against Civilians

Jenin, New York Times, April 18, 2002. "The decaying body of Mr. Khurj's sister appears to be one of the clearest examples to date of a civilian having been killed in an Apache helicopter missile attack. Near the hole in the wall was a pool of dried blood. Mr. Khurj said the missile struck in the middle of the night on the third day of the attack. It killed his sister instantly."

Bethlehem, Washington Post, March 8, 2002. "The Israeli military almost immediately launched more missiles and opened fire with gunboats at official Palestinian buildings in the Gaza Strip, where there were heavy casualties. Israel also sent dozens of tanks and armored personal carriers into Bethlehem, two adjacent Palestinian

refugee camps and a pair of neighboring West Bank towns, bringing full-scale military action to the suburbs of Jerusalem.

## At One Time, Relative Peace Prevailed in the Middle East

Among the Middle East countries in which I resided during the early 1950s, while an airline captain flying Muslim pilgrims to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, were Jerusalem and Ramallah, Jordan, prior to Israel's invasion and occupation of the West Bank. At that time, most Arabs and Persians with whom I was in contact liked Americans, and America

That attitude started to change with the U.S. coup in Iran in 1953 and by Israel's invasion of the West Bank. Ironically, I was in Iran the morning the coup occurred, but had no knowledge that it was brought about by covert White House and CIA actions.

#### **International Court of Justice Ruled Against Israel**

The International Court of Justice ruled (July 9, 2004) that the concrete fence being built by Israel on occupied land violated international law. The ruling also held that Israel must pay reparations to Palestinians who were harmed by the barrier, in addition to returning the land taken by the building of the wall. The court's decision urged the UN Security Council to force Israel to remove the 450-mile barrier. Thirteen of the fifteen-member judicial panel approved the order. The court order stated:

Israel is under an obligation to terminate its breaches of international law; it is under an obligation to cease forthwith the works of construction of the wall being built in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, to dismantle forthwith the structure therein situated.

The fence cannot be justified by military exigencies or by the requirements of national security or public order. The construction of the wall and its associate regime creates a "fait accompli" on the ground that could well become permanent, in which case, and notwithstanding the formal characterization by Israel, it would be tantamount to de facto annexation.

#### Continued Israel Defiance of UN Resolutions

Israel rejected the ruling, just as it had rejected dozens of earlier UN resolutions. Israel held that if there were no terror, there would be no wall. But if Israel were not an invader and occupier, killing Palestinians, destroying their homes, the resistance would not exist.

## **US Repeatedly Blocking UN Peace-Keeping Actions**

U.S. politicians repeatedly blocked the United Nations Security Council from acting to halt Israel aggression that adversely affected peace. The General Assembly of the United Nations voted to require Israel to comply with the ruling by the International Court of Justice,

which required Israel to remove the wall that it built in the occupied West Bank that it had seized in 1967 from Jordan. The court requested the United Nations to override the usual U.S. veto in the UN Security Council when matters relating to Israel arose.

The UN General Assembly had issued dozens of resolutions condemning Israel, but these were not binding. To be binding, the UN Security Council must issue the resolutions, and any *one* of the eight permanent members may veto any such action. And that *one* was the United States. In 2004, the United States had vetoed over 35 Security Council resolutions directed toward Israel, and primarily its brutal occupation of the occupied land.

The International Court of Justice held that it had jurisdiction over the Israel matter because the United States had repeatedly blocked the UN Security Council from acting on matters constituting threats to international peace. It was the position of the court that the UN General Assembly had the power to act when the actions of the Security Council was blocked by abusive vetoes of one of the permanent members: the United States.

The court held that "the United Nations, and especially the General Assembly and the Security Council, should consider what further action is required to bring to an end the illegal situation resulting from the construction of the wall [in the occupied territory]." The court held that it was OK to build a wall on its own territory, but not on the occupied land of another country.

## **UN Resolution Demanding Israel Tear Down the Wall**

The UN General Assembly approved a resolution (July 20, 2004) that Israel tear down the wall and pay compensation to Palestinians adversely affected by the wall, carrying out the order by the International Court of Justice. As in dozens of prior UN resolutions directed at Israel, that resolution was ignored. Israel's UN Ambassador Dan Gillerman responded that the resolution was "one-sided and counterproductive. An Associated Press article, titled, "Barrier grows despite ruling, U.N. resolution," stated:

The General Assembly's 150-6 vote, with 10 abstentions, reflected widespread international opposition to the 425-mile-long barrier Israel says is needed to protect its citizens from suicide bombings. About 100 miles of the barrier already have been built.

Palestinians contend the barrier is a land grab meant to deprive them of a state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In some areas where the barrier already has been built, Palestinians have been cut off from their schools and farms as well as other towns and villages.

The UN resolution, like the world court's advisory opinion, is

not legally binding. But both have symbol value as international statements of support for the barrier's destruction. "It's an advisory opinion, that's true, but the court identified the legal obligations of Israel, the occupying power, as well as the leg al obligations on member states as a who le," Palestinian U.N. observer Nasser Al-Kidwa said.

Israel's Supreme Court, in a ruling meant to apply to the entire structure, said the barrier violated international law and human rights in areas where it cuts Palestinians off from their lands, schools and other towns. The high court ruling has forced the government to reroute nearly the entire unbuilt portion of the barrier. Most of the structure would be moved closer to the so-called Green Line, the unofficial frontier before Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 Middle East war, officials said.

The opposition to this resolution by U.S. politicians was that the matter should be resolved by political negotiations. This was a sham excuse; Israel had occupied the Palestinian areas for over 40 years, since 1967, and continued building permanent Jewish settlements in the occupied land, showing it had no intention of ever abandoning the seized territory.

## **Another Reason for Attacks Upon the United States**

Prior to the US invasion of Iraq, Osama bin Laden had frequently stated the reason for attacking U.S. interests was the deadly support given to Israel, and for the US military presence in Saudi Arabia. But he wasn't alone. Numerous other Muslim groups declared jihad against the United States and America for the same reasons. Muslims throughout the Middle East resented having American troops occupying their land, just as Americans would object to having another country, Mexico for instance, having its troops stationed in the United States.

# **Impact on Refugees**

A *New York Times* article (August 7, 2002) headlined, "Israel gets OK to ruin houses. Court allows action in time of war without warning." The article stated:

Saying Israel was in the middle of a war [military occupation of the West Bank], the [Israel] Supreme Court gave the army approval to destroy without notice the homes of 43 families related to suicide bombers."

# Nader Stated White House and Congress Puppets of Israel?

Nader's comments about Israel were quoted in the *Washington Post* (August 13, 2004):

The days when the chief Israeli puppeteer comes to the United States and meets with the puppet in the White House and then proceeds to

Capitol Hill, where he meets with hundreds of other puppets, should be replaced.

### **U.S. Politicians Ignoring Primary**

# **Breeding Ground for Terrorists: Israel Occupation of Palestine**

U.S. politicians had been covering up for the primary breeding ground for terrorists, Israel's invasion and brutal treatment of the occupied territory, and the many crimes perpetrated by Israel.

In an interview appearing in the *Reporters Notebook*, retired brigadier general and graduate of the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College, National Defense University, Washington, D.C. James J. David, stated, as he referred to Israel, that the country was the only one in the Middle East:

- That had nuclear weapons.
- That had seized the sovereign territory of another nation and was occupying it by military force, in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions.
- Who admitted that unarmed prisoners were tortured and executed.
- That assassinated a high-ranking UN diplomat.
- That blew up an American diplomatic facility in Egypt.
- That attacked a U.S. warship, USS Liberty, for hours, killing 34 U.S. service personnel and wounding almost 200.
- That used spies, such as Jonathan Pollard, to spy on the United States.
- That had the second most powerful lobby in the United States according to a Fortune magazine survey of Washington insiders.
- That routinely and knowingly kills innocent women and children in its occupied territory.
- That had repeatedly defied 69 UN Security Council resolutions, and protected Israel from 29 others by exercising veto power.
- That received over one-third of all U.S. aid.
- That received weapons from the United States to kill innocent men, women and children in the occupied territory.
- Was cited by Amnesty International for demolishing over 4,000 homes in Palestine.
- That dropped powerful explosives into heavily populated areas in the occupied territory, killing large numbers of civilians, including children.
- That refused to sign the Oslo Accords requiring the halt of Jewish settlements in the occupied territory.

# Israel's Leader Charged with War Crimes

Belgium's highest court ruled that Belgium could try Prime Minister

Ariel Sharon for war crimes once he left office. (*New York Times*, February 14, 2003) The article stated:

Israel recalled its ambassador from Brussels, while Mr. Netanyahu summoned Belgium's ambassador to Israel to receive a protest. Human rights groups were delighted by the Belgium court's decision. They hailed it as permitting victims of genocide and war crimes to pursue justice regardless of where the crimes took place. The Israeli case is one of many pending in Belgium that involve alleged violations of human rights.

Mr. Sharon and a senior official in the Defense Ministry, Amos Yaron, are being sued by survivors of a 1982 massacre of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon by Lebanese Christian militias, who were backed by Israeli forces. Mr. Sharon was Israel's defense minister at the time of the massacre in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

An Israeli commission later held Mr. Sharon indirectly responsible. He resigned his post but was not prosecuted.

In an interview, Mr. Netanyahu said that the court's ruling was a blow to the idea of international law, warning that American officials risked a similar fate over wars in Afghanistan or even Vietnam.

At issue is a 1993 Belgian law allowing the courts "universal jurisdiction" over crimes against humanity or war crimes. The court's ruling on Wednesday accorded serving high officials immunity, but implied that they could be pursued once they left office.

Look at what the United States has helped Israel acquire. Nuclear weapons (denied to every other small country); warplanes, tanks, heavy weapons.

## Sacrificing U.S. Interests for Israel and their Own

In essence, U.S. politicians have sacrificed the welfare of the United States and its citizens to cover up for Israel—and ensure their own political survival.

## **Blowback from Earlier Covert Activities**

Involvement by U.S. leaders in foreign activities has a 50-year history of harmful blowback consequences. One of the first Middle East countries that came to hate America was Iran. The United States secretly undermined the Iranian government in the early 1950s, bringing about the 1953 revolution that removed Mossadegh and placed the Shah in control.

I remember the morning very well. I and several other pilots were in Iran when the CIA-directed revolution occurred, straying at a hotel in Abadan. While sitting in the lobby, I noticed a great amount of excitement at the front desk. Hotel personnel were listening to the radio and occasionally removing the picture of Mossadegh that hung on the wall behind the check-in counter and replacing it with the picture of the Shah. This exchange happened several times. As I watched the increasing tension, I was approached by a Dutch national who was hired as director of security. He said we should leave immediately and he would provide a machine-gun escort to our plane. It took us about ten minutes to pack!

## Blowback: Hatred for U.S. and Seizure of American Hostages

This White House-CIA-directed revolution later resulted in another revolution in 1979 and the seizure of 52 American hostages in Teheran at the American embassy. The American hostages were held for 444 days and resulted in the covert operation called October Surprise, which subverted the presidential elections in the United States. I detail this operation in *Defrauding America*, based upon the statements made to me by CIA people who were part of the operation.

Basically, October Surprise was a scheme involving the CIA and people from both political parties who paid money and secretly provided millions of dollars of military equipment to Iran, without the knowledge of President Jimmy Carter. They were sabotaging his presidency.

The sole purpose of the money and military supplies was to delay the

release of the hostages until after the presidential elections between President Carter and presidential candidate Ronald Reagan and his running mate, the senior George Bush. It was felt that if the hostages were released prior to the elections, President Carter might win.

Key Iranian personnel were given money, military weapons, and promised considerably more weapons, for *delaying* the release of the American hostages. These weapons, which included chemical weapons, were later used against Iraq.

Years later, young President Bush called Iran a member of the axis of evil, ignoring the role of his father in subverting U.S. interests as a key figure in October Surprise.

# Afghanistan Tragedies: Blowback from Earlier Covert Activities

Former CIA asset Gunther Russbacher provided me massive amounts of insider information on covert activities. Among those covert activities were secret U.S. efforts to destabilize Afghanistan, which then resulted in the Afghan government requesting the help of Soviet Union troops in fighting the CIA-armed rebels. Russbacher described how the CIA funded and armed the rebels.

Russbacher described how the Afghan government was attempting to modernize and country bring it into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, including land reform and greater rights for women and other groups. These actions were opposed by large landowners and religious groups, none of whom wanted modern western style freedoms. Also, the progressive Afghan leader was developing ties with the Soviet Union.

Russbacher was in Afghanistan when Dan Rather was reporting from the Khyber Pass area.

## **Dual Purpose of Destabilizing Afghanistan**

There was a dual purpose in destabilizing Afghanistan. One was the off-the-shelf covert activity against a country with leanings toward the Soviet Union, a nearby neighbor. Another reason was to control Afghanistan so as to permit an oil and gas pipeline to be built for U.S. oil companies. Central Asia, including Afghanistan, is landlocked, and the peferred way to get oil and gas resources available to U.S. corporations was to build a pipeline through Afghanistan to the Red Sea. With a government in Afghanistan friendly to the Soviet Union, there would be less chance for western oil giants to acquire such rights, or so the reasoning went.

### Afghan Government Invited Soviet Troops to Defend the Country Against CIA-Backed Rebels

Russbacher described how the covert CIA funding of terrorist activities caused the Afghan government to request the Soviet Union to send troops into Afghanistan to defend the government. In this way, U.S. poli-

cies caused the Soviet Union to enter Afghanistan, followed by further and greatly increased funding and arming of the rebels, leading to years of wars and unrest that continues to this date.

After the Soviet troops arrived, President Jimmy Carter signed an executive order providing additional support for the rebels fighting the Afghan government and the Soviets. The United States flew thousands of fighters to Great Britain and the United States, where they were taught to kill, sabotage, and fight, calling them at that time, "freedom fighters," and later. "terrorists."

## **Admitting the Covert Activities**

Carter's national security advisor at that time, Zbigniew Brzezinski, later stated: "We didn't push the Russians to intervene, but we consciously increased the probability that they would do so. This secret operation was an excellent idea. Its effect was to draw the Soviets into the Afghan trap." Brzezinski wrote to Carter, "Now we can give the USSR its own Vietnam War."

The simplistic thinking happened time and time again, again in the over-hyped threat of communism. In Korea, 38,000 U.S. servicemen were sacrificed on this mentality; in Vietnam, 58,000; and who knows how many people in the countries that were invaded and subverted by orders of White House politicians.

#### Taliban a Product of U.S. and Pakistan Actions

After the Soviets pulled left Afghanistan in 1989, the rebels, now more heavily armed than before, eventually brought down the Afghan government and then fought each other. The Taliban, funded and armed by Pakistan, then took over. With the Taliban's takeover, basic civil liberties were destroyed, women were excluded from most social activities, and women were publicly executed. The Taliban welcomed Osama bin Laden and his followers, who were also trained and armed by the United States.

The United States continued to provide financial support to the Taliban on the thinking by U.S. leaders that they would be receptive to U.S. interests. The reverse became true, primarily because of the U.S. one-sided support of Israel.

# Reconfirming What Russbacher Said Years Earlier

When Russbacher described his Afghanistan experiences years earlier I paid less attention to some of the details. But after the United States carpet-bombed much of Afghan, I asked Russbacher, who was then living in France, certain questions about how the decades of hostilities in Afghan started. I seem to recall that he had stated to me over ten years earlier that the CIA had been destabilizing the Communist-backed government in Afghanistan, which then forced the Afghan government to ask

the Soviet Union to send in troops.

Russbacher confirmed that fact and that other CIA agents were in Afghanistan encouraging, funding, arming, rebels to fight the government that was forming ties with the nearby Soviet Union. These CIAfunded subversive actions were destabilizing the government, and it was then that the government asked the Soviet Union for military help. Some portions of the September 16, 2002, conversation are shown here:

Was the CIA furnishing funds, arms, and training to people in RS: Afghanistan seeking to overthrow the king of Afghanistan?

GR: Yes they were. The guy that was running the operation, as far as arms shipments and things like that, was Stan Barker (sp).

RS: He was CIA, I presume.

No, he was DIA. [Defense Intelligence Agency] GR:

RS: Do you know how long this was going on before the Soviet military went into Afghanistan?

About 36 months. GR:

RS: Apparently the CIA was unhappy about the King having ties to the Soviet Union?

GR: Precisely. They were backing one or two factions trying to take over the country.

## **Carpet Bombing and Killing Innocent Peasants**

After 9/11, the carpet-bombing of Afghanistan by U.S. bombers flying at high altitude knowingly killed thousands of innocent peasants in one of the poorest nations on earth. Virtually none of the terrorists involved in terrorist actions against the United States were killed. Babies and children in their mud houses were killed or maimed. None of them had anything to do with Osama bin Laden. The camps used by bin Laden had been abandoned earlier and had relocated to other countries, including Yemen, Somalia, and elsewhere.

## **Post-Invasion Chaos**

s repeatedly warned, President Bush's ordering U.S. military to invade Iraq would have serious repercussions. The Iraqis did not greet the invading U.S. soldiers with open arms. The number of people taking up arms to fight the invading U.S. personnel exploded in numbers. No banned weapons were found. White House politicians and their shills shifted their excuses for the invasion, claiming that the invasion—and the tens of thousands of innocent people killed—was justified to get rid of Saddam Hussein. And the American people who supported the invasion, now started to feel the blowback consequences, though only infinitesimal in comparison to the main victims of what major segments of the American people had supported.

## **Shifting Blame to the Analysts**

The Bush group tried to shift the blame from their prior outright lying by stating they were given false information. They were repeatedly given the truth, which was easily available on the Internet, but they pressured key people to tell them what they wanted to hear. CIA director Tenet, with a long political background in Washington, and little experience in intelligence, stated what Bush wanted to hear. This recognition was clear to those being asked to provide information. Prior to the invasion of Iraq, reliable information was on the Internet showing the statements made by the White House politicians were false.

# Ignoring the Dire Warnings from Many Professional Sources

Many experienced sources, with decades of experience, warned of the dire consequences of invading Iraq. However, Bush, with no experience or knowledge of international affairs, and who didn't believe in reading, stated otherwise.

#### Invasion would be, and was, an Illegal Act, Said United Nations

The United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan had repeatedly stated that the U.S. invasion of Iraq was illegal; it violated international law; and in violation of the United Nations charter. During a radio interview on the British Broadcasting Corporation (September 15, 2004), the Secretary General again stated in response to questions that the invasion of Iraq was an illegal act. He further stated that the UN resolution never authorized invading Iraq, and that "it was up to the Security Council to approve or determine what the consequences would be for Iraq's noncompliance with earlier resolutions." Annan continued:

I have stated clearly that it was not in conformity with the Security Council, with the U.N. Charter. From our point of view and from the charter point of view, [the invasion of Iraq] was illegal." I'm one of those who believe that there should have been a second resolution, because it was up to the Security Council to approve or determine what the consequences should be for Iraq's [alleged] non-compliance with earlier resolutions. I have stated clearly that it was not in conformity with the Security Council, with the U.N. Charter. It was illegal. From our point of view and from the charter point of view, it was illegal.

A spokeswoman for France's President Jacques Chirac stated: "Mr. Annan's views conformed with the French view. We consider the action as illegitimate." (*New York Times*, September 17, 2004)

## Bush's Happy talk

Bush's speeches were filled with feel-good words such as freedom, democracy, and God's will. He frequently stated, "So long as we hold dear to our freedoms, the enemy will hate us, because they hate freedom." The results of his lying were deadly.

## **Terrible Death Count Resulting from Presidential Lies**

"100,000 Died in Iraq War," was the title on a *Baltimore Sun* article: Researchers who conducted a house-to-house survey of Iraqi families estimated that at least 100,000 civilians died as a result of the U.S.-led invasion. The projection compares with previous estimates of 10,000 to 30,000 Iraqi civilian deaths. Designed by John Hopkins public health scientists and carried out by teams of Iraqi doctors, the study attributed most of the deaths to military actions by coalition forces [United States].

The findings appeared Thursday on the Web site of the Lancet, a leading British medical journal. Scientists said the dead civilians, mostly women and children, were largely the unintended victims of air strikes, shellings and other coalition actions.

#### **Bush Group Slowly Changing Their Basis for Invading Iraq**

As continued repeating of the false claims for invading Iraq tortured the truth to its outer limit, the Bush group then changed their reasons for the invasion from weapons of mass destruction. They claimed the invasion was justified to remove Saddam Hussein from power. Thousands of dead Iraqis, thousands of U.S. military personnel killed or wounded, worldwide explosion of people wanting to kill Americans, hundreds of billions of dollars in costs, just to name a few of the consequences, to remove the leader of a sovereign Middle East county, and the president of the United States considered that proper! Doesn't say much for those who voted for the man and continued supporting him and his conduct.

Saddam Hussein was a tyrant to those who threatened his regime. Not to support his harsh measures, but on the other hand, Iraq was one of the most advanced countries in the Middle East; women were the most liberated of any surrounding country, and he certainly wasn't any threat to the United States. He was getting older, and started spending his time writing novels. Further, invading a country and killing thousands of its citizens to eliminate a ruler who for the first time in decades ruled over a relatively peaceful society didn't make sense.

#### **Brutal Methods Necessary to Maintain Peace?**

Some Middle East experts felt that the numerous tribes and factions in Iraq would not permit a democratic form of government, and that it takes a strong ruler with sufficient power to snuff out those who seek to overthrow the government. They argue that former rulers in Iraq, Nuries Said in 1958 and General Abdel Karim Kassem in 1963, were overthrown and killed because they were not sufficiently ruthless.

## Many Countries Needing Bush's Utopia

If the war-mongers were actually concerned about bringing about utopia in other countries, there were far worse ones to address. Further, White House politicians have secretly aided, funded, and armed, countries in the past ruled by despot dictators.

Claims that Iraq was building a nuclear weapon were repeatedly made by the Bush team. The United States requires massive facilities for building nuclear weapons, and no such massive facilities existed in Iraq. Further, if Iraq had such a weapon, and used it, the country's leaders surely had enough street-smarts to know they would be annihilated by the United States that had thousands of nuclear weapons.

Bush and his war mongers had their wish. They used the office of the presidency and the military to invade Iraq. With this they accomplished the following, among other things:

- Killed tens of thousands of Iraqis men, women, children, and infants by U.S. forces.
- Brought about the deaths and maiming of over 10,000 Americans.

- Succeeded in destroying much of Iraq, including entire cities, such as Falluja.
- Destroyed many utilities, resulting in loss of electrical power, water, and sewage.
- Explosive increase in numbers of terrorists wanting to kill Americans
- Worldwide loss of respect, and anger against the United States.
- Multi-billions of dollars diverted from Social Security and other social safeguards, most of it borrowed from other nations, for which future generations of Americans will be paying.
- Greatly reduced Iraq's oil output, resulting in dramatic increases in the price of oil for Americans. This dramatic increase in the price of oil for Americans also resulted from the first Gulf War, brought about by massive funding and arming of Iraq.
- Start of civil war in Iraq, the end of which is unknown at this time, but which will adversely affect most Americans, including those who would be killed so as to placate the war mongers and their supporters in and out of government—including those who voted and support the Bush administration.
- And other tragedies yet to follow.



Major city of Falluja laid to waste by U.S. Military

#### Scenario If the Invasion of Iraq Had Not Occurred

A very different scenario would have occurred if a president was in office that had background experience, integrity, and who acted in the interest of the United States and justice for everyone, inside and outside the United States. For instance:

- Tens of thousands of innocent Iraqi would not have been murdered.
- Civil unrest, anarchy, would not have occurred in Iraq.
- The massive buildup of people wanting to kill Americans and destroy American interests would not have occurred.
- Thousands of American military personnel would not have been killed and maimed.
- Iraq's oil production would not have been crippled, allowing Iraq to export oil, and thereby prevent the massive increase in the cost of oil that added further billions to U.S. indebtedness.
- The United States would not be held in contempt by people throughout the world.
- The massive direct and indirect costs imposed upon Americans from the invasion of Iraq would not have occurred, which can very easily result in a depression like the 1930s, but accompanied this time with rioting and anarchy in the United States.
- United Nations inspections would have continued, keeping Iraq from acquiring any prohibited weapons.

# **Juvenile Thinking of Second President Bush**

After President Bush II invaded Iraq, Osama bin Laden was given a prize that he would have otherwise been difficult to achieve: explosive growth in the numbers of Muslims throughout the world seeking to kill Americans. Shortly after the 9/11 hijackings, President Bush stated that the reasons the terrorists hated America was because "we are so good," and that terrorists hated the United States because of its freedoms and its values. That type of simplistic and incorrect statement became common rhetoric, filled in with grand-sounding words like freedom, democracy, and world peace.

# The Scenario if U.S. Politicians Had Not Funded, Armed, and Supported Israel's Militancy

If U.S. politicians had not co-opted U.S. interests by Israel's control over the U.S. political process, the following differences would probably have occurred:

- The war-like confrontations between Israel and Palestinians would probably not have occurred.
- The primary basis for Middle East terrorism against the United States would not have existed

- Such terrorist attacks as the hijackings of four airliners on 9/11 would probably not have happened.
- Billions of dollars spent on these matters—or is it trillions—would not have occurred, and U.S. social programs and infrastructure improvements in the United States could have been made.
- The lives of Americans would be much changed. Younger people don't know how relatively peaceful life was in the United States before U.S. politicians and CIA people started their subversion of foreign countries, the invasions of foreign countries, and the many other corrupt activities inflicted upon the American people themselves.

## Pathetic Show of Intelligence by the U.S. President

Some of the dumb statements made by President George Bush after he took office indicated his lack of knowledge, judgment, and experience, included the following:

- "The terrorists hate us because we are so good."
- Stating he was funding a program to convert all airliners to where someone on the ground could take over the control of the aircraft and prevent the pilots from controlling the aircraft.
- "Bring them on" statement in reference to the terrorists. They took his challenge, and they did come on, killing many Americans!

#### A Look in the Mirror—

#### How Things *Really* are in the United States

Besides the obvious stupidity of such statements, let's take a look at how good things really are in the United States:

- Massive rioting and killings in cities when court decisions do not please the black population.
- Riots at ball games and rock concerts.
- Widespread corruption in the business sector and on Wall Street, including savings and loans, banks, Wall Street security and bond firms, insurance companies, analysts, and others
- Massive corruption in the federal bankruptcy courts that strip people of their life assets when they exercise the statutory protections of Chapter 11 and Chapter 13.
- Massive corruption in the federal and state courts.
- Practice of charging innocent people with crimes and then using known perjured testimony to incarcerate innocent defendants.
- Drug users knowingly funding organized crime and terrorism by their drug use.
- Widespread pattern of corruption in government offices.
- Decades of subverting foreign countries.
- Invading Vietnam on sham charges of being attacked, and then bombing Laos and Cambodia.

- Invading Grenada on sham charges.
- Invading Panama on charges that Manuel Noriega was dealing in drugs, while the U.S. was also dealing in drugs—with Noriega.
- Distributing millions of land mines, and opposing the international treaty banning land mines.
- Planning to assassinate foreign leaders, including Fidel Castro.
- Decades of CIA liaison with organized crime figures.
- FBI agents in Boston and New York divulging to organized crime figures the names of government informants, knowing they would be murdered, and known to top people in Washington, for decades.
- Drug smuggling by CIA personnel, with heavy White House involvement during the Iran-Contra operations.
- Standard pattern of retaliation against government personnel who expose corruption in judicial and government offices.
- Anarchy from certain segments in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina, instead of assisting in saving lives.
- The many other areas of corruption detailed in my other books, especially *Defrauding America* and *Drugging America*.

#### Absence of Shame

Americans should be ashamed that they have such a leader. Those who voted for such a leader, and especially those who voted a second time for him, should be especially ashamed, assuming they had the intelligence to recognize what they had done.

## Repeating the False Statements Years After Proven False

Years after they were proven false, the Bush group and their shills continued to repeat the same false statements, apparently relying upon the refusal of the media to challenge them, and the naiveté of a majority of the American people. These blatantly false statements included:

- The aluminum tubes purchased by Iraq were suitable for the production of nuclear weapons.
- Iraq had an active chemical and biological production.
- Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.
- Iraq had ties with Al Qaeda and was complicit in the 9/11 attacks.
- Saddam Hussein was a threat to his neighbors
- Iraq had obtained yellow cake material from Niger.
- The world would be safer without Saddam Hussein in power.
- Iraq had the aircraft capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction to the United States (which consisted of a crude single engine aircraft that could probably not make it from the southern to the northern end of Iraq.

• The United States would experience a nuclear mushroom cloud if the United States didn't promptly invade Iraq.

#### Which Head of State Lied, and Which One Told the Truth?

Another pathetic side to all this is the honesty displayed by Saddam Hussein as he repeatedly stated Iraq had no prohibited weapons, while the president of the United States engaged in repeated lying.

#### Other Areas of Blame: Those Who

#### Repeated the Lies, and Those Who Voted for the Liar

On November 2, 2004, with over 50 percent of the people voting, over 159 million, the American people knowingly elected a president who had repeatedly lied to them, and who fostered a never-before-seen growth of people willing to kill Americans.

Showing their blatant ignorance, the reason given by some of them was that they voted for Bush because—believe it or not—he was fighting terrorism, for his integrity, and his religious values. Apparently they never heard of snake-oil salesmen. Bush's supporters called them "value voters." Surely better definitions would be more appropriate. I had said for years that many people would vote for the brutal dictator, Idi Amin, (called the butcher of Africa), if he promised the majority of voters something *they* wanted—like one-issue voters.

Many people who voted for Bush's reelection voted for beliefs that were the very opposite of what the president *actually* stood for. People voting for presidential candidates were pathetically uninformed of major facts associated with the candidates. The only information any of the people had were the sound bites given to the candidates by their speechwriters, and how well the candidate repeated them. Many who voted for President Bush cited such beliefs as values, honesty, and protection against terrorism, when the facts clearly showed the reverse.

#### Failure of Democrats to Address the Grave Misconduct

Most Democratic politicians failed, or refused, to address the lying and the criminal nature of what was being done to the United States by the White House group. Helping to funnel support against presidential contender Kerry were the actions by the Massachusetts Supreme Court legalizing marriage between same-sex people, and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom.

Presidential candidates Gore and then Kerry wasn't exactly presidential material and a podium of truth, but their selection would have been the better of two evils, and the United States would not be in the grave position that developed if anyone but Bush had been elected.

## **Analysis of Bush Backers**

"Truth matters not to Bush Backers," was the title of a *Rocky Mountain News* article (October 30, 2004). It stated:

Survey shows 'considerable confusion' over facts among president's supporters. Two recent reports from the Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) at the University of Maryland show remarkable confusion in the public mind, particularly among Bush supporters.

The PIPA/Knowledge Networks survey in September and October shows that even after the final report of Charles Duelfer to Congress saying that Iraq did not have a significant WMD program, 72 percent of Bush supporters continued to believe that Iraq had actual WMD or a major program for developing them. Fifty-seven percent assumed, in correctly, that Duelfer concluded Iraq had at least a major WMD program. Kerry supporters hold opposites, and correct, beliefs on all these points.

Seventy-five percent of Bush supporters continue to believe that Iraq provided substantial support to al-Qaida, and 63 percent believed that clear evidence of this support has been found. Fifty-five percent assumed, incorrectly, that this was the conclusion of the 9/11 commission. Here again, large majorities of Kerry supporters have exactly opposite perceptions. In fact, according to the report on PIPA's Web site: "Kerry supporters are much more accurate in assessing their candidate's positions on all these issues."

In one truly bizarre finding, the research found that 57 percent of Bush supporters assume that the majority of the world favors his reelection. According to recent international research in 10 countries, reported in the British newspaper, The Guardian on Oct. 15, that the world has "made up its mind, backing (Kerry) by a margin of 2 to 1." A recent survey by leading newspapers in 10 countries concluded that "a majority of voters share a rejection of the Iraq invasion, contempt for the Bush administration, a growing hostility to the U.S. and a none-too-strong endorsement of Mr. Kerry."

As to what it tells us about the Bush supporters, Steven Kull, director of PIPA argues: "To support the president and to accept that he took the U.S. to war based on mistaken assumptions likely creates substantial cognitive dissonance, and leads Bush supporters to suppress awareness of unsettling information about prewar Iraq."

Cognitive dissonance is defined as "a state of psychological conflict or anxiety resulting from a contradiction between a person's simultaneously held beliefs or attitudes."

I suspect, however, that for this group there is another, more troubling explanation, which is that "facts" and "truth—the very coin of the realm for news media—don't matter. And this is because in Bush's "faith-based presidency" they don't matter either.

In a remarkable profile of the Bush administration in The New York Times Magazine, it was clear from comments by people who work in the White House that "belief" was the fundamental organizing principle of the Bush White House. Those in residence were simply expected to believe in the wisdom—no doubt divinely ordained—of the president. Former Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Todd Whitman was quoted as saying that: "In meetings, I'd ask if there were any facts to support our case. And for that I was accused of disloyalty."

Bruce Bartlett, a Republican who worked for Bush senior, speaks of how officials were expected to trust in Bush's "instincts." He adds: "This instinct he's always talking about is this sort of weird, messianic idea of what he thinks God has told him to do."

A Bush aide is quoted as saying to one journalist that people like him, the journalist, live in the "reality-based community," people who worry about observable facts whereas the Bushites live in a different universe, a place where belief shapes reality."

How curious that we are led by a figure driven by the same kind of religious zealotry as those he tries so hard to kill.

These are not small matters, since this mood, if I can call it that, flies in the face of everything for which this Republic is supposed to stand.

#### **Reelection Fanned Bush's Delusions**

While Iraq was in chaos and entering a civil war, with the danger of the entire Middle East erupting, Bush stated in his victory speech:

Our military has brought justice to the enemy and honor to America. Our nation has defended itself and served the freedom of all mankind. I'm proud to lead such an amazing country, and I'm proud to lead it forward.

Because we have done the hard work, we are entering a season of hope. We will help the emerging democracies of Iraq and Afghanistan so they can grow in strength and defend their freedom. And then our servicemen and women will come home with the honor they have earned. With good allies at our side, we will fight this war on terror with every resource of our national power so our children can live in freedom and in peace.

A *New York Times* article by columnist Thomas L. Friedman (January 2005), stated what people in Europe thought of President Bush:

Let me put this as bluntly as I can: There is nothing that the Europeans want to hear from George Bush; there is nothing that they will listen to from George Bush that will change their minds about him or the Iraq war or U.S. foreign policy.

Mr. Bush is more widely and deeply disliked in Europe than any

U.S. president in history. Many young Europeans blame Mr. Bush for making America, since 9/11, into a strange new land that exports fear more than hope, and has become dark and brooding, a place whose greeting to visitors has gone from "Give me your tired, your poor" to "Give me your fingerprints." They look at Mr. Bush as someone who stole something precious from them.

#### **Ralph Nader's Comments on President Bush**

Ralph Nader, speaking in Berkeley, California (January 2005), criticized a segment of the America people as he said:

If you cannot beat a president that plunged our nation into a war that was unconstitutional, what good are you? What do you expect to give the American people? Democrats, he said, sit in silence, willing to settle for candidates who don't champion their real progressive beliefs.

### "How can 59,054,087 People Be So Dumb?"

When the 2004 presidential election results were known, the headline in London's *Daily Mirror* read: "How can 59,054,087 People Be So Dumb?" The *Guardian* newspaper in London titled an article:" John Wilkes Booth, Lee Harvey Oswald, John Hinckley Jr.—where are you now?"

## One Columnist Had a Knack for Calling a Spade a Spade

Syndicate columnist Molly Ivins had a knack for calling a spade a spade. In one of her articles (November 7, 2004) she wrote:

Do you known how to cure a chicken-killin' dog? [Take out] one of the chicks the dog has killed and wire the thing around the dog's neck. And leave it there until that dead chick stinks so bad that no other dog or person will even go near that poor beast. Thing' smells so bad the dog won't be able to stand himself.

The Bush administration is going to be wired around the neck of the American people for four more years, long enough for the stench to sicken everybody. It should cure the country of electing Republicans. And at least Democrats won't have to clear up after him until it is real clear to everyone who made the mess.

In Texas, we've been losing elections to the demagogic triad of God, gays and guns long enough to be pretty cynical about how it works out. I'm sure millions of Americans voted for George W. under the honest impression that he stands for moral values—family, patriotism, faith in God. I'm sure it's the Democrat's fault that such a silly ruse is allowed to stand.

## **Another Classic Article by Molly Ivins**

"One good lie deserves another," wrote Molly Ivins in a January 14,

2005, syndicated column article:

Cheez, I go to all this trouble not to call the president of the United States a liar—perhaps misinformed, did not seem to know about, no one has told him, etc.—and then he just comes flat out with a whopper.

One of those very good reasons [for not believing Bush] is the Bush administration's record on veracity. The last time the Bushies whipped up a crisis was over weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Even the administration has finally quit pretending it is still looking for the nonexistent WMD: The inspectors were recalled before Christmas. No one in the administration was fired over the huge lie about WMD—Bush just gave George Tenet the Medal of Freedom. Colin Powell, the only Cabinet member who opposed the folly of Iraq, was asked to resign.

# Medal of Freedom to Those Whose Lies Resulted in Catastrophic Harm to the United States

After winning reelection, President Bush bestowed the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, upon three of the most gregarious liars (December 14, 2004): Former CIA director George Tenet—who provided the false information Bush wanted to support Bush's invasion of Iraq; General Tommy R. Franks—who led Bush's invasion of Iraq; and L. Paul Bremer III—who was in charge of the occupation that turned into chaos.

Bush stated, "Today this honor goes to three men who have played pivotal roles in great events and whose efforts have made our country more secure, and advanced the cause of human liberty."

In similar fashion, after the debacle by FEMA head Michael Brown, that resulted in hundreds of needless deaths, Bush praised Brown's performance.

## Nominating Condoleezza Rice to be Secretary of State

Despite the blatant lying by National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice—or maybe because of it—Bush nominated her to be Secretary of State after Colin Powell resigned. In that position she could inflict even greater harm upon national interests. Senator Dianne Feinstein said of Rice: "I would submit that Dr. Rice has the skill, the judgment, and the poise and the leadership to lead in these difficult times." Female protecting female is one thing, but surely this was too much!

During Rice's appearance before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, her grandiose sounding, devoid of reality, statements, included:

Sept. 11, 2001, was a defining moment for our nation and for the world. Under the vision and leadership of President Bush, our nation

has risen to meet the challenges of our time: fight tyranny and terror, and security the blessings of freedom and prosperity for a new generation.

The work that America and our allies have undertaken, and the sacrifices we have made, have been difficult and necessary and right. Now is the time to build on these achievements to make the world safer, and to make the world more free. We must use American diplomacy to help create a balance of power in the world that favors freedom. And the time for diplomacy is now.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing for Condoleezza Rice was polite political theatre. Almost all of the committee members said nice things about Rice and ignored—or supported—the series of lies that proved so deadly in Iraq and to many Americans.

# Nominating the Promoter of Torture to Attorney General

President Bush nominated for attorney general, Alberto R. Gonzales, the lawyer responsible for approving torture of detainees that had such a devastating worldwide reaction. Bush could not have picked a worst candidate for the position requiring respect for the laws and Constitution of the United States.

Gonzales was opposed on the basis that as White House counsel, he participated in preparing a memorandum that said President Bush could ignore international treaties prohibiting torture, could ignore and violate the federal anti-torture laws, because the president had the authority to approve any practice needed to protect the nation. Instead of a president guided by law and the Constitution, he could act as a despot dictator!

Gonzales stated in that memorandum that officials in the executive and military would be immune from internal and international restrictions against torture. One basis would be that they were acting on orders from their superiors. In another memorandum, Gonzales stated that the Geneva Conventions were not applicable to U.S. conduct in Afghanistan. Using those arguments, people under Hitler, who were hung after World War II, should have been set free!

Gonzales obtained a legal opinion from the assistant attorney general at the Justice Department, Jay Bybee, arguing that President Bush could suspend the Geneva Conventions and authorize torture of detainees. Gonzales approved the memo authorizing this departure.

# Very Few Spoke Out Criticizing Bush's Appointments

During the confirmation process in January 2005 for Condoleezza Rice as Secretary of State, very few members of Congress filed objections to her appointment. Senators Barbara Boxer and Kerry were the main ones, and particularly Boxer who spelled out some of the lying by Rice while she was the National Security Advisor. Despite her continued

repeating of the lies, all the Republicans, and most of the Democrat senators, voted to have her head the sensitive Secretary of State position.

## The weakest and worse Secretary of State in Memory

Senator Boxer of California, in direct reverse of California Senator Feinstein, stated during the confirmation hearing for Condoleezza Rice:

So we are to have a new Secretary of State who dreadfully misjudged the terrorist threat leading up to 9/11 and then misled America and the world about the case for invading Iraq. As if that's not disturbing enough, look who is succeeding her as the President's National Security Adviser.

I'm not making this up: it's all on the record. So instead of putting America's foreign policy in the hands of people who might have restored the country's credibility in the world, the President has turned it over to two of the people who helped to shred it.

## Calls for the Democrats to Materially Change Positions?

After President Bush was reelected with a slight majority over the Democrats (52,000,000 votes versus 48,000,000), the Bush group claimed overwhelming support and called for the Democrats to change and follow more closely the line taken by Bush. Instead, the Democrats should have focused on informing the people of the many lies that were made by the Bush group.

## **Self-Serving Need for Politicians to Pander to Israel Interests**

During the 2004 presidential elections both presidential candidate, John Kerry and President Bush, pandered to the powerful Israel lobby, promising to continue funding and arming Israel—insuring further terrorism against the United States.

President Bush, by word and by deed, endorsed Israel's claim never to give up land that they invaded. Israel's leader, Sharon, lavishly praised President Bush several times prior to the election, helping to gain the Jewish votes for Bush repeating the double talk by President Bush. Sharon stated (April 2004) he had "never met a leader so committed to the struggle for freedom and the need to confront terrorism." Politicians can say the most blatant lies without hesitation.

# Kerry Also Pandered to the Powerful Jewish Lobby and Voters

Referring to President George Bush II and presidential candidate John Kerry, a *New York Times* editorial (October 18, 2004) stated:

They have joined in offering Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, virtually uncritical support for whatever military operations or settlement expansions he chooses to undertake. This is not a policy. It is an abdication of leadership that costs Israeli and Palestinian lives, deepens mistrust and makes an eventual peace that much harder to achieve. Washington cannot afford to remain on such a destructive course.

This administration has allowed itself to become the pawn of Mr. Sharon's machinations. How far this has now gone is clear from a recent Israeli newspaper interview in which the prime minister's chief of staff bragged that Mr. Sharon had secured American endorsement for positions designed to postpone serious discussion of Palestinian statehood until the far distant future.

## Typical Lack of Integrity of Most Politicians

But during another speech, fearful of losing the Jewish vote, Kerry endorsed Israel's claim to retain portions of the land seized during 1967 surrounding Jerusalem, insuring continued Middle East unrest—but gaining Jewish votes.

### **Numerous Retaliatory Actions Against United States Available**

There were many possible retaliatory actions that were available to countries angered by the invasion of Iraq and the continued funding and arming of Israel. For instance:

- Oil producing countries had the option of cutting back on the production of oil, which would raise oil prices and cost America additional billions of dollars a year.
- These countries could order an embargo on oil sales to the United States.
- They could change the payment for oil from dollars to Euro dollars or some other currency.
- They could pull their funding of America's huge indebtedness, risking plunging the United States into a depression far worse than the 1930s.
- They could halt purchases of American-made goods, such as airliners, switching to Airbus.
- They could align their interests with Russia or China.
- They could provide sophisticated arms to China.
- They could provide a haven for those who want to attack U.S. interests.
- Worldwide sabotage of U.S. airliners, including surface-to-air missile attacks, would devastate the U.S. airline industry.
- The missing suitcase nuclear bombs that I write about in *Defrauding America* could be expected to be detonated in U.S. cities.

These and other factors made America a house of cards that can be easily tumbled.

## Sale of Sophisticated Military Equipment to China

An article in *Aviation Week & Space Technology* (October 25, 2004) described the White House's concern with the sale of sophisticated military weapons by European countries to China:

Chinese Poker. U.S. cites fear of shifting military balance in Asia if Europe lifts Chinese arms ban. The U.S. government has stepped up pressure to keep EU members who have so far balked at lifting the restrictions, from supporting the French and German positions [to relax the ban].

In a series of recent visits to European capitals, Pentagon and State Dept. representatives warned that lifting the arms embargo—which was imposed after the 1998 Tiananmen Square massacre—would be viewed gravely in Washington.

U. S. officials caution that such a move could greatly accelerate China's military buildup and alter the balance of power across the Taiwan Strait. It would also send a "bad message" with respect to China's human rights record, U.S. officials point out.

# Russia's Influence in Iraq

An article by Bill Gertz in the *Washington Times* national weekly edition (November 8–14, 2004) described the cooperation of retired Russian generals in Iraq:

Two Russian generals were photographed receiving awards from Saddam Hussein's government for helping Iraqi military forces less than 10 days before the U.S.-led invasion. The two retired officers were identified by the newspaper Gazeta.ru as Col. Gen. Vladimir Achalov and Col. Gen. Igor Maltsev, both former high-ranking officers involved in Soviet rapid-reaction and air defense forces.

Both generals were photographed receiving awards from Iraqi Defense Minister Sultan Hashim Ahmed in early March 2003, only days before the war began on March 20, 2003. The photographs were taken in a building that was bombed by U.S. cruise missiles during the first air raids on Baghdad, the newspaper stated.

John A. Shaw, deputy undersecretary of defense for international technology security, said last week that two European intelligence services have obtained documentary evidence indicating Russian Spetsnatz, or special forces, troops were involved in a covert program to shred documents on Russian arms sale to Iraq, and to move weapons out of the country to Syria, Lebanon and possibly Iran.

The Russians were hired by the Iraqis to protect special Russian weapons and to organize the removal of arms through truck convoys. The Russian special forces troops were working for the GRU military intelligence service and wore civilian clothes, defense officials said

An article at *IndiaDaily.com* (November 10, 2004) by special correspondent Sudhir Chadda, suggested the possible beginning of a coalition against the United States:

Russian President Putin planning to glue together the most powerful superpower coalition in the world—India, China, Russia and Brazil.

Russian President Putin is taking a lead role in putting together the most powerful coalition of regional and superpowers in the world. The coalition consists of India, China, Russia and Brazil. This will challenge the superpower supremacy of America as well as the European Union.

The Chinese are concerned about American and European influence over the world. According to other think tanks, this coalition will have an overwhelming influence over the United Nations. Russia and China are permanent members of the Security Council. India and Brazil are in the process of becoming the same. In terms of population, the coalition will have three quarters of the world population, largest amount of natural resources and largest pool of technical and scientific talent.

#### Life in Iraq Under U.S. Occupation

A Cox News Service article (January 28, 2005) stated:

Iraqi civilians are being arrested arbitrarily, tortured while in jail and threatened with indefinite detention unless they pay bribes, according to a study released Tuesday by Human Rights Watch. The 94-page report said that Iraq's interim government appears to be either an active participant in the abuses, or "is at least complicit."

# Osama bin Laden Tape Again Stating

# **Primary Cause of Attacks Upon U.S. Interests**

Osama bin Laden released a tape on October 30, 2004, which appeared on the Internet site for the Middle East news channel, Al Jazeera (October 30, 2004):

Praise be to Allah who created the creation for his worship and commanded them to be just and permitted the wronged one to retaliate against the oppressor in kind. To proceed:

Peace be upon he who follows the guidance: People of America this talk of mine is for you and concerns the ideal way to prevent another Manhattan, and deals with the war and its causes and results.

Before I begin, I say to you that security is an indispensable pillar of human life and that free men do not forfeit their security, contrary to Bush's claim that we hate freedom. If so, then let him explain to us why we don't strike for example - Sweden? And we know that freedom-haters don't possess defiant spirits like those of the 19 - may Allah have mercy on them.

No, we fight because we are free men who don't sleep under oppression. We want to restore freedom to our nation, just as you lay waste to our nation. So shall we lay waste to yours.

No one except a dumb thief plays with the security of others and then makes himself believe he will be secure. Whereas thinking people, when disaster strikes, make it their priority to look for its causes, in order to prevent it happening again.

But I am amazed at you. Even though we are in the fourth year after the events of September 11th, Bush is still engaged in distortion, deception and hiding from you the real causes. And thus, the reasons are still there for a repeat of what occurred.

So I shall talk to you about the story behind those events and shall tell you truthfully about the moments in which the decision was taken, for you to consider.

I say to you, Allah knows that it had never occurred to us to strike the towers. But after it became unbearable and we witnessed the oppression and tyranny of the American/Israeli coalition against our people in Palestine and Lebanon, it came to my mind.

The events that affected my soul in a direct way started in 1982 when America permitted the Israelis to invade Lebanon and the American Sixth Fleet helped them in that. This bombardment began and many were killed and injured and others were terrorized and displaced.

I couldn't forget those moving scenes, blood and severed limbs, women and children sprawled everywhere. Houses destroyed along with their occupants and high rises demolished over their residents, rockets raining down on our home without mercy.

The situation was like a crocodile meeting a helpless child, powerless except for his screams. Does the crocodile understand a conversation that doesn't include a weapon? And the whole world saw and heard but it didn't respond.

In those difficult moments many hard-to-describe ideas bubbled in my soul, but in the end they produced an intense feeling of rejection of tyranny, and gave birth to a strong resolve to punish the oppressors.

And as I looked at those demolished towers in Lebanon, it entered my mind that we should punish the oppressor in kind and that we should destroy towers in America in order that they taste some of what we tasted and so that they be deterred from killing our women and children.

And that day, it was confirmed to me that oppression and the intentional killing of innocent women and children is a deliberate

American policy. Destruction is freedom and democracy, while resistance is terrorism and intolerance.

This means the oppressing and embargoing to death of millions as Bush Sr. did in Iraq in the greatest mass slaughter of children mankind has ever known, and it means the throwing of millions of pounds of bombs and explosives at millions of children - also in Iraq - as Bush Jr. did, in order to remove an old agent and replace him with a new puppet to assist in the pilfering of Iraq's oil and other outrages.

So with these images and their like as their background, the events of September 11th came as a reply to those great wrongs, should a man be blamed for defending his sanctuary?

Is defending oneself and punishing the aggressor in kind, objectionable terrorism? If it is such, then it is unavoidable for us.

This is the message which I sought to communicate to you in word and deed, repeatedly, for years before September 11th.

And you can read this, if you wish, in my interview with Scott in Time Magazine in 1996, or with Peter Arnett on CNN in 1997, or my meeting with John Weiner in 1998.

You can observe it practically, if you wish, in Kenya and Tanzania and in Aden. And you can read it in my interview with Abdul Bari Atwan, as well as my interviews with Robert Fisk.

The latter is one of your compatriots and co-religionists and I consider him to be neutral. So are the pretenders of freedom at The White House and the channels controlled by them able to run an interview with him? So that he may relay to the American people what he has understood from us to be the reasons for our fight against you?

If you were to avoid these reasons, you will have taken the correct path that will lead America to the security that it was in before September 11th. This concerned the causes of the war.

As for it's results, they have been, by the grace of Allah, positive and enormous, and have, by all standards, exceeded all expectations. This is due to many factors, chief amongst them, that we have found it difficult to deal with the Bush administration in light of the resemblance it bears to the regimes in our countries, half of which are ruled by the military and the other half which are ruled by the sons of kings and presidents.

Our experience with them is lengthy, and both types are replete with those who are characterized by pride, arrogance, greed and misappropriation of wealth. This resemblance began after the visits of Bush Sr. to the region.

At a time when some of our compatriots were dazzled by America and hoping that these visits would have an effect on our countries, all of a sudden he was affected by those monarchies and military regimes, and became envious of their remaining decades in their positions, to embezzle the public wealth of the nation without supervision or accounting.

So he took dictatorship and suppression of freedoms to his son and they named it the Patriot Act, under the pretense of fighting terrorism. In addition, Bush sanctioned the installing of sons as state governors, and didn't forget to import expertise in election fraud from the region's presidents to Florida to be made use of in moments of difficulty.

All that we have mentioned has made it easy for us to provoke and bait this administration. All that we have to do is to send two Mujahideen to the furthest point East to raise a piece of cloth on which is written al-Qaida, in order to make the generals race there to cause America to suffer human, economic, and political losses without their achieving for it anything of note other than some benefits for their private companies.

This is in addition to our having experience in using guerrilla warfare and the war of attrition to fight tyrannical superpowers, as we, alongside the Mujahideen, bled Russia for ten years, until it went bankrupt and was forced to withdraw in defeat.

All Praise is due to Allah.

So we are continuing this policy in bleeding America to the point of bankruptcy. Allah willing, and nothing is too great for Allah. That being said, those who say that al-Qaida has won against the administration in the White House or that the administration has lost in this war have not been precise, because when one scrutinizes the results, one cannot say that al-Qaida is the sole factor in achieving those spectacular gains.

Rather, the policy of the White House that demands the opening of war fronts to keep busy their various corporations - whether they be working in the field of arms or oil or reconstruction - has helped al-Qaida to achieve these enormous results.

And so it has appeared to some analysts and diplomats that the White House and us are playing as one team towards the economic goals of the United States, even if the intentions differ.

And it was to these sorts of notions and their like that the British diplomat and others were referring in their lectures at the Royal Institute of International Affairs. (When they pointed out that) for example, al-Qaida spent \$500 000 on the event, while America, in the

incident and its aftermath, lost - according to the lowest estimate - more than 500 billion dollars.

Meaning that every dollar of al-Qaida defeated a million dollars by the permission of Allah, besides the loss of a huge number of jobs.

As for the size of the economic deficit, it has reached record astronomical numbers estimated to total more than a trillion dollars.

And even more dangerous and bitter for America is that the Mujahideen recently forced Bush to resort to emergency funds to continue the fight in Afghanistan and Iraq, which is evidence of the success of the bleed-until-bankruptcy plan - with Allah's permission.

It is true that this shows that al-Qaida has gained, but on the other hand, it shows that the Bush administration has also gained, something of which anyone who looks at the size of the contracts acquired by the shady Bush administration-linked mega-corporations, like Halliburton and its kind, will be convinced. And it all shows that the real loser is...you.

It is the American people and their economy. And for the record, we had agreed with the Commander-General Muhammad Ata, Allah have mercy on him, that all the operations should be carried out within twenty minutes, before Bush and his administration notice.

It never occurred to us that the commander-in-chief of the American armed forces would abandon 50,000 of his citizens in the twin towers to face those great horrors alone, the time when they most needed him.

But because it seemed to him that occupying himself by talking to the little girl about the goat and its butting was more important than occupying himself with the planes and their butting of the skyscrapers. We were given three times the period required to execute the operations - All Praise is Due to Allah.

And it's no secret to you that the thinkers and perceptive ones from among the Americans warned Bush before the war and told him, "All that you want for securing America and removing the weapons of mass destruction - assuming they exist - is available to you, and the nations of the world are with you in the inspections, and it is in the interest of America that it not be thrust into an unjustified war with an unknown outcome."

But the darkness of the black gold blurred his vision and insight, and he gave priority to private interests over the public interests of America

So the war went ahead, the death toll rose, the American economy bled, and Bush became embroiled in the swamps of Iraq that

threaten his future. He fits the saying, "Like the naughty she-goat who used her hoof to dig up a knife from under the earth"

So I say to you, over 15 000 of our people have been killed and tens of thousands injured, while more than a thousand of you have been killed and more than 10,000 injured. And Bush's hands are stained with the blood of all those killed from both sides, all for the sake of oil and keeping their private companies in business.

Be aware that it is the nation who punishes the weak man when he causes the killing of one of its citizens for money, while letting the powerful one get off, when he causes the killing of more than 1000 of its sons, also for money.

And the same goes for your allies in Palestine. They terrorize the women and children, and kill and capture the men as they lie sleeping with their families on the mattresses, that you may recall that for every action, there is a reaction.

Finally, it behooves you to reflect on the last wills and testaments of the thousands who left you on the 11th as they gestured in despair. They are important testaments, which should be studied and researched.

Among the most important of what I read in them was some prose in their gestures before the collapse, where they say, How mistaken we were to have allowed the White House to implement its aggressive foreign policies against the weak without supervision. It is as if they were telling you, the people of America, Hold to account those who have caused us to be killed, and happy is he who learns from others' mistakes,

And among that which I read in their gestures is a verse of poetry, Injustice chases its people, and how unhealthy the bed of tyranny. As has been said, An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. And know that, It is better to return to the truth than persist in error. And that the wise man doesn't squander his security, wealth and children for the sake of the liar in the White House.

In conclusion, I tell you in truth, that your security is not in the hands of Kerry, nor Bush, nor al-Qaida. No. Your security is in your own hands. And every state that doesn't play with our security has automatically guaranteed its own security. And Allah is our Guardian and Helper, while you have no Guardian or Helper. All Peace be Upon he who follows the Guidance.

## Pathetic Comparison of Truthful Rhetoric Between Osama bin Laden's and of President Bush II

To be totally honest with ourselves, and disregarding for a moment that Osama bin Laden played major roles in inflicting great harm upon the United States, the statements by Osama bin Laden's were true and right to the point, while Bush's statements were a series of lies and collection of feel-good euphemistic statements. Hardly Worthy of the United States, its leader, and its people.

#### **Highly Touted Elections in Iraq**

The United States and its designated representatives set a January 30, 2005, date for elections to be held in Iraq. Bush then claimed victory and justification for the invasion of Iraq. But the elections didn't halt the daily murders of Iraqis by Iraqis, the lawlessness, the escalating attacks throughout Iraq.

## Repeat of Vietnam PR Deception to Pacify Americans

On the contrary, the elections started a civil war in Iraq that was kept from the American people. Just as was the practice in Vietnam, the Bush group and their shills repeatedly stated things were getting better—while they were getting worse—and that U.S. military would soon leave Iraq, when the invasion had so badly destabilized a formerly stable country that U.S. forces couldn't abandon what they brought about, and then, would reach the point that a Vietnam-type of forced evacuation had to be considered

#### Threat of Civil War Following Iraqi Elections Was Forewarned

Before invading Iraq, knowledgeable people warned of civil war between the Shiite, the Sunni, and the Kurds, warning that if that happened the entire Middle East would become unstable. The Kurds are non-Arab Sunnis living in the northeastern part of Iraq, and the Sunni Arabs comprise about twenty percent of Iraq's population.

## Deaths from One War Weren't Enough for the Bush Group

Seymour Hersh, who initially exposed Abu Ghraib prison torture, writing in the *New Yorker* magazine, wrote a January 2005, article stating that the Bush group was planning to invade Iran. In the article, Hersh stated that numerous intelligence and military sources told him that the "next strategic target was Iran, and that President Bush had authorized U.S. forces to conduct covert operations in Iran." Hersh wrote that the U.S. goal was to "identify and isolate three dozen, and perhaps more, targets that could be destroyed by precision strikes and short-term commando raids."

One source stated that civilians in the Pentagon, primarily Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and his deputy, Paul Wolfowitz, "want to go into Iran and destroy as much of the military infrastructure as possible."

# Stirring Turmoil, From Communism, to Saddam Hussein, To WMD, Creating Worldwide Unrest

For 40 years U.S. politicians used the dreaded word, Communism to subvert and invade foreign countries, generating millings of deaths worldwide. Korea and Vietnam were invaded under the phony house-of-cards argument, and failed, the U.S. then started having its huge debt funded by communist countries such as China. So much for the house of cards argument that killed over 100,1000 U.S. military personnel.

Then the military machine was put to use because Bush didn't like Saddam Hussein—the country was better off without him, as Bush said.

While thousands were being killed by U.S. military actions on that argument, Bush then used the argument that other nations such as Iran could not have nuclear power plants or nuclear missiles—but it was OK for Israel and other nations to have them. Bush then planned on invading Iran because it was exercising its sovereignty to have the same nuclear plants and missiles as elsewhere.

Somewhere along the way a World War I scenario will occur, and Americans will know what it feels like to have nuclear missiles raining down on U.S. cities. Surely Russia, with its thousands of missiles aimed at the United States, or China, with its rapidly expanding military might, isn't going to take much more of U.S. warmongering.

A New York Times editorial (June 2, 2003) title, Nuclear Mirage, stated:

Even as it strives to keep nuclear weapons from proliferating around the world, the Bush administration is moving toward research on a new generation of less powerful nuclear warheads. That effort, recently endorsed by Congress, unwisely overturns a decade of restraint aimed at discouraging development of a new nuclear arms race.

# Actions by U.S. Politicians and CIA Makes Catastrophic Consequences for the United States Around the Corner?

China reportedly already has missiles capable of reaching much of the United States. And Russia has thousands of missiles aimed at U.S. cities. These are facts. Any miscalculation by U.S. politicians with the mindset and record of President Bush II can bring instant catastrophic destruction to all of the United States. And this destruction would be compounded by the incompetent politically-correct and crony placement of leadership in key positions.

Maybe there is time for long-overdue intelligent involvement by the people, shifting attention from meaningless trivia to finding out the facts and learning about the Trojan horse corruption throughout the United States and those who cover up for it.

# **Dismal Self-Inflicted Future for Americans**

he culture and the corruption within government offices in the United States constitutes a greater threat and source of actual harm to most people than any foreign terrorists. The protections guaranteed by the laws and Constitution are being systematically destroyed, while corruption in government offices is metastasizing throughout government and the private sector.

What had been unthinkable in the past has become reality. Our form of government, and what were formerly constitutional rights, are being destroyed. The protections the public *thinks* to exist in our form of government are being prostituted by those paid and entrusted to uphold these protections.

## **Expanding Practice of Lying and Corruption in Government**

In my many years of being an insider, and close to other insiders in government, I've never seen the extent that I see now of corruption in government, the resulting tragedies, and the cover-ups. Because of the many different groups and people directly involved, and indirectly involved through various forms of cover-ups, the system is incapable of reforming itself.

# People Say It Is Impossible to Arouse the American Public

Many people have said that the public is too unsophisticated, too indolent, too engrossed in trivial matters, to show any meaningful interest in corrupt government officials and politicians. By 2005, I had appeared as guest and expert on over 3000 radio and television shows, describing the corruption and resulting harm that I and other government insiders had discovered. Callers expressed concern, and then did nothing. Either the public can't understand, or they don't care.

#### **Brain-Dead or What?**

Nothing appeared to have been learned from the catastrophic effects of invading Vietnam. What will most likely trigger the next war, a nu-

clear war, will be the continued U.S. arming of Taiwan, a former province of China. When that happens, the people in the United States will get a dose of their own medicine.

In July 2004, the United States sent a fleet of naval vessels, not seen since World War II, into the waters near China and Taiwan, as President Bush's show of force to the Chinese, and warning of what may occur if China takes action to bring its former province into mainland China.

National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice rejected China's objections of U.S. arming of the former China province. "Rice Refuses Beijing on Taiwan Weapons," was the headline on *Washington Post* article. (July 9, 2004), stating:

U.S. national security adviser Condoleezza Rice met top Chinese leaders on Thursday and rebuffed their demands for an end to U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. In recent months U.S. officials have expressed concern about rising tensions across the Taiwan Strait and the risk of U.S. forces being dragged into a conflict there. On Thursday, she met with Jiang Zemin, China's military chief and former president, and Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, and is scheduled to see President Hu Jintao and another senior foreign policy official, Tang Jiaxuan, on Friday.

#### **Incompetent People in Key Positions Worsens the Corruption**

Worsening, and probably contributing, to the widespread corruption and refusal to act on it is the placement in key managerial positions of unqualified and incompetent people. Some are put in those positions to generate support with a particular voting group. Others as paybacks for political contributions or cronyism. In the government's aviation safety offices, this practice played a key role in many of the airline disasters that I describe in *Unfriendly Skies*. 119

The FAA was one example of the deadly consequences from this practice. The hijackings of four airliners on 9/11 were made possible by failure of FAA people to order the known and urgently required preventative measures for the past 40 years. Most FAA administrators had no meaningful aviation competency, placing people in position that could be expected to generate votes. The FAA administrator during 9/11 was Jane Garvey, totally unqualified—but great for getting more of the women votes. As head of the FAA, she and the many other unqualified people in management positions failed pathetically to recognize the obvious steps that had to be taken to the repeated warnings that terrorists planned to hijack airliners.

 $<sup>^{119}</sup>$  The tile of my  ${\it Unfriendly~Skies}$  has been copied by several other subsequent books.

### **Unqualified People and Needless Deaths and Tragedies**

The deadly consequences of unqualified people in key positions occurred with Hurricane Katrina. Michael Brown, head of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Michael Chertoff, head of Homeland Security, performed miserably. Both lacked any experience and expertise in disaster management. Prior to Brown, Bush appointed another incompetent: his former campaign manager, Joe Allbaugh.

In other books I list many other appointments that had backgrounds associated with CIA drug smuggling and covering up for assassination squads in Central America. For the U.S. Supreme Court, Bush appointed John G. Roberts to be chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, who had virtually no judicial experience, and would be setting policies affecting everyone in the United States.

## **Electing Charisma Over Intelligence and Experience**

The problem of appointing unqualified people was not limited to President Bush; most presidents have done that, using the authority as a form of piggy bank for personal returns. In July 2004 presidential candidate John Kerry selected Senator John Edwards to be his running mate as vice president. Edwards had charisma, but was inexperienced, and acted accordingly. He had served only one term in Congress and his reelection was in doubt. Kerry and Edwards were filmed constantly pawing over each other, embracing like a couple of school kids who had just seen their team win a ball game. Despite these serious shortcomings, a majority of the public endorsed the selection.

## Lack of Public Outrage and 9/11

One area where public apathy played a role in the events of 9/11 was its indifference to the corruption in the government's aviation safety offices. Despite years of writings and media appearances detailing these matters and the consequences, no one did anything. Even the next of kin in fraud-related crashes did nothing.

I had appeared on thousands of radio and television shows revealing details of this corruption and how the misconduct made possible a series of fatal airline crashes. I wrote several editions of *Unfriendly Skies* that sold many thousands of books and had excellent and alarming book reviews. These matters detailed and documented the corruption and the deadly consequences. But the public didn't react.

The 9/11 hijackings were made possible by the corruption in the government's aviation safety offices. And this corruption could have been halted if enough people had shown some outrage and reaction when government insiders risked their careers and more trying to inform the public.

### Two little things—and 3,000 people would be alive today

Just think: if the culture did not exist in the government's aviation safety offices, and two easily implemented steps had been taken, 3,000 people would not be dead. The steps, which I had recommended and which were obvious: keep the cockpit door locked and removed the cockpit door keys from the flight attendants. Those two steps could have been implemented nationwide within 24 hours. With competent FAA leadership, these steps could have been implemented after the FAA was repeatedly advised that terrorists were preparing to hijack airliners.

# Cover-Up of the Obvious Piqued No Interest

The cover-ups by members of congress and the 9/11 Commission shifted attention away from the area of primary blame, the government's aviation safety offices, responsible for ordering the known and long-required preventative measures.

#### Victims' Families Were No Different

The families of 9/11 victims were no different. I tactfully made groups composed of 9/11 victim families aware of the corruption in the government's aviation safety offices, the corrupt acts by federal judges and others who protected the corruption, and the evidence I referred to in my federal lawsuits. The same applied to victims of prior airline disasters where I had inside knowledge and evidence of the corruption that made the crashes possible. It is virtually impossible to get the American people to do *anything* if it doesn't immediately involve them, including such *important* things—as the ball games!

#### The Pathetic Culture in the United States

The facts point to a pathetic culture in the United States that includes failure to *recognize* dangers; failure to *act* on dangers; failure to *respond* when insiders reveal corruption in government offices; and failure to *learn* from past catastrophic failures.

# Nothing Learned from 58,000 Needless Deaths

Despite 58,000 dead GIs, and over 100,000 maimed, arising in the Vietnam War, made possible by the same type of lying of White House politicians as occurred with the invasion of Iraq—most of the public remained either brain-dead or too lazy to react. Constant self-praise sought to cover up for the ugly truth about reality in America

# Pathetic Balance in Judgment

The public supported the impeachment of President Richard Nixon, who then resigned after he tried to cover up for a two-bit political burglary of which he had no prior knowledge and in which there was no significant harm. But the same public remained protective of the pathetic misconduct of the president whose pattern of lying resulted in the brutal deaths of tens of thousands of people—and his many shills in and out of

government. Immediate impeachment was dictated, but none had the courage or the concern for the nation to act. Instead, they joined the winning team, or remained quiet.

Washington Post personnel, the primary catalyst for the impeachment of President Nixon, were silent about the lying by President Bush, the drug smuggling by people in the CIA, and the many other corrupt activities revealed by government insiders over a period of many decades.

When it came to history and international events, or the wrongdoings of White House politicians and the CIA, the American public was utterly lacking in knowledge or curiosity. With the great influx into the United States of people from countries were corruption is endemic, the interest in corruption in the United States would be even less than of the American born person.

## View of American Public to European Audience

An article by syndicated columnist David Brooks (June 26, 2004) listed some of the statements made by Michael Moore, the producer of Fahrenheit 9/11, to European audiences concerning a major segment of the U.S. population. Brooks' article stated:

During an interview with the British paper, The Mirror, that Moore unfurled what is perhaps the central insight of his comments, that Americans are kind of crappy.

They are possibly the dumbest people on the planet ... enthralled to conniving, thieving smug [pieces of the human anatomy]," Moore intoned. "We Americans suffer from an enforced ignorance. We don't know about anything that's happening outside our country. Our stupidity is embarrassing."

Moore has been kind enough to crisscross the continent, speaking to packed lecture halls, explicating the general vapidity and crassness of his countrymen. "That's why we're smiling all the time," he told a rapturous throng in Munich. "You can see us coming down the street. You know, "'Hey! Hi! How's it going?' We've got that big [expletive] grin on our face all the time because our brains aren't loaded down."

Before a delighted Cambridge crowd, Moore reflected on the tragedy of human existence: "You've stuck with being connected to this country of mine, which is known for bringing sadness and misery to places around the globe."

In the days after Sept. 11, while others were disoriented, Moore was able to see clearly: "We, the United States of America, are culpable in committing so many acts of terror and bloodshed that we had better get a clue about the culture of violence in which we have been active participants."

He writes about those who are killing Americans in Iraq: "The Iraqis who have risen up against the occupation are not 'insurgents' or 'terrorists' or 'The Enemy.' They are the revolution, the Minutemen, and their numbers will grow, and they will win. Until then, few social observers had made the connection between Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and Paul Revere.

Brooks article was probably meant to chastise Moore, but many knowledgeable people saw an element of truth in what he said, especially about the ignorance of the American people concerning the conduct of their own politicians and the invasion of Iraq.

## **Great Harm Inflicted by Widespread Culture**

Details and evidence relating to the worldwide harm resulting from the actions of U.S. politicians can be found in my books, including *Unfriendly Skies, Defrauding America*, and *Drugging America*. The following is a partial list of the harm:

- Vietnam, where the public swallowed the lies by U.S. politicians that the form of government in Vietnam was unacceptable and that the United States had to invade Vietnam to prevent other nations from adopting a similar form of government. The American public was falsely told that North Vietnam attacked a U.S. Navy ship in the Gulf of Tonkin, and that constituted the basis to invade the country. The most militarily powerful nation on earth then directed its war machine upon a country of impoverished men, women and children, killing over a million in the process. Over 58,000 American servicemen were killed, and thousands more crippled, maimed, and dismembered. Years later, the U.S. has strong financial ties with Vietnam, China, and other communist nations, some of which are funding the huge U.S. indebtedness and buying U.S. properties and businesses.
- The Phoenix program in which the CIA was involved in murdering over 40,000 Vietnamese, not counting those killed in combat.
- U.S. service people machine-gunning to death groups of women and children, including the Mai Lai-type killing of women and children, huddled together in fear.
- Killing, napalming, tens of thousands of Vietnamese,.
- Korea, generally the same scenario, and the deaths of 38,000 U.S. personnel with thousands more maimed.
- Subverting governments throughout the world, resulting in millions of deaths.

#### **Harm to National Interests Inside the United States**

• Fifty years of CIA drug smuggling into the United States, implicat-

ing many people in government offices, creating a drug-related crisis that included killings and imprisoning large numbers of men and women

- The financial destruction of millions of people through asset forfeitures, despite the fact that the people were never charged with any offenses, or the people were found innocent, or that the seizure and forfeiture were greatly in excess of the nature of the alleged violation.
- Military-like invasion of homes, often of innocent people, or people who committed minor violation of the law, with occasional killings of the home's occupants.
- Corruption within the FBI and other divisions of the U.S. Department of Justice, in unison with organized crime figures resulting in the murders of government informants, such as occurred in the Boston and New York FBI offices.
- The looting of savings and loans by covert CIA operators and others, with the financial losses yet to be paid by the American taxpayers. These and other fraud-related financial losses could very possibly precipitate a 1930-like depression at some future date.
- Paramilitary assault upon the men, women and children at Waco, bringing about their deaths by being cremated alive.
- Paramilitary assault upon the impoverished family at Ruby Ridge, in which a young boy was murdered by a bullet in his back and a mother holding her child had her head blown apart by a government sniper.
- Draconian prison sentences and property forfeitures of people who committed non-violent offenses such as having a small quantity of drugs.
- Looting the assets of thousands of people every year who exercise the statutory protections of Chapter 11, only to fall victim to the judicial corruption in Chapter 11 courts.
- Corruption within the government aviation safety offices that played key roles in many airline disasters, and which caused the conditions to exist that enabled hijackers to seize four airliners on 9/11.
- Operation Ringwind, the Washington-ordered killing of American service men in Indochina on the assumption that they were defectors.
- Justice Department prosecutors filing false charges and causing the imprisonment of thousands of men and women.
- Outrageous prison sentences legislated by members of Congress for minor offenses, bringing about the world's largest percentage of people to be incarcerated.

- Anarchy or like-anarchy within groups in the United States, including youths rioting, killing innocent people from passing cars; looting, such as occurred in Watts and other U.S. cities, the rampage by youths at rock sessions and ball games, such as the November 24, 2002, riot by Ohio State University students; overturning and torching dozens of cars; breaking large numbers of windows; and looting, all signs of the cultural decay in America's people.
- Corrupt state and federal judges preying upon people expecting justice in the courts.
- Widespread corruption involving Wall Street firms, including banks, stock brokers, stock analysts, insurance companies, auditing firms, lawyers..
- Decades of pedophile activities by hundreds of priests in the Catholic Church, which were finally exposed after decades of cover-ups.
- Widespread looting during Hurricane Katrina, and sniper firing at rescue personnel, further evidence of the decaying culture in the United States.
- Congressional legislation that:
  - Mandates draconian prison sentences causing tens of thousands of men and women to be sent to prison for years, or life, including young girls and mothers, for minor offenses.
  - Authorizes property seizures from people who are never charged, or who are judged innocent after trial, or the taking of valuable property far exceeding the nature of the offense.
  - Relates to conspiracies, sending tens of thousands of men and women to prison on drug offenses who have either no connection to drugs, or a tenuous connection.
  - Causes long prison sentences for minor offenses, or conduct that was constitutionally permitted prior to the legislation passed by members of Congress.
- And other areas of corruption.

## America, the land of Many Pontius Pilates

With similarities to Pontius Pilate and the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, most Americans wash their hands of the tragic consequences by remaining ignorant and indifferent of these matters. Or worse, they profit by supporting those in government responsible for these offenses.

They consider themselves righteous as they aid and abet these crimes. They go to church, they pray, they give money to the church and to charities, while supporting the people and the conduct that gives credence to the *Ugly American* book.

# Unsupportive of U.S. Troops By Revealing the Lies That Fraudulently Sent Them into Combat and Resulting Deaths?

One of the tactics used against the people who attempt to report the corruption, is to call their efforts "unpatriotic," or not supporting the troops. Many of the people attacking those who exposed the lying claimed that they were not supporting U.S. troops. Put another way, those people objecting to having the truth revealed supported sending troops to be killed on the basis of repeated blatant lying. In this way they encouraged the continued killing of U.S. military personnel, and protected the liars responsible for the deaths.

# **Intelligent Protesters Needed**

America needs intelligent protesters to focus on the hardcore corruption that exists in government. Often, when protests do occur, they protests such minor matters as the building of homes and other developments that threaten any one of the billions of insect species throughout the world; or protest wages being paid in foreign countries, despite the fact that the people receiving such wages are very pleased to have the employment. They protest things of which they lack experience and knowledge.

## Protesting Trivia or What They Don't Understand

A *Boston Globe* article (September 28, 2002) showed young people with no experience or expertise in the matters they were protesting. The article was titled, "Protesters vs. Global Banking," stated:

Washington. Activists opposed to the corporate model for globalization demonstrated in the streets here Friday to protest the start of annual World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings. The activists were protesting the policies of the World Bank and IMF, which they argue harm developing countries.

"We're hoping to make a very loud and boisterous resounding cry that will be heard across the country and around the world, a cry that undemocratic, accountable institutions have taken control of our lives," said David Levy of Newton, Mass., an organizer with the Mobilization for Global justice, a group that helped coordinate the weekend's activities. "We have to wrest that power from the hands of corporate lobbyists who fill the halls of the World Bank, IMF and Congress as well," he said."

"People are against the IMF and World Bank and capitalist policies without any protections for labor and the environment," said Gregg Mosson, a Washington writer holding a sign for passing motorists that said, "No More Capitalist Wars."

# **Bizarre Puppet-Like Behavior by Members of Congress**

Probably the most bizarre example of puppet-like behavior that I have ever witnessed occurred during the two televised speeches by President Bush to joint sessions of the House and Senate shortly after 9/11. Dozens of times these members of Congress jumped to their feet with applause, after *almost every sentence* uttered by the president. Making this ludicrous reaction even more bizarre, almost every statement of fact uttered by the president had been shown to be false or lacked substance.

#### Don't Take It Anymore!

What America needs most are more people like those in the fictional story, *Network*, who wouldn't take it any longer. Here are a few of the steps that can be taken to at least start the process:

- First, become familiar with the facts in books written by insiders and those with inside knowledge relating to misconduct in government offices.
- Help publicize the contents of these books, but stay away from farout conspiracy theories written by people lacking experience in the area.
- Call radio shows and describe the facts stated in these books and encourage people to read them.
- Spread the word on the Internet.
- Send certified letters to your U.S. Senators and Representatives, demanding that they immediately investigate these matters and then follow up that meaningful actions are taken. Expect to be stonewalled.
- If it is within your style, appear in front of federal buildings, especially federal courts, with placards making reference to various matters pertaining to matters of national significance.
- If you know of criminal acts by government personnel, and if it is within your capability, report it in writing to a federal court through a legal filing under Title 18 U.S.C. § 4. This statute requires any person knowing of federal crimes must report them to a federal court, or other government official. Make formal reports, sent by certified mail, with copies to the newspapers and radio and TV stations, reporting the crimes stated within these pages.

## A few References to Famous Sayings:

- "All that is necessary for the forces of evil to triumph is that enough good men do nothing."
- "It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds." Samuel Adams.
- "We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth. For my part, I

- am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst; and to provide for it." Patrick Henry.
- "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. What I can do, I should do. And what I should do, by the grace of God, I will do." Edward Everett Hale.

#### Judge Robert Bork's Comments on Public Responsibility

"It is sad comment that the public is so uneducated, unconcerned and blinded to the truth by the media, and that the judiciary of our once great Nation has been allowed to sink to these depths. And while I say that the conditions that exist today can be laid at one doorstep, that of the Judiciary, I must ultimately say that the fault really lies at our feet, We the People, for it is We the People who have allowed the foxes to guard the henhouse." Robert H. Bork, Judge, former Supreme Court Nominee, and Professor of Law.

# Pathetically, Fighting this Corruption Relies Upon Enough People with Courage and Real Dedication to the United States

The manner in which you and the public react to this literal Trojan horse corruption will determine the fate of many people and of the United States. The events of 9/11 or the invasion of Iraq would not have happened if enough people showed some semblance of concern. The public has had it within their power to halt the cancerous spread of corruption in government that has spread to the media and throughout society.

The future events will be in the hands of people outside of the system. Those in the system will not reform themselves, or admit to the corrupt actions and inactions in which they participated.

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