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ACIPSS-newsletter

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TOP HEADLINES

2760/2010 -----

USA gedenken Opfer des 11. September

(sueddeutsche) Überschattet von einer wachsenden anti-islamischen Stimmung haben die USA am Samstag der Opfer der Anschläge vom 11. September 2001 gedacht.

Der neunte Jahrestag stand im Zeichen einer weltweiten Diskussion um den radikalen US-Pastor Terry Jones, der seine angedrohte Koran-Verbrennung in Gainesville (Florida) erst im letzten Moment abgesagt hatte. Auch der Streit über den Bau einer Moschee nahe dem Ort der Terroranschläge in New York überlagerte die Gedenkfeiern. Bei den Anschlägen islamistischer Terroristen waren insgesamt fast 3000 Menschen ums Leben gekommen.

Präsident Barack Obama rief die Nation erneut zu religiöser Toleranz auf. Dennoch kam es in New York zu anti-islamischen Demonstrationen. Gegner des Moscheebaus und Befürworter lieferten sich teils lautstarke Auseinandersetzungen.

Trotz Absage der Koran-Verbrennung gab es in Afghanistan wieder blutige Proteste gegen die Aktion von Jones. Wie Augenzeugen am Sonntag berichteten, kamen in der südlich von Kabul gelegenen Provinz Logar zwei Menschen ums Leben, als afghanische Soldaten gegen etwa 500 Demonstranten vorgingen, die anti-amerikanische Sprechchöre skandierte und Sicherheitskräfte mit Steinen beworfen hatten. Auf beiden Seiten habe es auch Verletzte gegeben. In Teheran kündigten Demonstranten Proteste für diesen Montag an.

Die zentrale Gedenkfeier mit Obama fand am Pentagon nahe Washington statt. Obama appellierte eindringlich an die Nation, die amerikanischen Werte und Ideale lebendig zu halten. Dazu gehöre auch religiöse Toleranz. Obama versicherte den Angehörigen der Toten: «Eure Lieben werden im Herzen unserer Nation bleiben, jetzt und für immer.» Die beste Weise, die Opfer zu ehren, sei es, sich an den Werten zu orientieren, die Amerika definierten. Das Land dürfe sich nicht teilen lassen. Am Pentagon waren vor neun Jahren 184 unschuldige Menschen ums Leben gekommen, als Terroristen ein Flugzeug ins Gebäude steuerten.

<http://newsticker.sueddeutsche.de/list/id/1038434>

2761/2010 -----

IAEA: Iran crosses critical line for nuclear-arming missiles

(DEBKA) Iran has crossed the critical nuclear threshold taking it nearer to being able to arm ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads, weapons inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency reported last week.

When this finding failed to elicit any response from the US or Israel, debkafile's military sources report, NATO secretary-general Anders Fogh Rasmussen hurried over to Washington Sunday, Sept. 12 with a call to action for President Barack Obama: "Based on their (Iranian) public statements we know that Iran already has missiles with a range sufficient to hit targets

in Europe, and they don't hide the fact that they want to further develop their capability."

He came away with a pledge of 200 million euros as American in creating a missile shield for Europe against the Iranian threat.

While even Europe has roused itself to the menace from Iran, the fast encroaching threat to Israel remains unaddressed by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and defense minister Ehud Barak. They appear unmoved even in the face of the coming visit to Lebanon on Oct. 13-14 by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. He is coming specifically to clinch Iran's grip on Lebanon and its buildup as Iran's forward front for retaliation should Israel venture to strike its nuclear facilities.

This buildup crossed every possible red line some time ago without an Israeli response. The Iranian president will exploit this vacuum by paying a visit to the South Lebanese-Israeli border village of Edeissa, from which on Aug. 3, Lebanese army snipers soldiers were put up by Hizballah to ambush Israeli troops and shoot dead Col. Dov Harari.

<http://www.debka.com/article/9018/>

2762/2010 -----

Iranian leaders still turning a deaf ear to international concerns

(ISRIA) The international community sent a very clear message through resolution 1929 adopted by the UN Security Council on June 9: Iran can either continue her sensitive activities in violation of international law and therefore face growing isolation, or it can choose to cooperate. France and its "E3+3" partners remain determined to reach a negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear crisis and hope that Iran will finally heed the calls for dialogue by the Six and will swiftly choose to cooperate.

This report, the first since the adoption of resolution 1929, shows that the Iranian leaders are for now still turning a deaf ear to these messages. Iran is in fact continuing to stockpile uranium enriched to 3.5% and to 20% and to conduct heavy water-related activities, despite the fact that the Security Council has demanded the suspension of this type of activity in Iran. Furthermore, the report again underlines the many failings with respect to Iran's cooperation with the Agency.

This attitude remains of serious concern to France.

http://www.isria.com/RESTRICTED/D/2010/SEPTEMBER_10/9_September_2010_183.php

2763/2010 -----

Former elite officers reveal tensions in Iran regime

(BIJ) instability inside one of the world's most repressive regimes in a documentary produced by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism and Guardian Films.

The four men, who have fled Iran and are hiding in Turkey and Thailand, described deep divisions within the Revolutionary Guard, the powerful military organisation at the heart of the Iranian state.

In a remarkable series of interviews with the men, at least one of whom was part of last year's crackdown on opposition to the Iranian regime, the film reveals:

- Firsthand accounts of the measures taken to crush the popular protests that erupted in the wake of last June's presidential elections. The men interviewed describe the widespread use of rape and torture by the regime.
- A ruling elite so unsettled by the uprising that it had a plane on standby ready to fly the president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and the supreme leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, to Syria at a moment's notice.

One former guard interviewed for the film said that until he fled the country earlier this year, he was part of the security team surrounding Khamenei. "I want people outside to know what is happening and what this regime is doing to them," says Muhammed Hussein Torkaman. He accuses the regime of betraying the values of the 1979 revolution in an effort to keep a grip on power.

- (a) <http://thebureauinvestigates.com/2010/06/15/former-elite-officers-reveal-tensions-in-iran-regime-2/>
- (b) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jun/11/iran-revolutionary-guards-regime>

2764/2010 -----

American accused of intelligence espionage to be freed

(seerpress) Iran confirmed on Sunday that it will release one of three American citizens who have been detained for over a year on charges of intelligence espionage.

"Sarah Shourd, the US spy, can be released on bail of \$500,000," Tehran prosecutor Abbas Jafari-Dolatabadi said on Iranian state news agency Fars on Sunday. "Based on reports and the approval of the relevant judge about the sickness of (Ms. Shourd), her detention was converted to \$500,000, and if the bail is deposited, she can be released," Jafari-Dolatabadi was quoted as saying.

The Iranian government first announced on Thursday that Shourd, the only female member of a three-member hiking group accused of spying, would be released from detention on Saturday, but cancelled the plan on Friday, citing legal issues about her intelligence espionage case that needed to be ironed out. Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic's Press TV said that her two male companions will remain charged for intelligence espionage and detained in Tehran.

- (a) <http://seerpress.com/american-accused-of-intelligence-espionage-to-be-freed/6705/>
- (b) Iran releases 'spy' walker Sarah Shourd after a year:
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2010/09/15/iran-releases-spy-walker-sarah-shourd-after-a-year-115875-22562233/>

2765/2010 -----

Blinded By The Death Of START

(StrategyPage) the expiration of the START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) disarmament agreement last year has caused a potential crisis in the U.S. intelligence community. When START came into force in 1994, it

brought with it on-site inspections of Russian and American nuclear weapons and delivery systems, to insure that everyone was in compliance. This allowed the U.S. to shift its spy satellites away from watching Russian nuclear weapons, to other tasks. This became critical after September 11, 2001, when satellite recon was much in demand to track down terrorists. But with the new START treaty un-ratified, there is a call within the intel community to divert some satellite capabilities to once more keeping an eye on Russian nukes. Although both countries said they would keep the requirements of the old one in force until the new one was ratified, Russia has halted most of the on-site inspections.

The START 1 agreement expired in December, 2009, and a new one was signed in April, 2010. This new agreement has not yet been ratified by the legislatures in Russia and the United States, and won't come into force until it is. The new agreement requires Russia and the U.S. to have no more than 1,550 nukes, and no more than 800 missiles to carry them. Currently, Russia has 800 missiles and 3,800 warheads while the U.S. has 1,180 missiles and 5,900 warheads.

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htintel/articles/20100825.aspx>

2766/2010 -----

New information emerges on post-9/11 hunt for bin Laden

(CNN) Western intelligence agencies were able to form a detailed picture of Osama bin Laden's movements in the years after 9/11, and came closer to capturing or killing him than has so far been acknowledged, a former European intelligence official has disclosed.

The former official, who declined to be identified, told CNN that in 2003 and 2004 an informant in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region with close connections to al Qaeda's top leadership provided a stream of reliable information on bin Laden's movements. But the information was never quite fresh enough for Western intelligence agencies to target al Qaeda's leader. Nearly nine years ago, bin Laden and others in the al Qaeda leadership escaped as their haven among the caves and mountains of Tora Bora -- close to the Afghanistan border with Pakistan -- came under withering U.S. air attacks. Despite bin Laden being the world's most sought-after fugitive, to date very little has been reliably reported about his movements beyond a consensus that he is now likely hiding somewhere in the tribal areas of Pakistan.

The former official said that in the period after bin Laden left Tora Bora, under pressure and on the run, he and his lieutenants were little able to communicate with each other. But gradually, al Qaeda restored its communications and was able to resume meetings. Bin Laden even met with 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed at some point before the latter's arrest in February 2003. Additionally, bin Laden and his deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri were frequently in the same area and regularly in communication.

During this time, Western intelligence agencies were able to draw up a detailed map tracing bin Laden's movements, according to the former intelligence official.

- (a) <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/asiapcf/09/14/pakistan.afghan.istan.osama/index.html?hpt=C1>
- (b) Geheimdienste hätten Bin Laden beinahe geschnappt:
<http://diepresse.com/home/politik/aussenpolitik/594317/index.do>

2767/2010 -----

Obama approves £39bn (\$60bn) arms deal

(dailymail) President Obama is set to sign America's biggest ever arms deal, it was claimed last night.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner has reportedly agreed the £39billion sale of aircraft and weapons systems to Saudi Arabia. Provided lawmakers rubber-stamp the deal, it could generate more than 75,000 jobs, according to the Wall Street Journal. The Obama administration sees the move as helping America's key ally in the Middle East protect itself against the growing threat from Iran.

Washington analysts also claimed last night that the timing of the deal could help boost the Democrats' chances in the upcoming mid-term elections in November. 'It would mean more jobs and more money coming into the U.S. economy at a time when it sorely needs both,' said one government official. However, the sale is also likely to raise the hackles of pacifist supporters in Mr Obama's Democrat Party, especially as the President was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year for 'his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and co-operation between peoples'.

The Saudis want to buy as many as 84 new Boeing F-15 fighters, upgrade 70 more and acquire three types of helicopters - Apaches, Black Hawks and Little Birds. Congress will be notified about the deal this week, the Pentagon confirmed last night.

- (a) <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1311654/Obama-approves-39bn-arms-deal-1-year-winning-Nobel-Peace-Prize.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>
- (b) Israel doesn't oppose a US arms deal:
<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Global-News/2010/0914/Why-60-billion-in-US-arms-to-Saudi-Arabia-isn-t-causing-an-outcry>
- (c) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/sep/13/arms-deal-saudi-arabia-us>

2768/2010 -----

Belgier wird neuer Chef der IAEO-Inspektoren

(Standard) Der Belgier Herman Nackaerts wird neuer Chef der Atom-Inspektoren der Internationalen Atomenergiebehörde (IAEO) in Wien, wie IAEO-Chef Yukiya Amano am Montag beim Gouverneursrat bekanntgab. Der Streit um zwei vom Iran im Juni abgewiesene Kontrolleure überschattete das Treffen. Amano verwies auf 38 weitere, die Teheran 2007 abgelehnt hatte. Das behindere die IAEO-Arbeit. "Wenn sich das wiederholt, wird es problematisch." Irans Vertreter Ali Asghar Soltanieh warf der IAEO vor, ihre Glaubwürdigkeit und Unparteilichkeit zu riskieren.

<http://derstandard.at/1282979579210/Belgier-wird-neuer-Chef-der-IAEO-Inspektoren>

2769/2010 -----

Turkey's Constitutional Referendum: The Beginning of the End?

(StrategyPage) proclaimed moderate Islamists are winning. The struggle has major implications for the global war on militant Islamist terror groups like al-Qaida.

This past Sunday, a constitutional referendum provided the latest battleground for the ongoing political war between Turkish Islamists and secularists. The governing Justice and Development Party (AKP), a political movement openly favoring Islamist policies, advocated the constitutional changes, and it won in a landslide. Fifty-eight percent of the country supported the AKP. The most critical changes affect the Turkish judiciary.

The AKP promotes itself as a "moderate" Islamist political party that believes moral values provide a bulwark against political corruption. It regards its opponents as hard-line secularists who run Turkey's "Deep State," a code word for a nefarious Turkish underworld of corruption, cronyism and manipulation tied to the Turkish military.

The AKP's opposition, centered in the secularist Republican Peoples Party (CHP), cast the referendum as another step in the destruction of the secular republic established by Turkey's 20th century political and military genius, Kemal Ataturk. Ataturk strongly believed radical Muslims insisting on imposing Shariah (Islamic) law were the greatest long-term threat to Turkish modernization. The Kemalists, as his political heirs proudly call themselves, label the AKP as a collection of stealth radical Islamists whose moralist balderdash cloaks a plot to create a theological tyranny and feudal police state.

http://www.strategypage.com/on_point/20100914234523.aspx

2770/2010 -----

Key political risks to watch in Turkey

(Reuters) Turkey's ruling AK Party is in good shape ahead of a general election due by July 2011, judging by the way Turks voted in a weekend referendum on proposals for constitutional reform.

Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan sold the reforms as a way to strengthen democracy, help in the country's bid to join the European Union and make sure Turkey's generals did not try to overthrow an elected government as they have in the past.

Despite opponents arguing that some of the changes would undermine the independence of the judiciary and remove checks and balances on government, some 58 percent of Turks voted in favor of the reforms proposed by Erdogan's party.

The margin of victory and turnout of 77 percent will have given Erdogan confidence going into next year's poll in search of a third consecutive term of single party rule.

Following are some of the key risks to watch.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE68C3A120100913>

2771/2010 -----

Massive Cache of Iraq War Docs to Be Published by WikiLeaks

(Wired) A massive cache of previously unpublished classified U.S. military documents from the Iraq War is being readied for publication by WikiLeaks, a new report has confirmed.

The documents constitute the "biggest leak of military intelligence" that has ever occurred, according to Iain Overton, editor of the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, a nonprofit British organization that is working with WikiLeaks on the documents. The documents are expected to be published in several weeks. (a)

Overton, who discussed the project with Newsweek, (b) didn't say how many documents were involved or disclose their origin, but they may be among the leaks that an imprisoned Army intelligence analyst claimed to have sent to WikiLeaks earlier this year.

Pfc. Bradley Manning, who has been charged with improperly downloading and leaking classified information, disclosed to a former hacker in May that he had given WikiLeaks a database covering 500,000 events in the Iraq War between 2004 and 2009. Manning said the database included reports, dates, and latitude and longitude of events, as well as casualty figures.

A leak of this sort would vastly dwarf the cache of about 75,000 documents that WikiLeaks published in July from the Afghanistan War. That cache involved field reports from analysts who compiled information from informants and others on incidents and intelligence.

- (a) <http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2010/09/iraq-war-docs/>
- (b) <http://www.newsweek.com/blogs/declassified/2010/09/09/exclusive-wikileaks-collaborating-with-media-outlets-on-release-of-iraq-documents.html>

2772/2010 -----

The financial crisis and its impact on the security in the West

(ISRIA) From the 10th of September to the 11th of September, 2010, Riga, the capital of Latvia, hosts one of the leading security forums in Northern Europe - the Riga Conference. The conference aims to kick-off high level international discussions on foreign and security policy issues before entering the intensive policy making season in the fall of 2010. The conference has become the most significant gathering of some of the most respected world thinkers, academics, commentators, journalists, and politicians, providing a platform for a broad intellectual exchange on the current Transatlantic agenda.

The opening discussion of this year's Conference was "What Does the World Economic and Financial Crisis Mean for Security in the West?" The vice-chair of the Reflection Group on the Future of Europe (2020-2030), Prof. Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia, Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, the director of Studies at the Institute for Higher National Defence Studies, Prof. Michel Foucher, Chairman of Baltic Development Forum, Mr. Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, and the holder of the Zbigniew Brzezinski Chair in Global Security and Geostrategy, Dr. Simon Serfaty, took part in this discussion. The discussion was led by Robert Cottrell, the editor of TheBrowser.com.

http://www.isria.com/RESTRICTED/D/2010/SEPTEMBER_17/11_September_2010_30.php

2773/2010 -----

Do Western states spy for corporate ends?

(Reuters) International firms may face a growing threat from espionage in emerging states, but has the West itself been using spies to gain unfair business advantage?

The issue of how governments use eavesdropping has come back into focus as several emerging governments in the Gulf and Asia demand access to encrypted Blackberry smart phones.

Most Western governments already have the ability to intercept almost all messages within their borders and often outside, and they say the economic intelligence they want is the kind that would help them fight crime and terrorism.

Whether they might snoop for commercial gain is a topic on which current and former officials refuse to be drawn, and but some experts say it is naive to assume it does not happen.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFLDE68C20I20100915>



HOT SPOTS / WARS

2774/2010 -----

The Good Old Days Were Safer

(StrategyPage) The post-9/11 world has dramatically altered the way that national intelligence services do business. For one, the craft of espionage and military intelligence has become inherently more dangerous for case officers and agents in an age of terrorism and insurgency, than it was during the Cold War. A good example of this is the increasing numbers of case officers, whether from the CIA or the Secret Intelligence Service (UK's MI6), who are routinely issued firearms while on assignment.

This is a complete turnaround from the way business was done during the Cold War in the '60s, '70s, and '80s. Many case officers on both sides, whether CIA, SIS, or KGB, served out their entire 20 or 30 year careers as professional spies without ever having touched a firearm after their initial tradecraft courses. After all, getting into shootouts wasn't their job. Collecting information was. Furthermore, the case officers themselves, often operating under official diplomatic cover, didn't really have anything to fear if they were caught or their covers blown, except a ruined career and expulsion from whatever country they operated in. The ones in real danger were always the informants, or "assets", that the case officers recruited, who were liable to face execution if they were found out. Simply put, spying really wasn't that dangerous for the case officers.

After the War on Terrorism began, all of that changed. Besides carrying guns, agencies and case officers are paying extra attention to things like counter-surveillance, disguises, and evasive driving. Carrying a sidearm is necessary for a case officer working in a city like Karachi or Kabul, the truth remains that getting into a gunfight is still the last resort, and should be avoided at all costs. Case officers know that the most effective way to avoided being a terrorist target is to avoid following the same

routines every day, varying routes to and from work/meetings, never sleeping in the same safe house for too long, and generally making one's life as varied an unpredictable as possible. Experienced spies know that if you can't be found, you can't be a target. The best game plan is to be as invisible as possible.

As long as American and European intelligence continue focusing their operations against terrorism, the spy game is going to get increasingly dangerous, and intelligence services will respond accordingly.

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htintel/articles/20100908.aspx>

2775/2010 -----

Former Afghan Intel Service Chief: The Taliban 'Are Our Killers'

(NPR) The tomb of Ahmad Shah Massoud is a domed structure that towers over the Panjshir Valley.

It was here that Massoud and his warlord militia managed to carve out one of the only places in Afghanistan that has kept the Taliban at bay – both in the 1990s and today.

As the sun rises each day on Massoud's tomb, its shadow nearly hits the boyhood home of Amrullah Saleh. Saleh was a foot soldier for Massoud – also a clerk, a translator, and an aide.

"I was not a very important person when he was alive," he said.

Up until this year, Amrullah Saleh was head of Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security, the intelligence service. He was fired by President Karzai when he opposed the administration's effort to begin negotiations with the Taliban.

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2010/09/13/129842354/former-afghan-intelligence-service-chief-the-taliban-are-our-killers>

2776/2010 -----

Record level of US airstrikes hit Afghan militants

(AP) Intelligence officials say drone aircraft have unleashed a fresh missile attack that killed 12 people during the most intense period of U.S. strikes in Pakistan since they began in 2004.

The stepped-up campaign that included Wednesday's strike is focused on a small area of farming villages and mountainous, thickly forested terrain controlled by the Haqqani network, a ruthless American foe in Afghanistan, U.S. officials say. One official says there is some evidence the network is being squeezed as a result.

Two Pakistani intelligence officials speaking on condition of anonymity say US missiles hit a house in Dargah Mandi, 2.5 miles (4 kilometers west) of the main town of Miran Shah, in North Waziristan, a lawless tribal region on the Afghan border.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hkiMxbH0BqgpWA2ZG6VD6wVTmAD9I84RU00>

The Incredible Shrinking al Qaeda

(StrategyPage) Intelligence agencies are at odds over how many al Qaeda are in Afghanistan. The estimates vary between a "hundred or so" and "less than a thousand." There is also some dispute as to who exactly qualifies as a "member" of the terrorist organization. For example, do local Afghans, hired for security or support jobs qualify? Or only non-Afghan terrorists who were chased out of places like Iraq, Yemen or Chechnya? The CIA tends to go with the experienced terrorists being the only true members, while other intel outfits are inclined to include local hires and trainees. All agree that the al Qaeda footprint in Afghanistan is small, and isn't much larger in Pakistan. Al Qaeda has become more of an idea (and not a very good one) than an organization.

Meanwhile the "Taliban comeback" keeps getting headlines in the media. But it's the Taliban who are increasingly under attack. There hasn't been a "Taliban Spring Offensive" for the last two years, and the key Taliban financial resource; heroin in Helmand province, has been under attack as well. The opium crop declined over 25 percent this year. The Taliban hoped that drug gang profits, al Qaeda assistance and Pakistani reinforcements would turn the tide. But al Qaeda is a very junior, unpopular, and shrinking partner, and the Pakistani Taliban are sending refugees, not reinforcements. With all that, violence nationwide was up, mainly because there are more foreign troops in the country, being more aggressive against the Taliban and drug gangs.

<http://www.strategypage.com/htm/htwin/articles/20100820.aspx>



UNITED STATES

Elections and Obama's Foreign Policy Choices

(Stratfor) We are now nine weeks away from the midterm elections in the United States. Much can happen in nine weeks, but if the current polls are to be believed, U.S. President Barack Obama is about to suffer a substantial political reversal. While we normally do not concern ourselves with domestic political affairs in the United States, when the only global power is undergoing substantial political uncertainty, that inevitably affects its behaviour and therefore the dynamics of the international system. Thus, we have to address it, at least from the standpoint of U.S. foreign policy. While these things may not matter much in the long run, they certainly are significant in the short run.

To begin thinking about this, we must bear three things in mind. First, while Obama won a major victory in the Electoral College, he did not come anywhere near a landslide in the popular vote. About 48 percent of the voters selected someone else. In spite of the Democrats' strength in Congress and the inevitable bump in popularity Obama received after he was

elected, his personal political strength was not overwhelming. Over the past year, poll numbers indicating support for his presidency have deteriorated to the low 40 percent range, numbers from which it is difficult, but not impossible, to govern.

Second, he entered the presidency off balance. His early focus in the campaign was to argue that the war in Iraq was the wrong war to fight but that the war in Afghanistan was the right one. This positioned him as a powerful critic of George W. Bush without positioning him as an anti-war candidate. Politically shrewd, he came into office with an improving Iraq situation, a deteriorating Afghanistan situation and a commitment to fighting the latter war. But Obama did not expect the global financial crisis. When it hit full blast in September 2008, he had no campaign strategy to deal with it and was saved by the fact that John McCain was as much at a loss as he was. The Obama presidency has therefore been that of a moderately popular president struggling between campaign promises and strategic realities as well as a massive economic crisis to which he crafted solutions that were a mixture of the New Deal and what the Bush administration had already done. It was a tough time to be president.

Third, while in office, Obama tilted his focus away from the foreign affairs plank he ran on to one of domestic politics. In doing so, he shifted from the area where the president is institutionally strong to the place where the president is institutionally weak. The Constitution and American tradition give the president tremendous power in foreign policy, generally untrammelled by other institutions. Domestic politics do not provide such leeway. A Congress divided into two houses, a Supreme Court and the states limit the president dramatically. The founders did not want it to be easy to pass domestic legislation, and tradition hasn't changed that. Obama can propose, but he cannot impose.

Therefore, the United States has a president who won a modest victory in the popular vote but whose campaign posture and the reality under which he took office have diverged substantially. He has been drawn, whether by inclination or necessity, to the portion of his presidency where he is weakest and most likely to face resistance and defeat. And the weaker he gets politically the less likely he is to get domestic legislation passed, and the defeats will increase his weakness.

http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20100913_elections_obamas_foreign_policy_choices?utm_source=GWeekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=100914&utm_content=readmore&elq=740bb61df2be4e9fb29665e4c1f2bc29

2779/2010 -----

Obama's new National Space Policy focuses on Interntl Cooperation

(ISRIA) « No longer are we racing against an adversary; in fact, one of our central goals is to promote peaceful cooperation and collaboration in space, which not only will ward off conflict, but will help to expand our capacity to operate in orbit and beyond, » U.S. President Barack Obama said while introducing his new National Space Policy on June 28, 2010. In 2006, former President George W. Bush had made U.S. freedom of action in space a top priority of his Space Policy. The newly released policy of President Obama is a bit more extensive and calls for a greater and a more ambitious international cooperation. The White House has outlined this policy in a concise 14-page document.

http://www.isria.com/letter/2010/PAGES/INTRO/20100704_INTRO_ONSP.php

Koran burning spurs ex-CIA official to lead protest

(Washington Post) Suzanne Spaulding, a figure with long experience in U.S. intelligence circles, including a stint as assistant general counsel at the CIA, is urging former national security officials to speak out against a Florida preacher's plans for a public burning of the Koran on Sept. 11.



Spaulding's petition drive dovetails with an appeal Tuesday by Gen. David Petraeus, commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, to pastor Terry Jones of Gainesville, Fla., to drop his plans for a ritual burning of Islam's holiest book. "It saddens me personally and worries me from a national security perspective because it fuels the terrorists' propaganda," Spaulding wrote in a letter to friends and former associates.

"Moreover, I don't believe it is a true reflection of America. While I think we need a long-term effort aimed at education and tied in some respects to broader counter-rad(ical) efforts, I am launching a short-term effort that I'm hoping maybe you will join." Spaulding's petition calls for religious tolerance and includes the statement: "We condemn the act of burning the Koran, a sacred text for millions of Americans and others around the world, as we would condemn the burning of all sacred texts."

Spaulding, who has held top staff jobs on both the House and Senate intelligence committees and served on numerous intelligence-review commissions, is not approaching only former national security officials. She has also netted spiritual guru Deepak Chopra, who is promoting the cause on his Web site.

http://blog.washingtonpost.com/spy-talk/2010/09/koran_burning_spurs_ex-cia_off.html

Untangling the Bizarre CIA Links to the Ground Zero Mosque

(Observer) So far, the debate over the proposed Islamic center near Ground Zero has unfolded along predictable lines, with the man at the center of the project, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, drawing attacks from the right painting him as a terrorist sympathizer with ties to Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood.

But meanwhile, links between the group behind the controversial mosque, the CIA and U.S. military establishment have gone unacknowledged.

For instance, one of the earliest backers of the nonprofit group, the Cordoba Initiative, that is spearheading the Ground Zero mosque, is a 52-year-old Scarsdale, New York, native named R. Leslie Deak. In addition to serving on the group's board of advisors since its founding in 2004 by Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, Deak was its principal funder, donating \$98,000 to the nonprofit between 2006 and 2008. This figure appears to represent organization's total operating budget—though, oddly, the group reported receipts of just a third of that total during the same time period.

Leslie Deak's resume also notes his role as "business consultant" for Patriot Defense Group, LLC, a private defense contractor with offices in Winter Park, Florida, and in Tucson. The only names listed on the firm's website are those of its three "strategic advisers." These include retired four-star General Bryan "Doug" Brown, commander of the U.S. Special

Operations Command until 2007, where he headed "all special operations forces, both active duty and reserve, leading the Global War On Terrorism," and James Pavitt, former deputy director for operations at the Central Intelligence Agency, where he "managed the CIA's globally deployed personnel and nearly half of its multi-billion dollar budget" and "served as head of America's Clandestine Service, the CIA's operational response to the attacks of September 11, 2001."

<http://www.observer.com/2010/politics/untangling-new-intrigue-behind-ground-zero-mosque>

2782/2010 -----

Appeals court dismisses Boeing-CIA lawsuit

(AP) A sharply divided federal appeals court has dismissed a lawsuit against Boeing Co. that claimed the company flew terrorism suspects to secret prisons around the world to be tortured as part of the CIA's "extraordinary rendition" program.

The court cited national security risks in its 6-5 ruling Wednesday.

The lawsuit was filed by five terrorism suspects and alleged that Chicago-based Boeing's Jeppesen Dataplan subsidiary in San Jose, Calif., supplied airplanes and flight services to transport suspects for the program.

The Obama administration asked the appeals court to reconsider an earlier decision allowing the lawsuit to continue. The administration said sensitive "state secrets" would be exposed during the litigation.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i-l0dtWsMzN-j813UjoEtmqt_HhQD9I3T7G00

2783/2010 -----

Putting The CIA Back To Sleep

(strategyPage) The area of the CIA that has flourished in the last three decades has been the geek side of things. These folks were always flush, thanks to a Congress that felt safer with spy satellites, than with spies on the ground. But those days were over. Much of the new technology was going to the analysts (better computerized tools to dig quickly through information) and the field operatives (like Predator UAVs, at 4-8 million bucks each.) A lot of money was going into training (learning Arabic, Pushto, Farsi and Dari was encouraged, and sometimes demanded) and the use of consultants (often former CIA operatives who would not come back full time.)

But now Congress is resuming the cycle all over again. The CIA is being investigated for doing what was desperately demanded of it after September 11, 2001. Proposed new restrictions would outlaw things like the use of contractors for interrogations (even if there were no other source of manpower to do the job in time), the use of "vigorous interrogation", the detention of foreigners without giving them access to the U.S. criminal justice system, and many more items that most CIA officials know, from their own experience, will only get Americans killed. They know that because they paid attention to what the Church Committee restrictions did to degrade U.S. intelligence gathering capabilities.

Thus the thousands of new people hired into the CIA since September 11, 2001, will be, for the foreseeable future, the only ones with practical experience in effective espionage. Congress wants new hires to stay away from anything that is unpleasant, politically incorrect, or potentially embarrassing. What is different this time is that the "old hands" won't be over represented by Ivy Leaguers and men from the northeast. This time, a disproportionate number of the experienced agency personnel will come from the heartland (everything but the east and west coasts). The recent recruiting program relied heavily on mass media, using radio, newspapers and the Internet to cast the recruiting net as wide as possible. So the new generation of experts are, literally, coming from a different place than the generations that ran ops during World War II and Vietnam. Aside from that, it looks like history is going to repeat itself. Not the first time that has happened.

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htintel/articles/20100831.aspx>

ACIPSS-newsletter-commentary: A must-read article, one of the best, if not the best analysis of the CIA, esp. on the discrepancy between competent operatives vs. the risk adverse top brass and Congress.

2784/2010 -----

Who Is a Big Fan of ArcSight? The CIA

(Wallstreet Journal) How good is ArcSight's security software?

ArcSight is the latest technology company that has attracted a billion dollar-plus offer from Hewlett Packard. One of the early investors in ArcSight was In-Q-Tel, the CIA's venture-capital arm that seeded the Menlo Park, Calif., company with \$3 million in 2002, as part of the start-up concern's third round of fund raising.

In-Q-Tel, which is staffed and funded by the CIA, provides its portfolio companies not just with money, but with intelligence and counter-intelligence expertise and a "test-bed" for new products. In-Q-Tel couldn't be reached for comment. In return, In-Q-Tel primarily is interested in acquiring new technologies.

ArcSight makes software that monitors corporate networks for attacks by hackers and other cyber attackers. The company has roughly 1,000 customers, though that number could rise exponentially if a tech giant H-P takes it over and exposes it to its global customer base.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/venturecapital/2010/09/14/who-is-a-big-fan-of-arcsight-the-cia/>

2785/2010 -----

Intelligence surveillance court could become less secret

(Washington Post) The secretive court that oversees domestic surveillance for intelligence investigations is proposing new rules that could lift the veil slightly on its deliberations.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court was set up under the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) to protect the privacy interests of Americans in foreign intelligence investigations. But for national security reasons, it makes decisions in secrecy; its orders are

rarely made public. One big issue for civil liberties and open government advocates is that when the government brings a request for electronic surveillance on a citizen to the court, no one is there to represent the citizen's interest - except perhaps the phone, Internet or e-mail service provider being asked to provide the government access to the data.

Now, the FISC has drafted a revision to its rules of procedure to clarify, among other things, who has standing to challenge surveillance orders, and to give judges more discretion in disclosing rulings. While it's not a giant leap for civil liberties and transparency, privacy advocates and some industry lawyers say it's a step in the right direction.

The revised rules would clarify that industry lawyers have standing to appeal all types of orders issued by the court. Under the court's proposal, all orders - not just Section 215 or basket surveillance orders - could be challenged by a provider. Up to now, it has not been clear whether, for instance, a wiretap order for a phone number in the U.S. can be challenged, said Michael Sussmann, a lawyer with Perkins Coie who represents phone and Internet companies.

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/checkpoint-washington/2010/09/intelligence_surveillance_cour.html

2786/2010 -----

Follow the Dirty Money

(NY Times) LAST month, a federal district judge approved a deal to allow Barclays, the British bank, to pay a \$298 million fine for conducting transactions with Cuba, Iran, Libya, Myanmar and Sudan in violation of United States trade sanctions. Barclays was discovered to have systematically disguised the movement of hundreds of millions of dollars through wire transfers that were stripped of the critical information required by law that would have enabled the world to know that for more than 10 years the bank was moving huge sums of money for enemy governments. Yet all federal prosecutors wanted to settle the problem was a small piece of the action.

When Judge Emmet Sullivan of federal district court in Washington, who ultimately approved the deal with Barclays, asked the obvious question, "Why isn't the government getting rough with these banks?" the remarkable response was that the government had investigated but couldn't find anyone responsible.

How preposterous. Banks can commit crimes only through the acts of their employees. Federal law enforcement agencies are simply failing to systematically gather the intelligence they need to effectively monitor the crime.

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/13/opinion/13mazur.html?_r=5

2787/2010 -----

Das geheime Amerika

(Tagesspiegel) Die Top-Secret-Landschaft, die die US-Regierung als Reaktion auf die Al-Qaida-Anschläge vom 11. September 2001 eingerichtet hat, ist inzwischen so groß und so geheim, dass niemand wirklich weiß, wie viel Geld sie kostet, wie viele Menschen für sie arbeiten, wie viele Programme in ihrem Rahmen existieren oder wie viele Organisationen eigentlich dieselbe

Arbeit tun. Einer zweijährigen Untersuchung der „Washington Post“ war es unmöglich festzustellen, ob die Sicherheit im Land dadurch tatsächlich erhöht wird. Eine Sicherheit besteht jedoch, nämlich dass inzwischen eine Parallelgeographie der Vereinigten Staaten existiert, eine mächtige Top-Secret-USA, die unsichtbar ist, gleichzeitig aber für die sensibelsten Themen des Landes zuständig ist.

<http://www.tagesspiegel.de/zeitung/das-geheime-amerika/1929252.html>

2788/2010 -----

More Special Forces Battalions

(StrategyPage) U.S. SOCOM (Special Operations Command) recently created a new Special Forces battalion (300 troops) for the 10th Special Forces Group. This is part of an expansion of Special Forces that began two years ago. Each of the five Special Forces Groups will receive a fourth battalion. Two other groups have already begun organizing their new battalions. The 3rd and 5th Groups have been doing most of the work in Iraq and Afghanistan, and they are getting fourth battalions first. The other Groups have also sent many of their A Teams to Iraq and Afghanistan, but the 5th Group is the one that was trained for that region, and has the lead responsibility.

In the past two years, SOCOM has been shifting forces from Iraq (where it had 5,500 personnel two years ago) to Afghanistan (where it had 3,000 troops two years ago). The ratio is being reversed. Most American allies have moved all their commando forces from Iraq to Afghanistan, where they not only do what they were trained for, but also train Afghans for special operations tasks. This has already been done in Iraq, where it worked quite well. The SOCOM troops in Iraq and Afghanistan account for about 80 percent of American special operations forces overseas. The rest are in places like Colombia, the Philippines and Djibouti (adjacent to Somalia).

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htsf/articles/20100822.aspx>



2789/2010 -----

President Medvedev met with Russian and foreign political analysts

(ISRIA) Dmitry Medvedev met with leading Russian and foreign political analysts at the Global Policy Forum taking place in Yaroslavl. The President answered questions about Russia's democratic development and economic modernisation, the situation in the North Caucasus, and the country's foreign policy priorities.

http://www.isria.com/RESTRICTED/D/2010/SEPTEMBER_17/12_September_2010_12.php

2790/2010 -----

Moscow tunes in to Luzhkov-bashing in record numbers



(moscowtimes) An unflattering programme about Moscow mayor Yury Lukzkov and his wife Elena Baturina hooked a quarter of Moscow's TV audience. Normal ratings almost doubled to 24.3 per cent to watch the mayor in discomfort on Friday, monitoring agency TNS said.

The controversial expose has brought libel suits upon NTV from the furious Luzhkovs. The programme Dela v Krepke runs every week and reveals scams of differing hues. It alleged that the success of Baturina's entrepreneurial activity is due to her husband's position.

The popularity of the Luzhkov-Baturina episode suggests that people tuned in especially to see them criticised, Lenta.ru reported. The episode in question will be shown at a meeting of the United Russia supreme council and Luzhkov has already met with the council's head, Boris Gryzlov, Kommersant reported on Tuesday.

- (a) <http://www.mn.ru/politics/20100914/188043057.html>
- (b) Bank of Moscow Debt Slips as Luzhkov Risk Climbs:
<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-09-14/bank-of-moscow-debt-slips-as-luzhkov-risk-climbs-russia-credit.html>
- (c) <http://german.ruvr.ru/2010/09/13/20188286.html>
- (d) <http://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/russland-jurij-luschkow-buergermeister-zwischen-den-fronten-1.999400>
- (e) The Austrian connection/s:
<http://diepresse.com/home/politik/aussenpolitik/594262/index.do?from=suche.intern.portal>

ACIPSS-newsletter-commentary: Yuri Luzhkov, Moscow's politically powerful mayor, was severely criticised in a documentary on a Russian state TV channel on Saturday, 11 September. Previously regarded as 'untouchable' in Moscow's administration, Luzhkov, attacked for remaining on holiday during recent Russian wild fires affecting Moscow, has also seen some of his departments under investigation for fraud as well as bribery in the Moscow construction market. The documentary also criticised his billionaire wife, Elena Baturina, who owns the construction company Inteko, a major Moscow competitor of Austria's Strabag SE. President Medvedev's decision to suspend construction of the Moscow-St Petersburg highway met with criticism in a Rossiiskaya Gazeta article by Luzhkov whose view has Prime Minister Putin's support. Many regard Luzhkov as attempting to cause a rift between Putin and Medvedev who reportedly wants Luzhkov's removal from his post.

(The author of this commentary, a London based researcher and analyst highly familiar with current Russian affairs, wishes not to be named. Thx anyway.)

2791/2010 -----

Relations with the EU most important to Russia's foreign policy

(ISRIA) In a joint statement following the 25th EU-Russia summit on June 1, 2010, the sides noted the need to modernize economies and societies, stated the commitment of Russia and the EU to a joint search for answers to the challenges of current times, as well as their interest in strengthening

their trade and economic partnership. In the document, the priorities in cooperation within the Partnership for Modernisation initiative were named as investment, innovation, small and medium-sized businesses development, technical regulations and standards harmonization, intellectual property protection, energy efficiency, judicial system effectiveness, fighting corruption, and strengthening dialogue with civil society.

http://www.isria.com/letter/2010/PAGES/INTRO/20100607_INTRO_EURussia.php

2792/2010 -----

The New Nobility: Russia's Security State

(FAS) "The Soviet police state tried to control every citizen in the country. The new, more sophisticated Russian [security] system is far more selective than its Soviet-era counterpart; it targets only those individuals who have political ambitions or strong public views." That's what Andrei Soldatov and Irina Borogan discover in "The New Nobility," their impressive new book on the resurgence of Russia's security services in the post-Cold War era.

Soldatov and Borogan, Russian journalists who have produced some of the boldest reporting on the subject over the past decade, are also the creators and editors of Agentura.ru, a pioneering web site devoted to public interest research on Russian intelligence policy and related matters.

In "The New Nobility," they present many of the decisive episodes in the recent history of the FSB, the primary Russian security service, from the 2002 Moscow theater siege, to the 2004 Beslan school massacre, the war in Chechnya, and more. Overall they present a picture of a security service of increasing power and influence, uneven competence – but virtually no accountability to parliament or the public.

"The Soviet KGB was all-powerful," Soldatov and Borogan write, "but it was also under the control of the political structure: The Communist Party presided over every KGB section, department, and division. In contrast, the FSB is a remarkably independent entity, free of party control and parliamentary oversight...."

http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2010/09/new_nobility.html

2793/2010 -----

Policing The Police

(StrategyPage) he government is making a major effort to reform the national police, including renaming them "police". Currently, the Soviet era force is called "militia" ("militsiya" in Russian). This was derived from the early (1917) communist attempts to create a "peasants and workers" militia to replace the Western concept of police (the communists wanted more political correctness and less protection of rights and property). The militia force never worked very well. Part of the problem was using conscripts as militia, meaning a lot of the young "cops" were teenagers with only a month or so of training, and in the job for less than two years. Corruption and lack of professionalism were a problem early on and got worse after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. Now the government is going to gut the current militia and try and start all over again. This is part of a larger anti-corruption drive that includes the entire judicial system (where information, and decisions, are often for sale.)

<http://www.strategypage.com/qnd/russia/articles/20100912.aspx>

2794/2010 -----

Anti-Terror-Manöver der SOZ-Länder beginnt in Kasachstan

(Stimme Russlands) Das fünfte gemeinsame Anti-Terror-Manöver „Friedensmission 2010“ der Mitgliedsländer der Schanghai Organisation für Zusammenarbeit (SOZ) beginnt heute auf dem Truppenübungsplatz der kasachischen Landstreitkräfte „Matybulak“ im Gebiet Schambyl.

Am Manöver nehmen etwa 5000 Armeeangehörige der SOZ-Länder (China, Kasachstan, Kirgisien, Russland und Tadschikistan) teil. Eingesetzt werden mehr als 300 Gefechtsfahrzeuge, über 50 Flugzeuge und Hubschrauber aus China, Kasachstan und Russland. Neben Truppenkontingenten beteiligen sich auch Einheiten des Zivilschutz- und des Innenministeriums Kasachstans am Manöver.

Von der russischen Seite nehmen über 1000 Armeeangehörige, etwa 230 Panzer, Selbstfahrlafetten, Schützenpanzer und andere Gefechtsfahrzeuge sowie Flugzeuge und Hubschrauber an der Übung teil. Sie wird 17 Tage andauern. Ihre aktive Phase ist für den 24. September geplant. Seit der SOZ-Gründung wurden mehrere Manöver „Friedensmission“ durchgeführt. Das erste Manöver hatte im August 2003 stattgefunden.

<http://german.ruvr.ru/2010/09/13/20048359.html>

2795/2010 -----

U-Haft für mutmaßlichen China-Spion in Russland verlängert

(China Observer) Die U-Haft für den Moskauer Professor Swjatoslaw Bobyschew, der verdächtigt wird, für China spioniert zu haben, ist jetzt vom Gericht des Moskauer Stadtbezirks Lefortowo um weitere vier Monate verlängert worden. Das teilte die Pressestelle des Gerichts russischen Medien mit.

Damit entsprach das Gericht einem entsprechenden Antrag der Ermittlung.

Nach Angaben der Ermittlung habe Professor der Staatlichen Technischen Universität Informationen an die Bürger Chinas übergeben, die der staatlichen Sicherheit Russlands schaden könnten. Bobyschew war im März festgenommen worden. Gemäß dem Artikel 275 des russischen Strafgesetzbuches (Hochverrat) drohen ihm bis zu 20 Jahren Haft.

Bobyschews Verteidiger Wladimir Pawlow teilte indes der Presse mit, das Strafverfahren gegen seinen Mandanten sei „pro forma“ eingeleitet worden, um „die Statistik der Aufdeckung solcher Fälle zu verbessern“. Nach seinen Worten enthalten die Ermittlungsunterlagen keine Beweise für Bobyschews Schuld.

<http://www.china-observer.de/?x=entry:entry100915-173024>

2796/2010 -----

Mysterious death of a Russian spy chief

(UPI) Mystery surrounds the death of Maj. Gen. Yuri Ivanov, deputy chief of Russian Military Intelligence, whose decomposing body was found on a Turkish beach in August after he disappeared in neighbouring Syria.

On Aug. 28, 12 days after Ivanov's body was found by Turkish fishermen in Hatay province, the Russian army newspaper Red Star reported the general had died in a "swimming accident" near the Syrian port of Tartous. But there was widespread speculation that the 52-year-old general had been killed, the latest in a series of political assassinations in the Middle East in recent years.

Russia's Defense Ministry refused to comment further. As far as is known, Ivanov was quietly buried in Moscow.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Special/2010/09/15/Mysterious-death-of-a-Russian-spy-chief/UPI-85721284564388/

2797/2010 -----

Anna Chapman Update: Russian Spy's Fan Club Sings Her Praises

(CBSnews) Anna Chapman's departure from the United States back to "Mother Russia" apparently left more than a few broken hearts in Manhattan - but none of them seem to regret getting involved with the woman dubbed the "sexy spy."

Three men who had run-ins with the "femme fatale" spoke to Details magazine about the spy who entranced them and said that Chapman was adept at using her greatest weapon - sex.

"She was an expert at using her femininity to get information," model Dennis Hirdt, who claims he never went past the flirtatious texting stage with Chapman, told the magazine. "Little hand touches. Whispers. Maybe putting a hand on the cheek, or maybe 'by accident' lips rubbing against an earlobe."

According to the magazine, Chapman also had a way of entering a room that seemed to turn even the most focused businessman turn into a lovesick teenager. One of those blown-away businessmen was the CEO of PropertyShark, an online real estate site, who first met Chapman at a business meeting.

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083_162-20016217-504083.html

2798/2010 -----

Anna Chapman was a useless spy, former lovers claim

(Telegraph) Anna Chapman, the glamorous former Russian spy, was a useless spy who just wanted to party and have sex, some of her previous lovers have claimed.

The flame-haired divorcee left a trail of broken hearts in Manhattan after she convinced them to take her on expensive dates and then into bed, they claimed. The men, who have made the confessions to a magazine at a specially convened meeting in New York, all painted a picture of a woman who used her seductive skills to get close to them but was more interested in having fun than gathering intelligence.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/russia/8001410/Anna-Chapman-was-a-useless-spy-former-lovers-claim.html>

2799/2010 -----

Russia Revives Its Imperial Fleets

(StrategyPage) Russia has committed over \$3 billion to start rebuilding its Black Sea fleet. The new force will consist of six Tornado class, 500 ton missile boats, three 4,000 ton Krivak IV frigates and three Kilo class submarines. There will also be a dozen or more mine sweepers, amphibious craft and smaller patrol boats, plus about twenty support ships and a few dozen aircraft and helicopters. Russia needs a Black Sea fleet that is modern and capable, because this force does more than just look after Russian interests in the Black Sea. These ships are also needed for any emergencies in the Mediterranean or the Indian Ocean.

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htsurf/articles/20100823.aspx>

2800/2010 -----

Russia to test new deep-diving subs

(Voice of Russia) Russia plans to test its new deep-diving vehicles Rus and Consul in the Atlantic Ocean in October. Built for the needs of the Russian Navy, the vehicles will be used to rescue crew members of sinking submarines, for example.

Apart from that, the submersibles are expected be involved in scientific research, just like Russian-owned deep-diving manned Mir submarines, performing underwater research expeditions at Lake Baikal.

<http://english.ruvr.ru/2010/09/14/20383320.html>

2801/2010 -----

The Russian/Armenian Axis

(StrategyPage) Armenia has signed a pact with Russia that, in effect, makes it a protectorate of Russia. The deal extends the lease on a Russian military base in Armenia from 2020 to 2044. The 3,000 man Russian force in Armenia may be increased and Russia, in effect, guarantees Armenia's security. Armenia needs all the help it can get, as it is a landlocked Christian nation surrounded by three hostile Moslem states (Turkey, Azerbaijan and Iran). To the north, there is Georgia which, while Christian, has its own problems with Russia.

There are over nine million Armenians worldwide (including three million in Armenia), making it clear that most Armenians want to be anywhere but Armenia. But not everyone could get out. Moreover, Armenians have been in Armenia for over 3,000 years, and there is a certain attachment to the place. The Russians like surrounding Georgia, and being closer to Turkey (an ancient enemy).

In return for this security, Armenia will have to follow Russia's lead in diplomacy, and any other area the Russians feel is important. Meanwhile,

the Russians will provide new weapons and equipment for the 43,000 troops in the Armenian military, and help arm an even larger reserve force.

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htlead/articles/20100824.aspx>

2802/2010 -----

Spetsnaz Are Born Again

(StrategyPage) Russia's ground forces, especially the country's numerous special operations units, have apparently benefited greatly from the major reforms being instituted in the armed forces in the last six years. Airborne Forces (paratroopers) and special forces (Spetsnaz) historically been a major source of pride to Russians going back to the '70s and '80s, when special forces and airborne troops constituted the most effective troops available during the Afghan War (1979-1989). Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia's special ops guys suffered the same problems as the rest of the Russian Federation, namely corruption, low morale, low funding, and a major degradation in training capabilities. Special forces soldiers were often accused of doing "hits" for the Russian mob during the chaotic '90s.

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htsf/articles/20100913.aspx>



For more on the Spetsnaz, their history, combat in Afghanistan and their connection to current Russian Organised Crime, see: Ron Kenner, *Soviet Army Spetsnaz. The Red Elite from the Hyteria of the 1980s to the Present*, in: *Journal for Intelligence, Propaganda and Security Studies (JIPSS)*, Vol. 4, Nr. 1/2010 (current issue), 91-105.

Subscription page: <http://www.acipss.org/journal.htm>

2803/2010 -----

Russian T-95 Put To Sleep

(StrategyPage) Earlier this year, Russia officially halted development on their new T-95 tank. This decision is not sudden, because for the last two years the military has been getting more money for replacing the Cold War equipment. The T-95 was talked about as a symbol of rejuvenation. This was badly needed, as the Russian Army shrank over 80 percent in the 1990s, and for fifteen years, practically no new equipment was purchased.

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htarm/articles/20100914.aspx>

2804/2010 -----

New planes for Russian air force

(Voice of Russia) Russia is modernizing its air forces. Later this year 10 new Yak-130 training-combat planes will be added to the ones the Russian air forces already have. The Yak-130 combat trainer, which is a new generation aircraft, was created at the Yakovlev Design Bureau. The Yak-130 is a dual-use plane, for which it can only be praised. It can be used as a combat trainer and also as a light strike plane, General of the Army and the former Russian air force commander Anatoly Kornukov says.

"The Yak-130 seems to be a light and not very expensive plane but there're many weapons on it. As regards its cabin, it is comparable to many types of modern planes. There's a Russian engine there. This is a very modern plane."

According to General Kornukov, the Yak-130 combat trainers have a big export potential and many countries will be ready to buy it. The Yak-130 training-combat plane can be regarded as a universal plane, since pilots, who undergo training on such a plane, can practically without any preparation at all operate all types of jet fighters, including both Russian and foreign-made jet fighters. The Yak-130 plane will be used to train the crews for the "Su" and "MiG" families, including the "Su-35" and "MiG-35" fighter jets, and in the future, for the "T-50" Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA), which is currently undergoing tests.

<http://english.ruvr.ru/2010/09/09/19545548.html>



NEAR / MIDDLE EAST / NORTH AFRICA

2805/2010 -----

U.S. diplomat fears condemnation of Israel

(UPI) The U.S. ambassador to the U.N. nuclear watchdog fears Arab ambassadors may condemn Israel at the next board of governors meeting, Asharq al-Awsat reported.

In an exclusive interview with the newspaper Sunday, Glyn Davies, the U.S. ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency, called on Arab ambassadors to work within the international consensus achieved by the New York Conference which reviewed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in May.

The American diplomat told the newspaper of "the necessity of working as a united front to implement policies to encourage Israel to participate in the 2012 conference, and this is in order to achieve the objective that all parties seek, which is a Middle East region that is free of nuclear weapons."

"What is more positive? For the IAEA General Conference to pass a resolution condemning Israel and for this [news] to adorn the headlines, or for a coordinated attempt to take place dissolve the confrontation and criticism which would facilitate the Israeli officials' decision to participate [at the 2012 conference]?" Davies told the paper.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2010/09/12/US-diplomat-fears-condemnation-of-Israel/UPI-55831284301359/

2806/2010 -----

Israeli probe finds Austrian behind illicit money transfer

(Haaretz) Investigation reveals Martin Schlaff is behind the \$4.5m funneled to the former PM's family; millions more went to company believed to be controlled by Lieberman.

The investigators are therefore recommending that Schlaff be indicted on bribery charges, and that Gilad and Omri, the sons of former prime minister

Ariel Sharon, be charged with serving as conduits for a bribe. "This is one of the gravest corruption affairs investigated by the fraud squad," said Commander (ret.) Nahum Levi, who headed the investigation. "It involved transfers of millions of dollars to the Sharon family. This was a particularly complex investigation because in it, an attempt was made to blur the source of the money via transfers from different countries of the world. Now, the file is supposed to go to the prosecution for an effort to translate the evidence in this grave case into an indictment."

<http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/israeli-probe-finds-austrian-billionaire-behind-illicit-money-transfer-to-sharon-family-1.312606?localLinksEnabled=false>

2807/2010 -----

Palestine And The Arab Reform Movement

(StrategyPage) While the Palestinians are united by their desire to destroy Israel and drive all Jews from the Middle East, they are divided by religion. Although most (except for three percent who are Christians) are Moslem, they are at odds over what kind of Islam should be practiced. Many, if not most, Palestinians in Gaza (where 1.5 million live) favor Islamic conservatism, and making religion the center of people's lives and forcing all Palestinians to comply with Islamic law (Sharia).

But in the West Bank (where 2.5 million live), the trend is definitely in favor of education (always popular among Palestinians) and moving away from destructive practices (religious conservatism and Islamic terrorism). This is actually still a contentious issue in the West Bank, where the ruling Fatah party has long been known for corruption more than any kind of reform. But the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority (a Fatah man) has been talking up more education, and critical thinking (something that could get you killed in Iran).

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htterr/articles/20100908.aspx>

2808/2010 -----

UN report, incidents with UNIFIL show Lebanon's stability fragile

(ISRIA) On July 9, 2010, Major General Alberto Asarta Cuevas, the Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), has called on the local population to engage in dialogue with his peacekeepers to resolve any issues concerning recent military activities carried in the area. Indeed, recent operations have led to a number of skirmishes between UNIFIL troops and some local villagers who were protesting against the international peacekeeping contingent as it was conducting its "maximum deployment exercise" which UN officials justified as "a routine activity to ensure the readiness of its troops on the ground."

http://www.isria.com/letter/2010/PAGES/INTRO/20100715_INTRO_Lebanon.php

2809/2010 -----

"Die Armee braucht die Angriffe der PKK"

(Standard) Gruppen innerhalb der türkischen Armee arbeiten offenbar mit der verbotenen kurdischen Arbeiterpartei PKK zusammen, glaubt der Polizei-Dozent Idris Bal. IDRIS BAL (42) ist Politikwissenschaftler und Professor

für Internationale Beziehungen an der Nationalen Polizeiakademie und der Atilim-Universität in Ankara. Er publiziert vor allem zu Sicherheitsfragen und den US-türkischen Beziehungen. Die türkische Polizei wird mittlerweile mehrheitlich dem Einfluss der regierenden AKP zugerechnet.

Markus Bernath sprach mit ihm in Ankara.

<http://derstandard.at/1282979220195/Die-Armee-braucht-die-Angriffe-der-PKK>

2810/2010 -----

Chad: France Must Pay To Stay

(strategyPage) The government feels very secure, with the UN peacekeepers leaving and over a half a billion dollars a year in oil revenue and foreign aid coming in each year. Little of this is spent on public needs, and most goes to reward those who are powerful and loyal to president Deby.

President Deby feels sufficiently secure that he has demanded the French pay for the privilege of stationing over a thousand troops in Chad. France has had troops in Chad for decades, to assist the government in maintaining order (and staying in power). Chadians resent having to depend on their old colonial masters to keep things running, so Deby's demand for money from France is popular in Chad. France is reluctant to withdraw their troops from Chad because China is more economically active in the country, and might offer to provide Deby with any security services he needs. Chinese firms have been active in building the pipeline that gets the oil out of the country. Many Chinese are entering Chad to start businesses, as they are doing throughout Africa.

<http://www.strategypage.com/gnd/chad/articles/20100820.aspx>



FAR EAST & ASIA

2811/2010 -----

Japan frees 14 crew members of Chinese ship

(AP) Japan freed 14 crew members of a Chinese fishing ship Monday nearly a week after their vessel and two Japanese patrol boats collided near disputed southern islets. But China lashed out at Tokyo's decision to keep the captain in custody.

Such collisions or close calls in disputed waters have frequently touched off nationalistic protests among the broader population about sovereignty and complicate efforts to improve ties between China and Japan – wary neighbours that are the world's second- and third-largest economies and major trading partners. Beijing has said the confrontation could damage its relations with Japan, underlining the sensitivity of the territorial dispute in the East China Sea.

The dispute has sparked anti-Japanese activists in China and Taiwan, which also claims the islands in question, to sail to the area on their own protest missions – although both governments have sought to rein them in so as not to inflame tensions further.

Japanese authorities sought to ease tensions Monday by allowing the 14 crew members to board a Chinese chartered plane that was sent to pick them up from a nearby Japanese island, said the Foreign Ministry.

But Japan continues to detain the captain of the Chinese trawler, Zhan Qixiong. A Japanese court has granted prosecutors permission to keep the captain in custody until Sept. 19 to decide whether to formally indict him.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gr_90U8KSxzQZv9eAUjsPckMO_C_wD9I70IT83

2812/2010 -----

More outspoken criticism of Kim Jong Il

(StrategyPage) North Koreans are becoming more outspoken in their criticism of Kim Jong Il, cursing him in public. This occurs most frequently in places hit hard by the recent floods. But now, the first Party Delegates' Conference in three decades has been called, but an exact date has not been set. That's because Kim Jong Il is in poor health. He had a stroke two years ago, never really recovered, and is now declining. The latest word is that the conference will go forward, soon. Apparently the conference is to announce that Kim Jong Il has chosen his youngest son, Kim Jong Un to be his successor. This is not popular with many in the North Korean leadership. But Kim Jong Il's recent trip to China apparently got China's backing for the succession. What bothers many about Kim Jong Un is the speed with which he is being prepared to take over (less than two years). Kim Jong Il spent sixteen years being groomed to take charge, and even then, it was a shaky business. Kim Jong Un is in his late 20s, and in East Asia, national leaders are expected to be at least twice as old. Then again, Kim Jong Un may be the guy to make big changes up north, as he is young and unpredictable.

<http://www.strategypage.com/qnd/korea/articles/20100915.aspx>

2813/2010 -----

Health of N.Korea's Kim delays key party meeting

(AFP) A key meeting of North Korea's ruling communist party has been delayed because of the health of leader Kim Jong-Il, South Korea's cable television news channel YTN said.

The station, quoting unidentified Seoul intelligence officials, said Kim's health worsened after his five-day trip to northeast China late last month. But the station said the conference would likely be held soon since the 68-year-old's health was not bad enough to warrant a cancellation. The meeting, the nation's most important political gathering for 30 years, is expected to pave the way for an eventual leadership succession to Kim's youngest son Jong-Un.

The South's National Intelligence Service said it could not confirm the YTN report. In a June announcement of the planned delegates' conference, the Korean Central News Agency said only that it would meet early in September to elect the party's "highest leading body".

No firm date has been announced.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jYdf4gLz-kCeIbCcfAnHoRrl4GEA>

2814/2010 -----

N.Korea wins China succession support, says spy

(AFP) North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il has won support from key ally China for a second father-to-son succession, South Korea's spy chief was reported Tuesday as saying.

National Intelligence Service (NIS) director Won Sei-Hoon, quoted by Chosun Ilbo newspaper, also said Kim might have taken his heir apparent and youngest son Jong-Un on his secretive trip to China late last month. Won was addressing a closed session of parliament's intelligence committee on Monday. The newspaper was quoting lawmakers at the meeting. Yonhap news agency carried a similar report.

"In terms of securing aid, Kim's visit to China was not so successful. However, it was a considerable achievement that he got the succession plan recognised (by China)," the agency quoted Won as saying. Asked whether the NIS believed Kim had been accompanied by his son, Won said: "Isn't it possible to see it like that, judging from the places he visited?"

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jqyeJyvPNpmAxVT6mXozWU10IMdQ>

2815/2010 -----

Chinese campaign to scare foreign warships close to the Chinese coast

(StrategyPage) For most of this year, China has been increasingly vocal (in the media) about American naval maneuvers off the coast. This is part of a campaign to scare foreign warships away from international waters close to the Chinese coast. This makes it easier for Chinese warships to train (and use their electronic equipment) without foreigners eavesdropping (watching, and recording how the Chinese electronics function). So far, this campaign is making a lot of noise in the Chinese and foreign media, but the U.S. Navy, having seen it all before (during the Cold War), is standing firm on the right of American warships to be in international waters.

<http://www.strategypage.com/qnd/china/articles/20100822.aspx>



EUROPE (GEOGRAPH.)

2816/2010 -----

Innenausschuss debattiert US-Datenaustausch

(ORF) Der Ausschuss des EU-Parlaments für Justiz und bürgerliche Freiheiten (LIBE) hat am Montag über das Rahmenabkommen für den Umgang mit dem Tausch personenbezogener Daten für Strafverfolgungszwecke mit den Vereinigten Staaten debattiert. Auch die Vorratsdatenspeicherung stand auf der Agenda, laut Justizkommissarin Cecilia Malmström verzögert sich die versprochene Evaluierung.

Das Datenschutz-Rahmenabkommen zwischen EU und USA soll einheitliche Regeln für die Übermittlung beispielsweise von Finanzdaten (SWIFT/TFTP) oder Flugpassagierdaten (PNR) zu Terrorbekämpfungszwecken schaffen. Es wird auch bereits getroffene Bestimmungen in Einzelabkommen ersetzen.

Der Berichterstatter des Ausschusses, Jan Philipp Albrecht (Grüne), legte zwei erste Berichte zum Thema vor, die sich mit den Unterschieden im Recht zwischen den USA und der EU befassen. Weitere Dokumente, die sich mit Form und Inhalt des abzuschließenden Abkommens befassen, sollen in den kommenden Wochen folgen.

<http://futurezone.orf.at/stories/1661488/>

2817/2010 -----

Spanien : ETA kündigt Waffenstillstand an

(ORF) Die baskische Untergrundorganisation ETA hat eine Waffenruhe verkündet und die Bereitschaft für einen demokratischen Prozess und Friedensverhandlungen signalisiert. Die Botschaft wurde schriftlich und als Video an zahlreiche Medien geschickt.

Es ist ein zweifelhaftes Friedensangebot, das die baskische Untergrundorganisation ETA heute schriftlich und in einer Videobotschaft veröffentlichte.

Drei verummte ETA Kämpfer sitzen vor den Symbolen der als Terrororganisation eingestufteten ETA, in der Mitte eine Frau. Sie sagt, dass die baskische Untergrundorganisation schon vor Monaten beschlossen habe, keine bewaffneten Aktionen mehr durchzuführen. Die ETA sei nun bereit für einen demokratischen Prozess und einen Dialog um die Unabhängigkeit des Baskenlandes zu erreichen. Doch die heutige Erklärung enthält keinen permanenten Verzicht auf den Einsatz von Waffengewalt, und so sind die Reaktionen heute eher skeptisch. Die spanische Regierung prüft die Erklärung derzeit noch, hat aber nach dem Scheitern der letzten Waffenruhe vor vier Jahren klar gemacht: Weitere Friedensverhandlungen mit der ETA kann es nur dann geben, wenn die Organisation endgültig die Waffen niederlegt.

<http://oe1.orf.at/artikel/257377>

2818/2010 -----

Belgrad entschärft Kosovo-Resolution

(Welt online) Die Regierung des Kosovo hat die Entscheidung Serbiens begrüßt, seinen Entwurf einer Kosovo-Resolution für die Vereinten Nationen abzuschwächen. Der serbische Präsident Boris Tadic hatte mitgeteilt, dass in dem neuen Resolutionsentwurf nun zu einem "Dialog" zwischen Serbien und dem Kosovo aufgerufen werde. Der Text sei die "Frucht eines Kompromisses" und zeige Serbiens "ehrlichen Wunsch", alle Fragen mit der EU und anderen internationalen Organisationen auf partnerschaftliche Weise zu lösen. Die ehemalige serbische Provinz Kosovo hatte im Februar 2008 ihre Unabhängigkeit erklärt. Serbien erkennt dies nicht an.

- (a) <http://www.welt.de/die-welt/politik/article9519433/Belgrad-entschaerft-Kosovo-Resolution.html>
- (b) http://diepresse.com/home/politik/aussenpolitik/593737/index.do?_vl_backlink=/home/politik/aussenpolitik/index.do

2819/2010 -----

Verdächtiger nach Explosion in Kopenhagener Hotel angeklagt

(Standard) Nach einer Explosion in einem Hotel in Kopenhagen ist ein Verdächtiger angeklagt worden. Dem Mann werde "die Herstellung einer Bombe mit dem Ziel einer Explosion" vorgeworfen, teilte am Samstag ein Sprecher des zuständigen Gerichts in der dänischen Hauptstadt mit. Auch in Belgien wurden Ermittlungen gegen den Verdächtigen eingeleitet, der einem Medienbericht zufolge einen belgischen Pass bei sich geführt haben soll.

Wie Gerichtssprecher Kim Yrdahl in Kopenhagen weiter mitteilte, sollte die Bombe offenbar nicht in dem Hotel, sondern an einem anderen Ort gezündet werden. Sie explodierte demnach nur versehentlich bereits in den Toiletten des Hotels im Zentrum der Stadt. Zum geplanten Explosionsort und zur Nationalität des Verdächtigen, der vor Gericht von einem französischsprachigen Übersetzer begleitet wurde, machte der Gerichtssprecher keine Angaben.

Nach der Explosion am Freitagnachmittag war nach Polizeiangaben ein Mann blutend aus dem Hotel gerannt. Wenig später wurde der Verdächtige verletzt in einem Park im Zentrum der Stadt aufgegriffen. Medienberichten zufolge blutete er aus einer Wunde am Kopf und einer weiteren am Arm. Sprengstoffexperten der Polizei hätten ihm einen schwarzen Sprengstoffgürtel entfernt und diesen zerstört

<http://derstandard.at/1282979463262/Verdaechtiger-nach-Explosion-in-Kopenhagener-Hotel-angeklagt>

2820/2010 -----

Weitere Selbstmorde bei France Telecom

(standard) Fünf Selbstmorde innerhalb von zwei Wochen haben bei France Telecom Besorgnis ausgelöst. Bisher sei allerdings unklar, ob diese Fälle mit den Arbeitsbedingungen in dem Unternehmen zu tun haben, berichtete die Zeitung "Le Parisien" am Samstag. Die Gewerkschaften forderten eine Untersuchung. Das Unternehmen wollte sich zunächst nicht äußern. Damit ist die Zahl der Fälle in diesem Jahr auf 23 gestiegen. Seit Beginn der Krise 2008 hat es insgesamt 58 Suizide in dem Unternehmen mit mehr als 100.000 Angestellten gegeben.

Im vergangenen Juli war erstmals ein Todesfall als Arbeitsunfall anerkannt worden. Der 51-Jährige hatte in seinem Abschiedsbrief die Arbeitsbedingungen ausdrücklich als Grund für den Suizid genannt. Die Angehörigen können dadurch eine Hinterbliebenenrente erwarten.

Ein Anfang des Jahres veröffentlichter Untersuchungsbericht erhob schwere Vorwürfe gegen die mittlerweile abgelöste Konzernspitze. Darin ist unter anderem von Mobbing die Rede. Auf Warnungen von Gewerkschaften, Betriebsärzten und Krankenkassen sei völlig unzureichend reagiert worden.

<http://derstandard.at/1282979499024/Untersuchung-gefordert-Weitere-Selbstmorde-bei-France-Telecom>

2821/2010 -----

French paper filing suit vs spy agency of seeking source of leaks

(winnipegfreepress) The French daily Le Monde is filing a lawsuit accusing President Nicolas Sarkozy's office of using counterintelligence services to identify a source leaking information about an investigation into the finances of Europe's richest woman.

Sarkozy's office denied the accusations.

Le Monde said in a front-page article Monday that it is suing for "violation of the secrecy of sources." The law on protecting sources forms a pillar of French media freedom. Le Monde's suit didn't target anyone in particular, which is common in France. Le Monde says Sarkozy's office asked the DCRI intelligence agency to identify a journalist's source and stop leaks in a scandal surrounding L'Oreal heiress Liliane Bettencourt.

A presidential aide said Sarkozy's office had never given instructions to any intelligence agency. The aide spoke on condition of anonymity because of presidential policy. The scandal around Bettencourt's finances, including allegations of tax evasion, has also embroiled Sarkozy and his labour minister, Eric Woerth. French investigators are probing claims that Bettencourt's financial adviser gave cash illegally to Woerth while he was treasurer of Sarkozy's conservative political party, during Sarkozy's 2007 campaign for the French presidency. Sarkozy and Woerth have denied wrongdoing.

- (a) <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/world/breakingnews/french-paper-filing-suit-accusing-spy-agency-of-seeking-source-of-leaks-in-heiress-scandal-102765619.html>
- (b) <http://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2010-09/lemonde-reporter-bespitzelung>

2822/2010 -----

French spy agency chief says terror risk is high

(AP) The head of France's counterespionage agency says the risk of a terrorist attack on French soil has "never been higher" and that "objectively, there are reasons for worry."

Bernard Squarcini says France's history as a colonial master in North Africa, its military presence in Afghanistan and a proposal that would ban full-covering face veils in public make the country a prime target for certain radical Islamist groups. Speaking in an interview with Saturday's Journal du Dimanche newspaper, Squarcini says French authorities foil an average of two planned attacks per year, but "one day or another, we're going to get hit."

He says the risk now is as high as in 1995 before of deadly attacks on the Paris Metro by Algerian Islamic extremists.

- (a) <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ia4uoX4f9dZv6Ztof86sYspNdDcAD9I5MCNO2>
- (b) "The threat of a terrorist attack in France has never been greater": http://www.isria.com/free/10_September_2010_x1.php

2823/2010 -----

Pariser Eiffelturm nach Bombendrohung evakuiert

(Welt) Nach Bombendrohungen sind der Eiffelturm und eine Schnellbahn-Station in Paris von der Polizei geräumt worden. Die Eiffelturm-Betreibergesellschaft erhielt gegen 20:20 Uhr einen anonymen Anruf, wie die Polizei mitteilte. Während der mehrstündigen Durchsuchung des Pariser Wahrzeichens wurde nichts Verdächtiges gefunden.

Nach dem anonymen Anruf räumte und sperrte die Polizei den Turm und auch Teile des Marsfelds am Fuße der Touristenattraktion. Zu diesem Zeitpunkt hielten sich in dem Turm sowie rund um das Wahrzeichen laut Polizei etwa 2000 Menschen auf. Die Polizei traf um kurz vor 21.00 Uhr mit einem Großaufgebot am Eiffelturm ein. Anschließend durchsuchten Spezialeinheiten mit Spürhunden den Turm Etage für Etage.

Gegen 23.30 Uhr gab die Polizei Entwarnung: Es sei nichts Verdächtiges gefunden worden. Üblicherweise schließt der Eiffelturm gegen Mitternacht; nach der Durchsuchungsaktion am Dienstag sollte am Abend nicht mehr öffnen.

<http://www.welt.de/vermishtes/article9643696/Pariser-Eiffelturm-nach-Bombendrohung-evakuiert.html>

2824/2010 -----

No CIA torture in Poland, claims former minister

(news.pl) A former interior minister has dismissed allegations made by CIA officers that an Al-Qaeda terrorist suspect was tortured in Poland: "I can assure that there were no CIA prisons in Poland," Marek Biernacki told Polish Radio today.

Biernacki, interior minister in the Jerzy Buzek government of 1999 - 2001, dismissed the report by the Associated Press that Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri was held in a special intelligence unit near Szymany airport in northern Poland and threatened with a hand gun and electric drill by agent "Albert".

"As a former member of the parliamentary commission, I can assure that there were no secret CIA prisons in Poland and terrorist suspects were not tortured here," Biernacki said.

http://www.thenews.pl/international/artykul139285_no-cia-torture-in-poland-claims-former-minister.html

2825/2010 -----

Poland Equips The Malaysian Tank Regiment

(strategyPage) Malaysia has completed staffing, equipping and training its first tank regiment. The unit is equipped with 48 Polish PT-91 tanks. This is an upgraded version of the Russian designed (but manufactured in Poland) T-72M1. The 46 ton PT-91 uses the original 125mm gun, a 12.7mm machine gun, and a coaxial 7.62mm machine gun. But it has new electronics, upgrades to the engine and ERA (Explosive Reactive Armor). It also costs less than half what a similar Western tank would go for. While not as effective as an M-1 or Leopard, the PT-91 is adequate for whatever neighbors might have.

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htarm/articles/20100909.aspx>



UNITED KINGDOM

Hat tip to Oliver PLAUDER, editor of this section!

2826/2010 -----

Mystery over couple who visited 'spy in bag' case flat

(thisislondon) A COUPLE appear to have vanished after calling at the flat of MI6 codebreaker Gareth Williams whose body was found locked inside a bag in his bath, police said today.

Detectives say they have failed to trace the "Mediterranean couple" who visited the flat – owned by the intelligence services – in June or July despite appeals for them to come forward.

They believe the couple, in their thirties, were known to Mr Williams as neighbours do not recall buzzing them into the address. Detectives believe they could be significant to the inquiry.

The body of the GCHQ codebreaker and maths genius was found inside a zipped and padlocked North Face hold-all three weeks ago today.

The bag had been placed inside the flat's ensuite bath and may have been there for up to eight days. Police have been baffled by the death because there were no signs of violence, and toxicology tests showed Mr Williams had not taken drugs or alcohol. There were also no signs of a struggle or a forced entry at the flat in Alderney Street and nothing appeared to have been stolen.

<http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/standard/article-23877333-mystery-over-couple-who-visited-spy-in-bag-case-flat.do>

2827/2010 -----

Justice minister Jonathan Djanogly hired detectives to spy on aides

(The Independent) The political future of the Justice minister Jonathan Djanogly was in the balance last night after he provoked fury by hiring private detectives to spy on Tory activists in his constituency.

Downing Street gave its qualified support to Mr Djanogly, who apologised for ordering the covert operation to see if aides and colleagues were responsible for planting damaging stories about him in the press. But one of the senior Tories targeted by the investigators urged Mr Djanogly, the MP for Huntingdon, to "consider his position" in Government.

Derek Holley, the former leader of Huntingdon Council, said: "Quite frankly, I was just appalled by it all. I have been in local politics and associated with national politics for 34 years, and I have never, ever experienced anything like this in the whole of that time."

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said David Cameron regarded the matter as closed and retained full confidence in his minister. But, in a less than ringing endorsement of Mr Djanogly's long-term career prospects,

he added: "The PM will judge him on his performance as a minister." Government sources later said there was no immediate prospect of the minister being sacked, but acknowledged Mr Djanogly faced unrest in his constituency. One source said: "The biggest threat to him is locally." (a)

The private detectives used subterfuge to trick several people, including the Huntingdon MP's constituency agent, into discussing their views of Mr Djanogly. Mr Djanogly, 45, a multi-millionaire City solicitor, hired the firm of private detectives last summer after facing allegations over his parliamentary expenses. (b)

- (a) <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/justice-minister-jonathan-djanogly-hired-detectives-to-spy-on-aides-2076452.html>
- (b) <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1310704/Justice-Minister-Jonathan-Djanogly-paid-detectives-spy-colleagues.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

2828/2010

Concern grows over foreign involvement in spy's death

(Telegraph) Concern is growing within the intelligence community that the MI6 spy found dead in his London flat may have been the victim of a professional hit by a foreign power.

Sources have told this newspaper that Britain's intelligence services - MI6, MI5 and GCHQ - are liaising closely to establish whether Gareth Williams was targeted by a foreign power. The 31-year-old was seconded from GCHQ to work on top-secret systems to defend British banks and transport infrastructure from cyber attack and to eavesdrop on terrorist communications.

As a result he may have come to the attention of foreign intelligence agencies. Security service sources suggest that the most likely explanation for Mr Williams's death is still to be found in his private life, but they admit they are not yet certain and are considering a range of explanations. Some officials are starting to believe the way the killing was carried out - leaving few, if any, immediate clues as to the cause of death - could point to a professionally-carried-out assassination.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/7996520/Concern-grows-over-foreign-involvement-in-spys-death.html>

2829/2010

Paramedic at death scene reveals concerns over Hutton Inquiry (Kelly)

(dailymail) The paramedic who confirmed the death of Government scientist Dr David Kelly has claimed his body had 'obviously been moved' in the minutes after it was found.

David Bartlett was one of two medics called after the corpse of the weapons expert was discovered in woods near his Oxfordshire home seven years ago. They were among the first on the scene. The testimony by the experienced paramedics once again brings into doubt the thoroughness of the Hutton Inquiry - in particular raising questions about why police officers were not asked whether they had touched or moved the body.

The former weapons inspector was found dead a week after he was outed as the source of BBC claims that the Government had 'sexed up' a document

claiming Saddam Hussein's Iraq could deploy weapons of mass destruction in 45 minutes. In his interview, 59-year-old Mr Bartlett discloses a further series of irregularities about that day's events, putting yet more pressure on the Government to agree to a full inquest into the scientist's death.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1311255/Dr-David-Kellys-body-obviously-moved-Paramedic-death-scene-reveals-concerns-Hutton-Inquiry.html>

2830/2010 -----

Real IRA threatens to attack British bankers



(Telegraph) The Real IRA has threatened to attack British bankers and their companies, claiming they benefit only a "social elite" at a cost to "millions of victims". The dissident republican terrorist group labelled bankers as "criminals" and as the "next door neighbours of the politicians". (a)

In an interview with The Guardian (b) the Real IRA said: "We have a track record of attacking high-profile economic targets and financial institutions such as the City of London. The role of bankers and the institutions they serve in financing Britain's colonial and capitalist system has not gone unnoticed." In a series of written answers the group tried to tap into public hostility towards financiers since the economic downturn.

They added: "Let's not forget that the bankers are the next-door neighbours of the politicians. Most people can see the picture: the bankers grease the politicians' palms, the politicians bail out the bankers with public funds, the bankers pay themselves fat bonuses and loan the money back to the public with interest. It's essentially a crime spree that benefits a social elite at the expense of many millions of victims."

However, security experts have doubted whether the group, which has only 100 activists, has the resources to carry out its threats.

- (a) <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/8003234/Real-IRA-threatens-to-attack-British-bankers.html>
- (b) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/sep/14/real-ira-targets-banks-bankers>

2831/2010 -----

The Real IRA: Blast from the past

(Guardian) Jonathan Powell, Tony Blair's chief of staff, regrets not shaking hands with Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness when he first met them in Belfast in 1997, although he had good reason not to: the IRA shot his father, and put his brother on a death list for eight years. But the conclusion he draws from his participation in one of the great transformations of British policy is clear: first we fight terrorism militarily, then we talk to them, and eventually we treat them as statesmen. Much as though one would like to be selective, one cannot be. The principle of hearing what your enemies have to say applies to all, even to splinter groups, and even to ones like the Real IRA, which perpetrated the bloodiest single act of the Troubles, the bombing in Omagh a year after Powell's meeting.

The interview we publish today with the Real IRA does not make for pleasant reading. The views of this group read like a blast from the past: how they aim to target bankers and the City; how they want to extract a price for continued British occupation; how they justify punishment shootings; how this conflict will not go away until the root cause is addressed.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/sep/14/real-ira-editorial>

2832/2010 -----

Vandal attacks on Orange Halls may be linked

(Belfast Telegraph) Attacks on two Orange Halls in Co Antrim at the weekend may be linked, police have said.

Both Rasharkin Orange Hall and the nearby Drumlee Orange Hall were targeted between 11pm on Saturday and 1.30pm yesterday. It is believed Rasharkin Orange Hall, which has been attacked in the past, had slogans including 'CIRA' and 'RIP' daubed in black paint on the front of the building.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/vandal-attacks-on-orange-halls-may-be-linked-14947171.html>

2833/2010 -----

Alleged bomber's trial is told of UVF death threats

(Belfast Telegraph) Death threats allegedly sent on behalf of a loyalist terror group were revealed in the High Court yesterday.

Prosecutors set out the contents of a letter they claim was delivered earlier this year in a bid to intimidate a criminal trial witness. Prosecuting counsel Fiona O'Kane said the note was sent in March to a close relative of a punishment attack victim. She said it warned: "Last chance to get the f*** out or you are going to regret it. Your brother is a tout." The barrister claimed it further stated: "We don't give a f*** if your kid lives with you. You're dead. Last chance. UVF – you have 72 hours."

Details were disclosed as part of wider opposition to a bail application mounted by an engineer accused of a loyalist paramilitary pipe-bomb attack seven years ago.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/alleged-bomberrsquos-trial-is-told-of-uvf-death-threats-14948418.html>

2834/2010 -----

Victims Campaigner driven by revenge' claims UDA chief

(Belfast media) The leader of the UDA has launched an astonishing attack on a leading North Belfast victims campaigner, accusing him of being "driven by revenge" and of "clearing the way for exploitation by the Shoukri crime element".

Jackie McDonald made the claims after Raymond McCord wrote to both President Mary McAleese's husband Martin and the US Consul in Belfast, urging them to block visas for members of the UDA planning to travel to the United States next month.

Raymond McCord, whose son Raymond Jnr was murdered by the UVF in 1997 and who now directs the Duncairn Gardens victims' group H.E.L.P, has accused the UDA of being behind a campaign of intimidation in the Tigers Bay area in recent weeks.

Jackie McDonald told the North Belfast News that he had met with Raymond McCord five weeks ago, along with fellow UDA 'brigadier' John Bunting and Frankie Gallagher of the UDA-linked Ulster Political Research Group to discuss issues in North Belfast. However, McDonald said he would not meet Mr McCord again, as he is "totally driven by revenge".

"I feel sympathy for him because of what happened to his son, but it has clouded his judgement. There are a lot of people doing good work in North Belfast and trying their best to change things from how they used to be.

http://www.belfastmedia.com/home_article.php?ID=2145

2835/2010 -----

MI5 spy sues bosses for blowing cover with Real IRA

(Independent) A security agent is suing the British government for more than €750,000 after he was forced to give evidence at a Real IRA arms plot trial.

The spy, code-named 'Amir', is claiming that the security service committed a breach of trust and failed in its duty of care after he was summoned to give evidence at a trial in Northern Ireland earlier this year. Amir was recruited by MI5 in 2004 to infiltrate the Real IRA amid fears that the republican dissidents were planning to launch a series of gun and bombs attacks. The group, led by Paul McCaugherty, from Lurgan Co Armagh, were also plotting to kill General Michael Rose, a former commander of the SAS and the UN Force in Bosnia. Members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland were also to be assassinated by the group.

The disaffected spy has hired the London law firm Bindmans to fight his case, which is thought to be the first of its kind. Amir claims that following his appearance in a Belfast Court, he will no longer be able to work as an undercover agent. It is understood that Amir, who was paid on a daily basis, agreed to work for MI5 on the understanding that he would never have to appear as a prosecution witness.

Amir was instructed to target Desmond Paul Kearns, 44, from Lurgan, Co Armagh, a suspected dissident republican, in what is known as a 'bump operation'. The 'bump' took place outside a store in Luxembourg where Mr Kearns was buying cut-price cigarettes. Amir told Kearns he could supply cigarettes at better prices.

<http://www.independent.ie/world-news/europe/mi5-spy-sues-bosses-for-blowing-cover-with-real-ira-2334639.html>

2836/2010 -----

Justice for the Forgotten loses challenge

(RTE) The Justice for the Forgotten group has lost a High Court challenge against the State over aspects of the Commission of Investigation into the Dublin-Monaghan Bombings.

In proceedings initiated two years ago, the group complained about the failure of the Commission to report on one of its terms of reference. Justice For the Forgotten claimed the failure was in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights. However, Ms Justice Mary Laffoy ruled that complaints which related to events 29 years before the European Convention on Human Rights Act came into force in 2003 were 'not justiciable' in Irish law. The group had also challenged the State's refusal to allow access to the archives of the Commission.

However, Ms Justice Laffoy said the Taoiseach was bound by the prohibition on disclosure until 30 years after the dissolution of the Commission. Therefore the plaintiffs did not have a legally enforceable right to access the archive of the Commission.

<http://www.rte.ie/news/2010/0909/justice.html>

2837/2010 -----

Terror control orders 'best option'

(Belfast Telegraph) should seriously consider retaining controversial control orders to keep tabs on suspected terrorists, a think-tank has said.

The orders, while flawed and of only limited effectiveness, "perform an important function imperfectly" and not all terrorist threats can be tackled in the courts, the Centre for Social Cohesion (CSC) said. It said the Government, which is reviewing its counter-terrorism strategy, "should seriously consider retaining the system while robustly addressing its deficiencies".

Critics of the orders, including human rights group Amnesty International, have accused the UK of operating a "secretive shadow justice system" for terror suspects which campaigners say must end. But Robin Simcox, CSC research fellow and the report's author, said: "Members of the Government have called for the abolition of control orders but offered no viable alternative.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/uk/terror-control-orders-best-option-14945617.html>



GERMANY

2838/2010 -----

Geheimdienste sehen für Deutschland erhöhte Anschlaggefahr

(open-report) Wegen der angekündigten öffentlichen Verbrennung von Koran-Ausgaben in den USA sehen deutsche Geheimdienste auch hierzulande eine "erhöhte Anschlaggefahr" durch Islamisten. Aus Geheimdienstkreisen war am Donnerstag zu hören, dass nach letzten Erkenntnissen von den islamistischen Netzwerken in Amerika "Empfehlungen" an die "Glaubensbrüder" in der Bundesrepublik übermittelt wurden, sich am "Aufstand" der Muslime zu beteiligen. In Deutschland leben nach Angaben der Geheimdienstler mehrere Tausend Islamisten, die "sofort zuschlagen können". Für alle US-Einrichtungen in der Bundesrepublik wurden die Bewachungsmaßnahmen verstärkt.

Die Geheimdienstler sind auch wegen der "empörten Reaktionen" der Muslime Deutschlands auf die Würdigung des dänischen Mohammed-Karikaturisten Kurt Westergaard am Mittwoch "besorgt". Bundeskanzlerin Angela Merkel (CDU) hatte die Verleihung des Medienpreises als Zeichen für die Pressefreiheit verteidigt und mit Blick auf die geplante Aktion in den USA betont: "Wenn ein fundamentalistischer, evangelikaler Pastor in Amerika am 11. September den Koran verbrennen will, so finde ich das deshalb kurz gesagt schlicht respektlos, sogar abstoßend und einfach falsch."

<http://www.open-report.de/artikel/Geheimdienste+sehen+für+Deutschland+erhöhte+Anschlagsgefahr/76667.html>

2839/2010 -----

Bundesweite Razzia gegen neonazistische Gruppe

(sueddeutsche) Bundesweiter Schlag gegen Neonazis: Polizei und Justiz haben am Dienstag bei einer länderübergreifenden Razzia Räume der rechtsextremen Hilfsorganisation für Gefangene (HNG) durchsucht.

Das teilte das Bundesinnenministerium in Berlin mit. Es wurde Material für ein mögliches Verbot des größten Neonazi-Vereins beschlagnahmt. «Rechtsextremistische Gruppierungen wie die HNG stehen nicht auf dem Boden unserer Verfassung und bedrohen den gesellschaftlichen Zusammenhalt», sagte Innenstaatssekretär Klaus-Dieter Fritsche.

Die zentral geführte «Hilfsorganisation für nationale politische Gefangene und deren Angehörige e.V.» wurde 1979 gegründet. Sie ist mit rund 600 Mitgliedern die größte neonazistische Organisation in Deutschland. Durchsucht wurden rund 30 Wohnungen von Funktionären, Mitgliedern und Anhängern. Regionale Schwerpunkte der Aktionen waren die Länder Bayern, Niedersachsen, Nordrhein-Westfalen und Rheinland-Pfalz. Zudem gab es vereinzelte Durchsuchungen in Thüringen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Brandenburg, Berlin und Baden-Württemberg.

Erklärtes Ziel der HNG ist laut Innenministerium die Betreuung und Unterstützung sogenannter «nationaler Gefangener». Dabei gehe es der Organisation nicht um eine Resozialisierung von Straftätern und deren Wiedereingliederung in die Gesellschaft, sondern darum, die nationalsozialistische Gesinnung zu verfestigen. Das begangene Unrecht werde systematisch relativiert - so sollten Gefangene in ihrer rechtsextremistischen Überzeugung und ihrem Tun bestärkt und zu weiteren Straftaten motiviert werden.

<http://newsticker.sueddeutsche.de/list/id/1036276>

2840/2010 -----

Initiative gegen Botnets gestartet

(ORF) Die deutsche Internetwirtschaft startet eine Initiative gegen sogenannte "Botnets", bei denen Onlinekriminelle die Computer ahnungsloser Nutzer missbrauchen. Unter der Adresse www.botfrei.de stehen Anleitungen und Programme bereit, um Computer von Schadprogrammen zu befreien, wie der Verband der deutschen Internetwirtschaft eco am Mittwoch ankündigte. Zudem steht für Nutzer, die zusätzliche Beratung benötigen, eine Telefonhotline bekannt.

2841/2010 -----

Hamburg bekommt ein James-Bond-Museum



(Bild) Hamburg bekommt eine neue Attraktion. Der Unternehmer Maik Klokow plant nach BILD-Informationen ein einzigartiges Spionage-Museum!

In Hamburg ist Klokow als Ex-Chef der „Stage Entertainment“ (brachte z. B. das Erfolgs-Musical „König der Löwen“ nach Hamburg) bekannt. Seit seinem Weggang bei „Stage“ ist er Geschäftsführer der Unternehmensgruppe „Mehr Entertainment“ mit Sitz in Düsseldorf. Er betreibt Musicaltheater im Ruhrpott (etwa „Starlight Express“), gastiert bald mit einer „Cats“-Produktion auf dem Heiligengeistfeld.

<http://www.bild.de/BILD/regional/hamburg/aktuell/2010/09/13/geheimplan/hamburg-bekommt-ein-james-bond-museum.html##>



SWITZERLAND

2842/2010 -----

Switzerland returns \$52 mln stolen from Aeroflot

(Voice of Russia) Switzerland returned \$52 million in assets stolen more than a decade ago from the state-run Russian airline Aeroflot. Russia's self-exiled tycoon, Boris Berezovsky, is said to have been behind the fraud.

Russia was compensated for damages caused to Aeroflot in 1996-1998 by a Swiss company Andava, where Berezovsky was one of the shareholders. The tycoon, who was granted political asylum in the UK, is wanted in Russia on various charges, including fraud and theft. London refuses to extradite Berezovsky.

<http://english.ruvr.ru/2010/09/14/20336639.html>



AUSTRIA

2843/2010 -----

War Wiesenthal „Mossad-Agent“?

(Presse) Der vor fünf Jahren verstorbene „Nazi-Jäger“ Simon Wiesenthal soll ein Agent des israelischen Geheimdienstes gewesen sein. Das behauptet der renommierte israelische Historiker Tom Segev laut einem Bericht der

israelischen Tageszeitung „Haaretz“ in seinem neuen Buch „Nazi-Opfer, Nazi-Jäger: Das Leben des Simon Wiesenthal“.

Der bekannte „Nazi-Jäger“ soll laut Segev zehn Jahre lang bezahlter Mossad-Agent gewesen sein. Im Jahr 1960 sei der Geheimdienst außerdem für die Einrichtung seines Büros in Wien aufgekommen. Wiesenthal soll dem israelischen Geheimdienst unter anderem Informationen über die Aktivität flüchtiger Nazis in arabischen Ländern übermittelt haben.

Laut „Haaretz“ präsentiere das Buch auch interessante Details zu Wiesenthals Konflikt mit dem ehemaligen SPÖ-Bundeskanzler Bruno Kreisky. Segev behaupte, dass Kreisky Wiesenthal intensiv bespitzeln habe lassen.

- (a) <http://diepresse.com/home/politik/innenpolitik/591870/index.do>
- (b) <http://diepresse.com/home/politik/zeitgeschichte/591753/index.do>
- (c) <http://www.kleinezeitung.at/steiermark/liezen/altaussee/2475575/moer-der-glueckloser-jaeger.story>

2844/2010 -----

Michael Kerbler spricht mit Tom Segev

(ORF) Tom Segev ist Historiker und gilt als einer der bekanntesten Journalisten Israels. Fünf Jahre nach dem Tod von Simon Wiesenthal legt der in Jerusalem geborene Schriftsteller die erste Biografie jenes Mannes vor, der als sogenannter Nazi-Jäger bezeichnet wurde, "sein Leben lang aber ein Verfolgter blieb" (Tom Segev).

Faktum ist, dass Wiesenthal, der die Jahre von 1941 bis 1945 in mehreren KZ-Lagern interniert war, unmittelbar nach seiner Befreiung den Amerikanern eine Liste mit 91 Namen von Naziverbrechern übergab. Dem Historiker Segev war es möglich, als erster und bisher einziger Zugang zu Wiesenthals persönlichen Dokumenten zu bekommen.

Wiesenthals Archiv ist weder geordnet noch indiziert. "Hunderttausende von Briefen, Zeitungsausschnitten und Notizen liegen unberührt in seiner kleinen Wiener Wohnung, so als hätte er noch gestern darin gearbeitet", so Segev. Dem Journalisten ist es gelungen, in Verschlussmaterial des israelischen Geheimdienstes Mossad, aber auch in Dokumente des Kreisky-Archivs Einblick zu nehmen. Segev beschreibt in seiner Biografie Wiesenthal als Zionismus-Kritiker. Dieser habe im Jahr 1946 den Köpfen der zionistischen Bewegung vorgeworfen, zu wenig während des NS-Regimes unternommen zu haben, um Juden zu retten. "Wir könnten auch einen Nürnberger Prozess gebrauchen, um all jene anzuklagen, die ihre Pflicht nicht erfüllt haben, uns gegenüber, unseren Familien gegenüber und dem jüdischen Volk", sagte Wiesenthal damals beim Zionistenkongress in Basel zu einem Freund.

Segev gehört zu einer Gruppe israelischer Historiker, die die Meinung vertreten, dass zur Errichtung des Staates Israel die Vertreibung eines Teils der arabischen Bevölkerung nötig war, was von der traditionellen israelischen Geschichtsschreibung bis dahin als freiwillige Migration gedeutet wurde. Daraus ergibt sich nach Meinung der "Neuen Historiker" eine Mitverantwortung des Staates Israel für den Nahostkonflikt und das palästinensische Flüchtlingsproblem.

<http://oe1.orf.at/programm/251003>

2845/2010 -----

Kriminalfall Kreisky

(Christian ORTNER in der Presse) Der langjährige Kanzler und SPÖ-Chef jagte den Nazijäger Wiesenthal mit kriminellen Methoden, was der SPÖ heute nicht einmal peinlich ist.

Auch für Bruno Kreisky muss neuerdings die Unschuldsvermutung gelten. Wenn stimmt, was der Historiker Tom Segev in seiner jüngst erschienenen Biografie des „Nazijägers“ Simon Wiesenthal behauptet, dann hat sich Kreisky in seiner Zeit als SPÖ-Vorsitzender und Bundeskanzler eines Verbrechens schuldig gemacht. Das Delikt: „Anstiftung zum Amtsmissbrauch“. Dafür geht man im Falle einer Verurteilung ins Gefängnis.

Denn: „Kaum hatte Kreisky seine Angriffe auf Wiesenthal gestartet, war der österreichische Regierungsapparat dem Kanzler eilfertig zu Diensten, landeten mit erstaunenswerter Akribie mit einem Mal alle möglichen Berichte auf seinem Schreibtisch... Die staatlichen Stellen ließen Wiesenthal beschatten und abhören“ (S. 365ff.). Das heißt: Die Staatspolizei und vermutlich noch andere Dienste ermittelten rechtswidrig gegen Wiesenthal, der Kanzler suchte mit den illegal beige-schafften Unterlagen seinen politischen Gegner Wiesenthal fertigzumachen. Besser kann man das Verbrechen des Amtsmissbrauchs und der offenkundigen Anstiftung dazu kaum beschreiben.

<http://diepresse.com/home/meinung/quergeschrieben/christianortner/593512/in dex.do>

2846/2010 -----

Historiker nehmen Einblick in Prager Geheimdienst-Archive

(Krone) Österreichische und tschechische Historiker dürfen Einblick in die Prager Geheimdienst-Archive nehmen. Und zwar über ein politische hochbrisantes Thema: die Aktivitäten des tschechischen Geheimdienstes während des Kalten Krieges von 1947 bis 1989 in Österreich.

Kronen Zeitung, 7.9.2010, S. 10.

2847/2010 -----

Intrigen im Abwehramt: Der Spion, der keiner war

(Presse) Wie ein Geheimdienstmann Vorwürfe, für die DDR gearbeitet zu haben, entkräften konnte. Informationen eines Geheimdienstspitzels aus dem Jahr 2000, hatten sich längst als falsch herausgestellt.

Im Mittelpunkt stehen zwei Personen: Auf der einen Seite Bernd Feldmann, pensionierter langjähriger Mitarbeiter des Heeresabwehramtes, der schon bei der Aufklärung der Lucona-Strafsache eine wesentliche Rolle gespielt hat und der auf beste Verbindungen in alle Richtungen bauen kann: So hatte der ehemalige SPÖ-Personalvertreter auch ausgezeichnete Kontakte zur FPÖ, da speziell zum Abgeordneten Ewald Stadler.

Auf der anderen Seite: Peter Dopler, ehemaliger Abteilungsleiter im Abwehramt, mit dem Vertrauen von Ressortchef Darabos ausgestattet. Dopler richtete im Jahr 2007 eine Warnung an den militärischen Geheimdienst der

Bundeswehr, dem MAD: Es gebe Hinweise, dass Feldmann, der immer noch Kontakte mit MAD-Mitarbeitern habe, einst für die DDR spioniert habe.

Feldmann bekam Wind von der Sache und klagte Dopler wegen übler Nachrede: Die Angelegenheit beruhe auf Informationen eines Geheimdienstspitzels aus dem Jahr 2000, die sich längst als definitiv falsch herausgestellt hätten. Und das hätte Dopler wissen müssen. Das Verfahren ist vor wenigen Wochen mit einem Vergleich zu Ende gegangen, bei dem sich Feldmann voll durchgesetzt hat: Der derzeitige Leiter des Heeres-Abwehramtes, Brigadier Edwin Potocnik, bestätigt darin, dass Feldmann niemals für die DDR oder den KGB spioniert habe. Diese Erklärung schickt das Abwehramt an eine ganze Reihe befreundeter Geheimdienste, darunter auch an den MAD. Die beteiligten Personen gaben sich auf „Presse“-Anfrage alle zugeknöpft. Ein Sprecher des Verteidigungsministers erklärte, man könne nichts sagen, da es noch ein laufendes Verfahren gäbe. Feldmann und Dopler wollten ebenfalls nicht Stellung nehmen, weil sie in ihrem Prozess eine Erklärung unterschrieben haben, wonach keine Informationen aus dem Prozess an die Öffentlichkeit dringen dürfen. Dopler verwies lediglich darauf, dass ein gegen ihn selbst angestrebtes Strafverfahren inzwischen eingestellt wurde.

Im Abwehramt ist heute übrigens keiner der beteiligten Personen mehr: Feldmann und Schneider sind in Pension, und Dopler ist aus dem Bundesheer ausgeschieden und ins Kabinett des burgenländischen Landeshauptmannes Hans Niessl gewechselt, wo er für Sicherheitsfragen zuständig ist.

- (a) http://diepresse.com/home/politik/innenpolitik/593481/index.do?_vl_backlink=/home/politik/innenpolitik/index.do
- (b) <http://kurier.at/nachrichten/2030996.php>

2848/2010 -----

Sprengstoffanschlag auf Asylheim

(Standard) Unbekannte Täter haben Samstagfrüh im Eingangsbereich des Grazer Asylheimes in der Mitterstraße, gegen das die FPÖ massiv mobilisiert hatte, einen Sprengkörper gezündet. Laut einer ersten Analyse der Spuren am Tatort dürfte es sich bei dem Sprengkörper um einen dosen- oder rohrartigen Gegenstand gehandelt haben.

Die Detonation hätte den Ermittlern zufolge zu einer schweren Verletzung führen können. Teile der steinernen Türschwelle wurden bis zu zehn Meter weit fortgeschleudert. Um etwa 1:40 Uhr früh war eine Betreuerin des Asylheimes durch das Explosionsgeräusch geweckt worden. Beim Nachsehen entdeckte die Frau, dass die Eingangstür, die Eingangsplattform, das Mauerwerk und ein Fahrrad beschädigt waren; sie verständigte sofort die Polizei.

Laut Sicherheitsdirektion Steiermark verletzte sich ein 49-jähriger Georgier, der ebenfalls durch den Knall aus dem Schlaf gerissen worden war, als er nach dem Rechten sehen wollte. Der Mann wurde ins UKH Graz gebracht, konnte aber nach ambulanter Behandlung wieder entlassen werden.

Die Ermittlungen der Polizei laufen nun auf Hochtouren. Der Sprengkörper muss einer umfassenden Analyse unterzogen werden, ein Ergebnis soll es erst in einigen Tagen geben. Derzeit hoffen die Ermittler, doch noch Zeugen zu finden, die Personen oder wegfahrende Autos beobachtet haben. Verletzt wurde bei dem Anschlag niemand.

- (a) <http://derstandard.at/1282979478613/Graz-Sprengstoffanschlag-auf-Asylheim>

- (b) http://diepresse.com/home/panorama/oesterreich/593805/index.do?direct=593922&_vl_backlink=/home/panorama/oesterreich/index.do&selChannel=

2849/2010 -----

Ravidass-Tempel: Die Guru-Rückkehr an den Tatort

(Presse) Sant Niranjan Dass wohnte im Ravidass-Tempel in Wien einer Zeremonie bei, in dem er 2009 von radikalen Sikhs angeschossen wurde. Drinnen und draußen vor dem Tempel herrscht erhöhte Sicherheitsstufe.

Ganz tief beugt sich das Mädchen im rosaroten Sari vor, bis ihre Stirn den Boden berührt. Vor ihr sitzt Guru Sant Niranjan Dass auf einem Sessel, vornübergebeugt und mit geschlossenen Augen. Er ist zurückgekommen an jenen Ort, an dem 2009 Blut geflossen ist: Fanatische Sikhs stürmten damals wegen Glaubensstreitigkeiten den Ravidass-Tempel im Wiener Bezirk Rudolfsheim-Fünfhaus und töteten Guru Sant Rama Nant. Niranjan Dass überlebte schwer verletzt.

Nun ist er nach Österreich gekommen, um im Prozess gegen die mutmaßlichen Täter auszusagen - und um dieser Zeremonie am Tatort beizuwohnen.

http://diepresse.com/home/panorama/oesterreich/593738/index.do?from=gl.home_panorama

2850/2010 -----

Anti-Minarett-Spiel: Richter dementieren FP-Beschuldigung

(Kleine Zeitung) Der Vizepräsident der österreichischen Richtervereinigung, Manfred Herrnhofner, hat sich gegen "reflexartige" Aussagen von politischen Parteien bei Entscheidungen von Gerichten ausgesprochen. Anlass war eine Aussendung der steirischen FPÖ gewesen: Dort war verbreitet worden, "Grüne und andere Gutmenschen" hätten die Staatsanwaltschaft durch eine Anzeige veranlasst, das Anti-Minarett-Spiel auf der FPÖ-Homepage zu verbieten. Grundsätzlich kommentiere man solche Dinge nicht, es solle sich jeder eine eigene Meinung bilden, so Herrnhofner. Kritisch werde es, wenn eine richterliche Entscheidung reflexartig mit der Anschuldigung verbunden werde, diese sei politisch bestellt.

"Wir entscheiden ohne Ansehen der Person, und wir müssen es leider immer wieder dazu sagen, wir orientieren uns ausschließlich an den Gesetzen", so Herrnhofner gegenüber der APA. Man wehre sich gegen die ständige Behauptung der Einflussnahme, wenn nicht genehme Urteile vorlägen. Das ziehe sich von Urteilen gegen Karl Blecha (S) über Peter Westenthaler (B) und Susanne Winter (F) bis nun zu dem "Moschee-Spiel". Es werde ja schließlich Amtsmissbrauch unterstellt. Mit solchen Aussagen werde ein großes Kapital verspielt, nämlich jenes des Vertrauens der Bevölkerung in die Justiz. "Das kann man so nicht stehen lassen", so Herrnhofner, deshalb habe man sich nun nach reiflicher Überlegung doch entschlossen, Stellung zu beziehen.

- (a) http://www.kleinezeitung.at/nachrichten/politik/2474875/anti-minarett-spiel-richter-dementieren-fp-beschuldigung_story
- (b) Anti-Minarettspiel auf Neonazi-Site:
http://diepresse.com/home/politik/innenpolitik/592606/index.do?_vl_backlink=/home/index.do
- (c) Anti-Minarett-Spiel von neonazistischer Seite entfernt:
http://diepresse.com/home/politik/steiermarkwahl/592670/index.do?from=gl.home_politik



ACIPSS-Newsletter-Kommentar: *Related: Stefan AUER, Nationalsozialistische und rechtsextreme Propaganda in Computerspielen - Ein kritischer Überblick, in: Journal for Intelligence, Propaganda and Security Studies JIPSS), Vol. 4, Nr. 1/2010, 106-115.*

Einzelheftbestellungen und Abos unter <http://www.acipss.org/journal.htm>

2851/2010 -----

6700 Soldaten bei größter Übung des Jahres

(Presse) Mit 6700 Soldaten, davon knapp 500 aus acht anderen Ländern, wird "European Advance 2010" (EURAD 10) ab heute, Montag, bis 24. September die größte Bundesheerübung in diesem Jahr. Hauptschauplatz ist der Truppenübungsplatz Allentsteig, ABC-Abwehrkräfte proben bei Wiener Neustadt ein Katastrophenszenario nach einem Erdbeben, verbunden mit einem Kernkraftwerk-Störfall. Gastgeber ist das NÖ Militärkommando.

Seit dem Ende des Kalten Kriegs (1990 durch die Charta von Paris) habe sich das Szenario geändert. Heutige Bedrohungen würden keine Grenzen kennen und seien von einem Staat allein nicht mehr zu bewältigen, führte Generalleutnant Günter Höfler, Kommandant des Streitkräfteführungskommandos des österreichischen Bundesheeres u.a. internationalen Terrorismus und organisierte Kriminalität, Massenvernichtungswaffen, aber auch Risiken der Energiesicherheit und des Klimawandels (Naturkatastrophen) an. Gemeinsame Einsätze erfordern auch gemeinsame Übungen, so Höfler. "European Advance" stellt - neben Schutz und Hilfe im Inland - die Krisenmanagementoperation unter EU-Führung in den Vordergrund.

http://diepresse.com/home/panorama/oesterreich/594044/index.do?_vl_backlink=/home/panorama/index.do



AMERICA (CONTINENTAL)

2852/2010 -----

CSIS would use torture-tainted info, briefing notes say (Canada)

(theglobeandmail) Canada's spy agency says it would use information obtained through torture to derail a possible terrorist plot - a position critics argue will only encourage abusive interrogations.

The statement from the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, contained in briefing notes released to The Canadian Press, echoes remarks by a spy agency official that sparked a public controversy - and a quick retraction - last year. CSIS will share information received from an international partner with the police and other authorities "even in the rare and extreme circumstance that we have some doubt as to the manner in which the foreign agency acquired it," say the notes prepared for CSIS director Dick Fadden.

The notes say although such information would never be admissible in court to prosecute someone posing an imminent threat, "the government must nevertheless make use of the information to attempt to disrupt that threat before it materializes." The CSIS position is "alarming" and contravenes a federal government directive to the spy agency to shun brutal methods, NDP public safety critic Don Davies said. "CSIS appears to be trying to open the door to be able to rely on information derived from torture, and that's in violation of the policy."

- (a) <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/csis-would-use-torture-tainted-info-briefing-notes-say/article1704538/>
- (b) Canadian general defends Afghan intelligence service, denies torture: <http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/858862--canadian-general-defends-afghan-intelligence-service-denies-torture>

2853/2010 -----

Past spy chief named special envoy on human smuggling

(CTVBC) The federal government is dispatching a former spy chief to Asia as a special envoy on human smuggling to help prevent more migrant ships from arriving on Canadian shores.

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney says former Canadian Security Intelligence Service director Ward Elcock will visit Sri Lanka, Thailand and other countries to improve co-operation and information sharing. Kenney, in the middle of an Asian tour of his own, plans to tack an Australian stop onto his trip to meet officials in Canberra and see an asylum processing centre.

The Conservatives are putting together a package for this fall that would aim at putting a stop to -- or at least seriously deter -- ships full of migrants heading to Canada's shores.

They hope to have a bill before Parliament by early next month.

http://www.ctvbc.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20100909/bc_csis_migrants_100909/20100909?hub=BritishColumbiaHome

2854/2010 -----

Tamil Congress says espionage is behind break-in

(The Star) The Canadian Tamil Congress fears the names of hundreds of Tamil asylum-seekers who boarded the MV Sun Sea and their families back home have been stolen in what they allege is either a hate crime or an act of international espionage.

"We were targeted. We fully well know we were targeted because we were involved in this Sun Sea issue," said David Poopalapillai, national spokesperson for the Tamil congress. Toronto police are investigating the break-in, believed to have occurred late Saturday or in the early hours of Sunday, at the congress headquarters on Progress Ave. in Scarborough.

Poopalapillai said some rooms in the office were ransacked and computers and telephones were left on the floor. The computer at the main reception desk was the only thing taken, he said. "Either it's a hate crime or we have a strong feeling Sri Lankan intelligence may have a hand behind this," he told the Star.

Poopalapillai added that the congress has received hate mail about the Sun Sea issue from those who believe the organization is "helping illegals." He also said that some migrants aboard the boat had agreed to come forward and give information about war crimes allegedly committed by the Sri Lankan government during the country's bitter 26-year civil war, which ended last year.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/crime/article/860072--tamil-congress-says-espionage-is-behind-break-in?bn=1>

2855/2010 -----

CIA knew of Colombian infiltration of Bogota embassies

(IntelNews) A Colombian former intelligence official has testified in court that the CIA was aware of an aggressive intelligence collection program by Colombian spies, involving the infiltration of several foreign embassies in Colombian capital Bogota. German Albeiro Ospina, who until recently worked as an investigator for Colombia's Administrative Department of Security (DAS), said the program was conceived and ordered by the agency's former Director, Maria del Pilar Hurtado, and implemented by Jorge Alberto Lagos, former DAS Director of counterintelligence.

The infiltration program was directed against "countries and persons that were of national interest" to Colombia, and involved techniques such as "surveillance, shadowing, infiltration and penetration of the embassies of [targeted] governments". The latter included Venezuela, Cuba, as well as several countries in the Middle East, said Ospina. What is more, reports of the infiltrations, which were shared with senior Colombian government officials, were also communicated to the CIA, which was aware of the infiltrations, said the former spy official.

<http://intelligencenews.wordpress.com/2010/09/15/01-562/>

2856/2010 -----

U.S. Sees Heightened Threat in Mexico

(Wall Street Journal) The Obama administration sees the drug-related violence sweeping Mexico as a growing threat to U.S. national security and has launched a broad review of steps the military and intelligence community could take to help combat what some U.S. officials describe as a narcoinsurgency.

U.S. and Mexican officials say the Pentagon's Northern Command, the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies are discussing what aviation, surveillance and intelligence assets could be used—both inside Mexico and along the border—to help counter the drug cartels. Officials say it is unclear how much of an expanded American role the Mexicans will accept. The scope of the U.S. effort is expected to grow but it is unclear how much. There is no consideration of sending U.S. troops other than in a training or liaison capacity, people familiar with the matter say.

Interagency talks about ramping up assistance have been discreet to avoid a public backlash in Mexico.

But the review is tacit acknowledgment that the Merida Initiative launched in 2008, in which Congress allocated \$1.3 billion over three years to help Mexican drug-interdiction efforts, has been insufficient to stem the violence.



AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND

2857/2010

New Zealand inquiry into defence official's 'false' CV

(BBC) New Zealand Prime Minister John Key has ordered an inquiry into how a defence official accused of making up details about his background was given the highest level of security clearance.

A TV investigation accused Stephen Wilce, a senior defence scientist, of falsely claiming he was an ex-British commando and Olympic bobsleighter. Mr Wilce, who was director of New Zealand's Defence Technology Agency (DTA), resigned last week. He headed a staff of 80 for five years.

The DTA provides intelligence to the military on technological and scientific matters.

- (a) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-11282569>
- (b) http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=10673099



AFRICA (SUB-SAHARA)

2858/2010

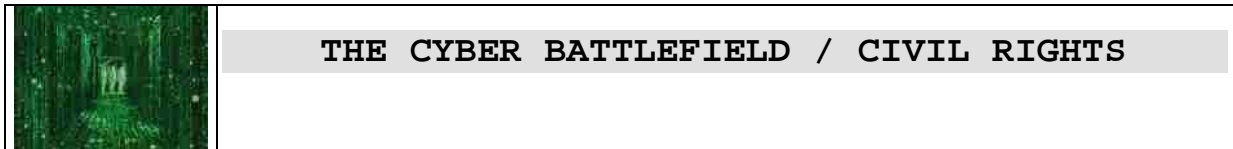
South Africa police hunt tweeting spy

(BBC) South Africa's municipal police are searching for a man using social networking site Twitter to warn about police road blocks and speed traps.

The man, who calls himself "PigSpotter", has gained more than 6,000 followers since he started his reports in July. He has been interviewed on local radio stations, defending his actions. Johannesburg municipal police told the BBC he could be charged with obstructing justice.

"We have information on him and are looking at the possibility of making an arrest soon," Superintendent Wayne Minnaar said. "Even if he stops what he is doing, he has already warned a lot of would-be offenders and would still need to appear in court," he said.

But "PigSpotter" denied he was breaking the law.



2859/2010 -----

Der 5. Schauplatz des Krieges: Spionage und Attacken im Cyberspace

(Le Monde diplomatique) Die Cyber-Welt hat ihre Unschuld verloren. Schon vor Jahren hat das US-Verteidigungsministerium verkündet, man werde die klassischen vier Felder, auf denen das Militär agiert - zu Lande, zu Wasser, in der Luft und im Weltraum - um ein fünftes ergänzen: den Cyberspace. Im Mai dieses Jahres wurde der Viersternegeneral Keith Alexander vom Pentagon zum ersten Kommandeur der Cyper-Truppen ernannt. Dieses Kommando ist bei der National Security Agency (NSA) in Fort Meade, Maryland, angesiedelt.¹

Mittlerweile haben viele Regierungen ihre Militärs beauftragt, eine "Cyber-Sicherheitsstrategie" auszuarbeiten. Auch die Nato hat damit begonnen. Im Mai hat eine Expertenkommission unter Vorsitz der ehemaligen US-Außenministerin Madeleine Albright den Entwurf einer neuen Nato-Sicherheitspolitik vorgelegt. In dem Dokument mit dem Titel "Nato 2020" hat die Verteidigung des Cyberspace zukünftig höchste Priorität. Damit sind alle Voraussetzungen für einen neuen Kalten Krieg gegeben, in dem sich allerdings - anders als in den 1950er und 1960er Jahren - nicht nur zwei Lager gegenüberstehen. Denn auch Russland, China, Indien und Israel werden sich zu bedeutenden Cyber-Mächten entwickeln.

Die Militarisierung des Cyberspace hat zur Folge, dass die globalen Kommunikationsnetze intensiver ausgeforscht und kontrolliert werden. Dass die Staaten keine Monopolstellung in diesem Planspiel um Informationen einnehmen, zeigen die von Wikileaks veröffentlichten Dokumente zur US-amerikanischen Afghanistanpolitik. Danach spekulierte die britische Sicherheitsministerin Pauline Neville-Jones über das "Informationsleck" und äußerte den Verdacht, dass die Dokumente durch einen Hackerangriff auf das System beschafft worden sein könnten.

Das Internet ist mittlerweile für fast alle Bereiche unseres Alltags unentbehrlich geworden. Diese extreme Abhängigkeit von Computersystemen ist dafür verantwortlich, dass sich mit dem Cyber-Krieg eine ganz neue Konfliktdimension herausgebildet hat, deren Horrorszenarien mit fantasievollen Schlagworten wie "Cybergeddon" oder "digitales Pearl Harbour" heraufbeschworen werden.

<http://www.monde-diplomatique.de/pm/2010/08/13/a0038.text.name,ask5Lvd7q.n,4>

(Hat tip to Stefan AUER fort his hint!)

2860/2010 -----

Sicherheitsfirmen warnen vor neuem gefährlichen Computervirus

(AFP) Sicherheitsfirmen haben vor einem neuen per Email verbreiteten gefährlichen Computervirus gewarnt. Wie das Unternehmen McAfee Labs am Freitag mitteilte, bietet die Email mit der Betreffzeile "Here you have" angeblich das Herunterladen kostenloser Sex-Filme oder anderer Dokumenten an. In Wirklichkeit verbreitet sich der Virus auf dem Computer, wenn der in der Email angegebene Internetlink angeklickt wird. Der Virus verschickt von der Email-Adresse aus weitere infizierte Mails an die gespeicherten Kontakte und hebelt die auf dem Computer installierten Sicherheits-Programme aus. Gefährdet sind demnach Computer mit dem Microsoft-Betriebssystem Windows.

Das Sicherheitsunternehmen Kapersky teilte mit, der Virus sei "ziemlich aktiv". Es sei bereits eine große Zahl Emails verschickt worden. Dem US-Sender Fox News zufolge waren auch Server der US-Raumfahrtbehörde NASA und des US-Kabelbetreibers Comcast von dem Virus betroffen.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jB6m5iVrfey9Uf-1f6dAiTab9ZIw>

2861/2010 -----

Smartphone-Malware: Trügerische Sicherheit

(ORF) Mitte August ist auf dem offenen Smartphone-Betriebssystem Android der erste SMS-Trojaner aufgetaucht, doch auch Apples iPhone ist nicht vor jeglicher Attacke auf die Systemsicherheit gefeit. Die Hauptgefahr, sein Smartphone mit Malware zu infizieren, lauert in den App Stores. Österreichische Sicherheitsexperten gehen davon aus, dass Security-Attacken auf Smartphones zwar langsam, aber stetig zunehmen werden.



"Das Potenzial für Malware am Handy wird immer größer. Mit den App Stores ist es beispielsweise ein leichtes, dass ein Trojaner in eine App eingeschleust wird, die dann millionenfach runtergeladen wird", ist Aaron Kaplan vom heimischen Sicherheitszentrum CERT.at überzeugt.

Apples iPhone könne in diesem Fall genauso betroffen sein wie die Vielzahl der auf dem Markt erhältlichen Android-Phones, so Kaplan. Zwar werden bei Apple alle eingereichten Apps in einem Review-Prozess überprüft, bevor sie im App Store veröffentlicht werden, doch bei der ständig wachsenden Anzahl neuer Apps steigt auch die Wahrscheinlichkeit, dass etwas übersehen wird - etwa wenn die Basics mit den üblichen Programmierwerkzeugen geschrieben oder Teile des Codes von anderen Programmen übernommen wurden.

<http://futurezone.orf.at/stories/1659441/>

2862/2010 -----

Who Might be Hacking Your BlackBerry?

((FoxBusiness) Rows over whether several emerging countries can effectively intercept BlackBerry smartphone messaging have turned attention to how state spy agencies access electronic communications.

For business users, the main question is not whether messages can be read but whether that information will then be used for commercial ends.

Unsurprisingly, nations almost invariably refuse to comment on how intelligence information is used.

Reuters has spoken to a range of industry analysts and former intelligence officers. Below is a summary of some of their views on how key states use electronic surveillance.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/personal-finance/2010/09/15/hacking-blackberry/>

2863/2010 -----

Android-Trojaner verschickt 6-\$-SMS

(Heise) Der neue SMS-Trojaner, den Kaspersky auf seiner Website beschreibt, trägt die Bezeichnung Trojan-SMS.AndroidOS.FakePlayer.b und ist der zweite aktive Trojaner für Android-Smartphones. Er tarnt sich wie sein Vorgänger als Medienplayer für Porno-Videos (pornplayer.apk). Der Anwender installiert ihn also höchstselbst, sodass keine technischen Tricks für die Verbreitung nötig sind.

Während der Installation fordert er das Recht an, SMS versenden zu dürfen. Einmal installiert, beginnt der Trojaner mit einem heimlichen, für den Anwender nicht ersichtlichen Versand von SMS an einen Premium-Dienst - für 6 US-Dollar pro SMS.

Wie die Titelstory der neuen c't (Ausgabe 20/2010) zeigt, ist das ein ganz typisches Verfahren, um Schädlinge auf Smartphones zu transferieren. Die sind nämlich im Grundsatz relativ sicher, sodass die meisten Methoden zur Infektion die aktive Mithilfe des Anwenders erfordern. Nachdem immer mehr Smartphones heute die persönliche Kommunikationszentrale mit diversen fertig konfigurierten Accounts (mit gespeicherten Passwörtern, inklusive Kontozugängen) bildet, sollte man die Sicherheitsprobleme der mobilen Welt kennen, denn man kann sich durchaus gut schützen.

<http://www.heise.de/newsticker/meldung/Android-Trojaner-verschickt-6-SMS-1077517.html>

2864/2010 -----

Detecting Mobile Phone Spy Software

(electroarticles) Are you worried that your spouse or boyfriend is fooling around with his cell phone? Or do you want to spy on a cell phone for another reason? Actually, there are plenty of ways on how you can know what texts, calls, and e-mails your partner is sending and receiving. You can now get a cell phone spy software easily. The easiest way to obtain this software is to download it from the Internet.

This usually comes with a fee, but most companies offer free trials for first time users. Once you have downloaded the software, you will be sent instructions on how to use it.

Normally, it can be installed via a Bluetooth device. But there are applications which allow you to get information from the cell phone's sim card. In addition, you need to configure the settings correctly. Do not worry that the program you are using to spy on cell phone can get you into trouble. Cell phone spying is still legal. There are no federal regulations for this yet. As you can see, you can legally spy on your partner's cell phone and find out what he is doing or if he is cheating on you.

2865/2010 -----

Winzige Kamera spioniert Bankomatcode aus

(Kleine Zeitung) Mit einer Kamera, die mit dem freien Auge kaum sichtbar ist, werden neuerdings Bankomaten ausspioniert. Die Europol warnt vor dieser neuen Betrugsmethode, die im deutschen Gütersloh zum ersten Mal entdeckt wurde.

Die winzigen Kameras werden direkt am Ziffernblock der Bankomaten angebracht und mit ihrer Hilfe der Pin-Code ausspioniert. Die Bankomatkarten selbst, ohne die der Code ja nutzlos ist, werden gestohlen oder nachgemacht, um damit Geld zu beheben. Die Europol hat eine Warnung an alle Bankomatbetreiber ausgegeben.

Bislang gibt es in Österreich noch keine derartigen Betrugsfälle, verdächtige Beobachtungen sollen aber sofort der Polizei gemeldet werden.

<http://www.kleinezeitung.at/nachrichten/chronik/2478742/winzige-kamera-spioniert-bankomatcode.story>

2866/2010 -----

Deutsche Telekom kleinlaut nach dem großen Späh-Angriff

(standard) Einer der größten Datenschutz-Prozesse in der jüngsten deutschen Geschichte beginnt mit einem kleinlauten Eingeständnis: Es sei ein "sehr großer Fehler" gewesen, die Telefondaten von Aufsichtsratsmitgliedern der Deutschen Telekom auszuspionieren, von Betriebsräten und Journalisten, sagt der frühere Chef der Konzernsicherheit, Klaus T., am Freitag. Es ist der erste Tag des Verfahrens, das Licht in das Dunkel der Telekom-Spitzelaffäre bringen soll. Den Vorwurf der Untreue und des Betrugs an seinem jahrzehntelangen Arbeitgeber weist T. vor dem Landgericht Bonn zurück. Den ehemaligen Konzernchef Kai-Uwe Ricke könnten die Aussagen T.s aber erneut in Schwierigkeiten bringen.

<http://derstandard.at/1282978922184/Deutsche-Telekom-kleinlaut-nach-dem-grossen-Spaeh-Angriff>

2867/2010 -----

'Stuxnet' Worm Far More Sophisticated Than Previously Thought

(Krebs) The "Stuxnet" computer worm made international headlines in July, when security experts discovered that it was designed to exploit a previously unknown security hole in Microsoft Windows computers to steal industrial secrets and potentially disrupt operations of critical information networks. But new information about the worm shows that it leverages at least three other previously unknown security holes in Windows PCs, including a vulnerability that Redmond fixed in a software patch released today.

As first reported on July 15 by KrebsOnSecurity.com, Stuxnet uses a vulnerability in the way Windows handles shortcut files to spread to new systems. Experts say the worm was designed from the bottom up to attack so-called Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems, or those

used to manage complex industrial networks, such as systems at power plants and chemical manufacturing facilities.

http://krebsonsecurity.com/2010/09/stuxnet-worm-far-more-sophisticated-than-previously-thought/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+KrebsOnSecurity+%28Krebs+on+Security%29

2868/2010 -----

Privacy Tool for Iranian Activists Disabled, Security Holes Exposed

(Wired) A highly lauded privacy tool designed to help Iranian activists circumvent state spying and censorship has been disabled after an independent researcher discovered security vulnerabilities in the system that could potentially expose the identities of anonymous users.

Users have been instructed to destroy all copies of the software, known as Haystack, and the developers have now vowed to obtain a third-party audit of the code and release most of it as open source before distributing anything to activists again.

Haystack is designed to encrypt a user's traffic and also obfuscate it by using steganography-like techniques to hide it within innocuous or state-approved traffic, making it harder to filter and block the traffic. Despite its nascent status, Haystack got widespread media attention, including from Newsweek recently. (b)

The tool is still in development, but an initial diagnostic version was being used by "a few dozen" activists in Iran when security researcher Jacob Appelbaum, a U.S. volunteer with WikiLeaks, discovered vulnerabilities in the source code and implementation of the system that could potentially place the lives of activists at risk.

Austin Heap, one of the tool's developers, has faced sharp criticism from Appelbaum and others for failing to vet the tool with security professionals before distributing it for use. The media have also been criticized for failing to properly examine the system before praising it as an option for activists.

- (a) <http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2010/09/haystack/>
- (b) <http://www.newsweek.com/2010/08/06/needles-in-a-haystack.print.html>
- (c) Haystack-website: <http://www.haystacknetwork.com/>

2869/2010 -----

Don't Block My Berry, Dude

(StratgeyPage) The United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, India and Indonesia are all pressuring smart phone maker BlackBerry to allow access to the encrypted messages sent between BlackBerry users. The countries demanding this have come to believe that Western nations have this ability. RIM, which makes the BlackBerry and runs the communications for BlackBerry users, has, with some difficulty, convinced the governments demanding decryption keys that this was not possible. The reason why the BlackBerry is the most popular smart phone for business and government users is because the encryption is virtually unbreakable, and intercepting it gets you nothing. But apparently RIM did have some bones they could throw these governments, who did have legitimate concerns about terrorists using BlackBerrys. RIM offered information on who was sending messages

where. This data is also normally hidden by RIM's data system (which supports all BlackBerrys worldwide, via servers in Canada, where RIM is headquartered.) Some of these governments, however, are less concerned with terrorists than with local opponents to the government in power.

Meanwhile, Israel has joined France and, to a lesser extent, the United States, in producing a cell phone technology that enables troops and government officials to use their cell phones for discussing secret stuff. The Israel approach is to create an encrypted military cell phone network, that a special model of an existing cell phone will be able to use. This is similar to the RIM solution. Late last year, a French firm developed a cell phone cryptography technology strong enough to satisfy French government and NATO security standards. The president of France was pleased, and his subordinates were relieved, because their boss is an enthusiastic smart phone user.

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htiw/articles/20100906.aspx>

2870/2010 -----

Microsoft Knows Your Dirty Secrets

(StrategyPage) Now that most hackers have figured out what was happening, Microsoft revealed that, for years many hackers have unthinkingly allowed their Windows operating system to send information back to Microsoft. This came in the form of data files on failed attempts to build new hacker code. It works like this (for all Windows users). When criminal programmers are building the programs they secretly insert into other peoples PCs, they have to test their work, and their programs often don't work initially. Such failures cause their PC to lock up (crash), and while that is happening, the Windows operating system captures what was going on at the time of the crash. When the user reboots, the operating system asks if it is OK to send this information to Microsoft, where it is analysed (initially by software), looking for potential problems in Windows (which can be fixed). The screening software looks for all sorts of patterns, and eventually picked up the crashed hacker software in these memory dump files. It was quickly realized that this allowed Microsoft to monitor what was going on in the hacker underground.

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htiw/articles/20100903.aspx>

2871/2010 -----

Google: Mitarbeiter schnüffelte Jugendliche aus

(Netzwelt) Google-Dienste zu nutzen, ist offenbar längst nicht so sicher wie viele glauben. Das zur US-Mediengruppe Gawker gehörende Portal Valleywag berichtet von einem Ingenieur, der mehrere Nutzerkonten ausspioniert haben soll. Google hat mittlerweile reagiert und den Mitarbeiter entlassen.

<http://www.netzwelt.de/news/84056-google-mitarbeiter-schnueffelte-jugendliche.html>



SPYCRAFT

2872/2010 -----

Bombers used video cameras to spy on MI5 base

(Belfast Telegraph) Dissident republicans planted spy cameras in trees at MI5's £20m base at Palace Barracks in Northern Ireland.

The army rumbled the sophisticated Oglagh na heireann (ONH) spying operation during a search of a clump of trees on the Old Holywood Road overlooking the rear of the barracks where MI5 has its £20m Loughside base. It is understood four digital cameras were concealed in the trees near Redburn Country Park. It is feared ONH, which bombed Palace Barracks in April, has used the recordings to target soldiers and build profiles on spooks working at the new spy base.

Senior security sources in London tried to play down the cameras being found, saying only that trees were cleared and a new fence erected because of concerns the wooded area could conceal gunmen. And the PSNI would only say when asked if cameras had been found that no materials "likely to be of use to terrorists" had been found in the Redburn area since the April bomb attack. But well placed sources in Belfast insisted the cameras were discovered and said the find was embarrassing for MI5 which employs more than 300 people at the base.

"There were four cameras hidden in the trees at the back of Palace Barracks which covered all angles of the base," said an insider. "The cameras were battery-powered and had been there for some time, maybe months. "They were also backed up with memory sticks."

- (a) <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/bombers-used-video-cameras-to-spy-on-mi5-base-14947375.html>
- (b) <http://intelligencenews.wordpress.com/2010/09/13/01-560/>

2873/2010 -----

Neuer Sensor für TNT-Erkennung aus Israel

(ORF) Sensorchips sollen künftig Spürhunde bei der Suche nach Explosivstoffen ersetzen. Der Chemiker Fernando Patolsky und sein Team von der Universität Tel Aviv in Israel haben einen Chip entwickelt, der TNT (Trinitrotoluol) und andere Sprengstoffe aufspürt.

Der Chip ist nach Angaben der Forscher Spürhunden sowie allen bisherigen Nachweismethoden überlegen. Er solle nicht nur der Vereitelung von Terroranschlägen dienen, sondern auch Kontaminationen auf ehemaligen Militärgeländen anzeigen.

Das Problem beim Nachweis von Explosivstoffen wie TNT ist dem Bericht zufolge ihre ausgesprochen geringe Flüchtigkeit. Für die Analyse von Luftproben gebe es bisher meist nur teure und zeitraubende Methoden, sperrige Apparate und eine mühselige Probenaufbereitung. Daher sei eine kostengünstige, miniaturisierbare Methode für den Feldeinsatz gesucht worden, erklärte Patolsky.

<http://futurezone.orf.at/stories/1661650/>

2874/2010 -----

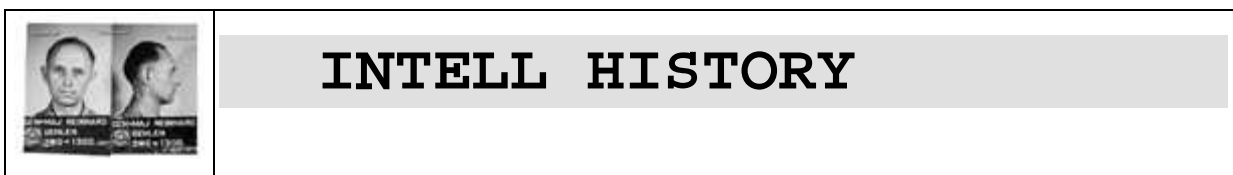
Spycraft, contacts still key in espionage world

(Reuters) Smartphones and e-mail might be revolutionising espionage, but old-style personal spycraft is as important as ever when it comes to protecting -- or breaking -- state and corporate secrets.

The rise of "state capitalist" economies that may use government intelligence agencies to win commercial advantage for official-linked companies could pose a growing threat to their Western corporate rivals, experts say. China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and India either have or are all pushing for security agency access to encrypted BlackBerry smart phones, which they say they need to monitor dangerous militants.

But while the skills of electronic snooping are important, where information ends up can come down just as much to private deals put together in anonymous offices by spy chiefs, companies and powerful individuals. "In somewhere like the UAE, if I was the CIA or MI6 station chief I might go to the head of local intelligence and ask for help in following or monitoring someone," said Fred Burton, a former U.S. counterterrorism agent now vice president for U.S. political risk consultancy Stratfor.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKLNE68E04B20100915>



2875/2010 -----

Civil Rights Photographer Unmasked as Informer

(NY Times) That photo of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. riding one of the first desegregated buses in Montgomery, Ala.? He took it. The well-known image o

f black sanitation workers carrying "I Am a Man" signs in Memphis? His. He was the only photojournalist to document the entire trial in the murder of Emmett Till, and he was there in Room 306 of the Lorraine Hotel, Dr. King's room, on the night he was assassinated.

But now an unsettling asterisk must be added to the legacy of Ernest C. Withers, one of the most celebrated photographers of the civil rights era: He was a paid F.B.I. informer.

On Sunday, The Commercial Appeal in Memphis published the results of a two-year investigation that showed Mr. Withers, who died in 2007 at age 85, had collaborated closely with two F.B.I. agents in the 1960s to keep tabs on the civil rights movement. It was an astonishing revelation about a former police officer nicknamed the Original Civil Rights Photographer, whose previous claim to fame had been the trust he engendered among high-ranking civil rights leaders, including Dr. King.

"It is an amazing betrayal," said Athan Theoharis, a historian at Marquette University who has written books about the F.B.I. "It really speaks to the degree that the F.B.I. was able to engage individuals within the civil rights movement. This man was so well trusted."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/14/us/14photographer.html?src=un&feedurl=http%3A%2F%2Fjson8.nytimes.com%2Fpages%2Fnational%2Findex.jsonp>

2876/2010 -----

Ukraine's journalist Gongadze killed on orders from Interior Minister

(Voice of Russia) The opposition Ukrainian journalist Georgy Gongadze was killed in September 2000 on orders from the then Ukrainian Interior Minister Yuri Kravchenko.

This comes in an article in today's issue of the Ukrainskaya Pravda daily with reference to a source in the republic's Prosecutor-General's Office. According to the daily, it was Kravchenko who gave a verbal order to that end to Police General Alexei Pukach, who is still under investigation. The former Interior Minister was found dead at his dacha in March 2005, on the day when he was due to have turned up at the Prosecutor-General's Office to give evidence in the Gongadze case.

The investigators claim that he committed suicide by shooting himself in the head twice, but independent experts doubt the veracity of the conclusion.

<http://english.ruvr.ru/2010/09/14/20310220.html>

2877/2010 -----

French Intelligence during the Patriotic War of 1812

(Voice of Russia) In the early 19th century the French intelligence was already a well-developed organization. Emperor Napoleon had started preparing for the invasion a few years before 1812. He knew that the interests of the two states would sooner or later collide causing a military conflict. So, he thought, to gain advantage in the battle, Paris had to take control of the situation from the very start. Special units were formed in the French army to stay on guard close to the Russian borders. And since the two countries did not have a common border, France occupied Prussia and the Duchy of Warsaw (modern Poland) to prepare for the invasion.

By that time, Napoleon's army had a vast intelligence experience it gained during campaigns in Austria, Italy and Germany. But the war with Russia required a new intelligence system and additional special task services. The French Emperor instructed his foreign affairs ministry to collect intelligence data on Russia.

So, the Embassy of France in Saint Petersburg became the main source of such information. Embassy officials had to collect information about sentiments in court circles and in the country generally, about possible reshuffle in Alexander's Cabinet, his domestic and foreign policies, and, of course, about any changes in the Russian army. Bonaparte demanded this information to be provided to Paris non-stop, while analytical reports were written to him at least once a month.

This is what French diplomats were busy with in other countries bordering Russia: Germany, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Romania, Lithuania and some others. A special analytical center was established at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in France to process all information arriving from the embassies abroad and give further recommendations to Napoleon.

<http://english.ruvr.ru/2010/09/10/19732336.html>

2878/2010 -----

Coco Chanel at war

(Telegraph) In the tangle of tales told about Coco Chanel one accusation is invariably repeated. Chanel was a Nazi collaborator, whose wartime affair with a German officer leaves her reputation blemished, and the legacy of her visionary designs forever stained.

The truth is less clear-cut than that. That Chanel's wartime record is imperfect is a reflection both of her own inconsistencies, and the inconsistent recording of them. But her conduct should also be seen in the context of an era of French history marked by widespread chaos, confusion and uncertainty, as well as terrible tragedy. To acknowledge this is not to act as an apologist for Chanel; and she herself would have been enraged at the very idea, for she declared that she had done nothing wrong in her relationship with a German.

His name was Hans Gunther von Dincklage, and he was 13 years younger than Chanel. She was not blind to the age difference - she was 58 when their affair began - as was implicit in her famous reply, recorded by Cecil Beaton, to the question of whether she had been involved with a German. 'Really, sir, a woman of my age cannot be expected to look at his passport if she has a chance of a lover.' Von Dincklage was known to his friends as Spatz, the German for sparrow. He was a tall, blond, distinguished-looking attaché to the German embassy in Paris.

Born in Hanover on 15 December 1896, Spatz had arrived in Paris in 1928, where he gained a reputation as a suave playboy. After divorcing his wife in 1935, he had several affairs with smart, rich Parisians, and at some point encountered Mademoiselle Chanel on a social basis, for she claimed to have already known him 'for years' before the start of their affair. As for his professional activities in Paris: to some observers Spatz was simply an affable, occasionally frivolous diplomat; to others, a German spy.

<http://fashion.telegraph.co.uk/columns/justine-picardie/TMG7986854/Coco-Chanel-at-war.html>

2879/2010 -----

Ex-British Spy Noor Inayat Khan To Be Honoured With A Memorial

(allheadlinenews) Britain will honour Noor Inayat Khan, a British secret agent during the Second World War, by making a memorial near her former home at Gordon Square in London. Khan was also the descendant of 18th century South Indian ruler Tipu Sultan.

Khan, who had also received Britain's top honour - the George Cross - after her death in 1949 - lived in the aforementioned house until her last mission to France. The Nazis executed her in the German city of Dachau. She was 30 at the time of her death.

Ex-British Premier Winston Churchill had opened a secret organization called Special Operations Executive in which she was one of only three women employed by the group. The French government also awarded her the Croix de Guerre for her bravery as she was instrumental in the French Resistance.

<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7019876021>

2880/2010 -----

Le Carré betrayed by 'bad lot' spy Kim Philby

(Channel4) John le Carré speaks to Jon Snow about his life as a spy and writer, explaining how he was betrayed by the double-agent Kim Philby. Famous for guarding his privacy, the author says will be his final British television interview.

In the revealing interview at his Cornish home, le Carré, whose real name is David Cornwell, described how his experiences working as a spy during the 1950s and 1960s, and his childhood shaped his writing. Le Carré worked for MI5 and MI6 during the 1950s and 1960s, using the cover of a British diplomat in Germany to run agents and lure defectors.

"In was in those days most definitely a calling and for all that I've written about it, it was a pretty decent calling, in the sense that we were very patriotic people in ways I don't think we are anymore. "The ethic, which I believe has been greatly undermined in recent times, was that we spoke truth to power," he said. However his cover was betrayed by the double-agent Kim Philby, the highest-ranking British intelligence officer who worked as a spy for the Soviet Union. "I had been betrayed by Philby, I actually refused to meet Philby in Moscow in 1988. For me, Philby was a thoroughly bad lot, just a naturally bent man.

"You have to remember that Philby was in line to become head of SIS. I wouldn't have trusted him with my cat for the weekend," he said.

<http://www.channel4.com/news/articles/uk/le+carr233+betrayed+by+aposbad+lot+apos+spy+kim+philby/3766077>

2881/2010 -----

A fitting farewell at last for forgotten WWII heroine Eileen



War hero: Eileen Nearne operated as Mademoiselle du Tort for the Special Operations Executive in World War II

(dailymail) The daring British Second World War spy who died alone in her flat earlier this month will receive an all-expenses-paid funeral following public outcry that she was to be cremated unmourned.

Eileen Nearne had hardly any visitors to her Torquay home over the past two decades before she was found dead after suffering a heart attack at the age of 89.

It is understood she has no surviving family and no-one was found to pay for her funeral. Hundreds of well-wishers have today volunteered to donate money so that Miss Nearne could be given a send-off befitting her wartime service. The members of the public, moved by her heroic tale, inundated the local council asking for details of where her funeral would be taking place and offering money to help pay for it.

But these donations are no longer needed as both the funeral home and crematorium have waived their fees. Such was the national interest in Miss Nearne's fate that the funeral director has offered to not only pay for the service, but to move it to a larger church to accommodate the members of the public who wish to attend.

The British Royal Legion has confirmed it will place a flag on her coffin.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1311699/Tragedy-WWII-spy-Eileen-Nearne-escaped-Gestapo-died-alone.html>

2882/2010

Jack the Invincible: SAS medals hero



Sgt Byrne was one of 60 commandos chosen to form the SAS by legendary Capt David Stirling

(dailymail) He sounds like the Nazis' worst nightmare: A founding member of the SAS, he was shot in the face, bayoneted in the groin and detained in several prisoner of war camps.

But death-defying Sergeant Jack Byrne refused to let any of that stop him bouncing back to fight the Germans. The story of Sgt Byrne, who fought on D-Day and at Dunkirk, in North Africa and at the Battle of the Bulge, has emerged after his medals were put up for sale. He was bayoneted at Dunkirk and given up for dead before being rescued and evacuated to England.

In March 1942, he was shot in the face at close range by a German officer after spending five days behind enemy lines wandering alone through the blistering Libyan desert with little water. Miraculously, the bullet only brushed his cheek and nose.

With, in his own words, 'blood spurting from nose and temple', Sgt Byrne was captured and sent to the notorious Stalag Luft III camp in Poland. But the following year he escaped while in transit to another camp by crawling through a latrine drain, breaking through a fence with his bare hands and stowing away on a Sweden-bound ship to re-join the war.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1311611/SAS-soldier-hero-Jack-Byrne-survived-gunshots-bayonet-PoW-camp.html>

2883/2010

David Cameron meets war heroes

(Independent) Prime Minister David Cameron met heroes of the Battle of Britain at the start of a week of commemorations of the 70th anniversary of the RAF's historic struggle with Germany's Luftwaffe.

The event in central London was Mr Cameron's first public engagement since the death of his father Ian. He told the veterans and their wives that his father, who was born with stunted legs, had always been proud of meeting flying ace Douglas Bader, who lost his legs in an air accident and encouraged him to make the most of his life despite his disability.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-ferguson-meets-war-heroes-2078267.html>

2884/2010 -----

Memorial plaque honours Tibetan 'freedom fighters' at CIA camp

(news.msn) The US Forest Service has unveiled a plaque to commemorate the training given to Tibetan "freedom fighters" by the CIA at Camp Hale in the mountainous Colorado from 1958 to 1964.

The event, presided over by Senator Mark Udall, included former CIA agents and Tibetans involved in the operation, family members and representatives of the US Forest Service and the Tibetan-American community in Colorado, a media release said. "What (the plaque) represents is a shared worthy endeavour of the American and Tibetan people, a lasting memorial to the brave freedom fighters and their dedicated CIA instructors," said Udall. As part of a programme to aid Tibetan resistance, CIA had trained Tibetan soldiers in guerrilla warfare in Camp Hale, Colorado. This site was chosen because of its physical similarities to eastern Tibet where the trainees would later be airdropped. Camp Hale had served as a training base for the 10th Mountain Division in World War II.

Those living in the surrounding community were unaware of the operation, and had been purposely misled by government officials who claimed that it was an atomic testing site. Like many CIA operations, the US involvement with Tibetan guerrillas, including the training programme at Camp Hale, had not officially been acknowledged by the US government previously. The history of this era is increasingly being written about by academics, journalists and those who participated in it, both Tibetans and Americans. "From 1958 to 1964, Camp Hale played an important role as a training site for Tibetan Freedom Fighters. Trained by the CIA, many of these brave men lost their lives in the struggle for freedom.

<http://news.in.msn.com/international/article.aspx?cp-documentid=4368874>

2885/2010 -----

MI5 'failed to share Billy Wright intelligence'

(BBC) MI5 failed to inform the Northern Ireland security minister of an INLA death threat to loyalist prisoner Billy Wright, a public inquiry has found.

Wright, the head of the Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF), was shot dead inside the Maze prison by republican prisoners in December 1997.

The Billy Wright Inquiry found intelligence services had information that the INLA opposed Wright being moved to a H Block where its prisoners were housed and intended to kill him at the first opportunity. However, this intelligence was only shared with the RUC and did not reach the Northern Ireland Office. Then-minister Sir John Wheeler told the inquiry if he had known about this, he would have asked the Prison Service what measures it would take.

"It is quite unacceptable that a prisoner's life should be at risk in this way," he told the inquiry. The inquiry concluded it was "most unfortunate" that senior Security Service officers failed to inform the minister about "this most important intelligence information". It also found that the RUC's handling of various threats to the LVF between October 1996 and June

1997 amounted to "wrongful acts or omissions... which facilitated the death of Billy Wright".

- (a) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-11303864>
- (b) Billy Wright timeline: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-11279120>
- (c) Billy Wright: the loyalist assassin too violent for his comrades: <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/billy-wright-the-loyalist-assassin-too-violent-for-his-comrades-14949434.html>
- (d) Billy Wright inquiry 'exposed MI5 agent within INLA's ranks': <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/billy-wright-inquiry-lsquoexposed-mi5-agent-within-inlarsquo-ranksrsquo-14948406.html>
- (e) <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/king-rat-billy--wrights-bloody-campaign-against-catholics-14948568.html>
- (f) Wright Inquiry prepares to publish report: <http://www.portadowntimes.co.uk/news/Wright-Inquiry-prepares-to-publish.6523082.jp>

(Hat tip to Oliver PLAUDER for his extensive coverage of this topic!)

2886/2010 -----

Stasi-Kontakt: Wallraff-Anwalt wiegelt ab

(Tagesspiegel) Dänische Geheimdienstakten legen einen Kontakt von Günter Wallraff mit der Stasi nahe. Die Aussagen seiner damalige Freundin Britt Edwall stützen die Version. Doch für den Anwalt Wallraffs spielt die Wortmeldung Edwalls keine Rolle.

Die Anschuldigungen gegen Günter Wallraff, er habe Kontakt mit der Stasi gehabt, scheinen durch Geheimdienstprotokolle und die Aussagen von Wallraffs damaliger Freundin erhärtet. Doch für Wallraffs Anwalt spielt Edwalls Wortmeldung keine Rolle. "Das sind ihre Erinnerungen. Wallraffs Erinnerungen sind anders." Entscheidend sei, dass Wallraff nicht gewusst habe, dass Heinz Gundlach offenbar bei der Stasi war. Als Wallraff Edwall zum Schweigen aufforderte, habe er sie lediglich vor "Sensationsjournalisten" warnen wollen, die sie "instrumentalisieren" könnten.

Die von dem Politologen Helmut Müller-Enbergs und dem Historiker Thomas Wegener Friis vor einer Woche veröffentlichten Informationen des dänischen Geheimdienstes warfen ein neues Licht auf ein Treffen des Journalisten, Buchautors und Filmemachers Günter Wallraff ("Ganz Unten") mit dem mutmaßlichen Stasi-IM Heinz Gundlach.

<http://www.tagesspiegel.de/politik/wallraff-anwalt-wiegelt-ab/1931392.html>

2887/2010 -----

China and Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Missiles

(CRS via FAS) Congress has long been concerned about whether U.S. policy advances the national interest in reducing the role of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and missiles that could deliver them. Recipients of China's technology reportedly include Pakistan and countries that the State Department says support terrorism, such as Iran and North Korea. This CRS Report, updated as warranted, discusses the security problem of China's role in weapons proliferation and issues related to the U.S. policy response since the mid-1990s. China has taken some steps to mollify U.S. and other foreign concerns about its role in weapons proliferation. Nonetheless, supplies from China have aggravated trends that result in ambiguous technical aid, more indigenous capabilities, longer-range missiles, and secondary (retransferred) proliferation. According to unclassified intelligence reports submitted as required to Congress, China has been a "key supplier" of technology, particularly PRC entities providing nuclear and missile-related technology to Pakistan and missile-related technology to Iran.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/RL31555.pdf>

2888/2010 -----

Wikileaks: An Extremist Website

(historyanarchy via scribd) Wikileaks is an "extremist website" according to a February 2009 Agent's Activity Summary from [redacted], a Criminal Intelligence Specialist with US Army Criminal Investigation Division.

Other than choice tidbit and the revelation that Wikileaks is not a member of the Better Business Bureau, there is little else of interest in [redacted] Criminal Intelligence Specialist's Agent's Activity Summary. This report tells that Wikileaks was investigated again on 2/18/2009 when a Captain with the Washington State Patrol called the 44th Military Police Detachment (CID), Fort Lewis, WA to warn them about a "website that may solicit soldiers to upload sensitive or classified documents to a public website."

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/37379535/Army-CID-Wikileaks-Extremist>

2889/2010 -----

Promotional material to "Operation Dark Heart" (***)**

Promotional material including a list of "Key Background Points and New Revelations in Operation Dark Heart."

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/news/2010/09/dark-promo.pdf>

(Full story, see: Literature-section)

2890/2010 -----

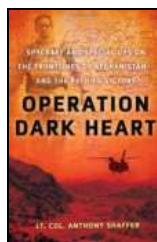
Simon Wiesenthal, Autor, Zionist, Nazijäger

(Falter-Rezension) Der israelische Historiker Tom Segev legt mit seiner Wiesenthal-Biografie einen einmaligen Längsschnitt durch die Zweite Republik vor. Tom Segev hat mit „Simon Wiesenthal. Die Biographie“ eine eindringliche und analytisch saubere Lebensbeschreibung verfasst. Sein Längsschnitt durch die Zweite Republik sucht in Österreich ihresgleichen.

- (a) Tom Segev, Simon Wiesenthal. Die Biographie, September 2010, Siedler, München, 576 Seiten, EUR 30,80
- (b) <http://www.falter.at/web/shop/detail.php?id=32889&SESSID=eb2d55b7803bb582a6432a287ddcbc07>
- (c) Zeit-Interview: <http://www.zeit.de/2010/37/A-Segev>
- (d) <http://www.nachrichten.at/nachrichten/kultur/art16,458042>
- (e)

2891/2010 -----

US defence officials move to block spy book



(BBC) The US Department of Defense is trying to stop the distribution of a book by a former intelligence officer.

Anthony Shaffer worked for the Defense Intelligence Agency, and defence officials believe his book reveals classified information. The book, Operation Dark Heart: Spycraft and Special Ops on the Frontlines of Afghanistan, was due to be released on 31 August. It is understood more than 9,000 copies have already been printed. The New York Times said Department of Defense officials were in negotiations to buy and destroy all the copies of the book.

But the DoD told the BBC that while they had been "working closely and co-operatively with the publisher and author", it was premature to say what might happen. The Army Reserve, with whom Shaffer was a lieutenant-colonel, apparently cleared the book for publication, but the DoD says a proper security review has not been done. Review copies of the book are already in circulation and the New York Times said it had been able to buy one online. Amazon's entry describes the book as "temporarily out of stock". The material concerning the DoD is understood to include names of US intelligence officers and details of National Security Agency eavesdropping activities.

Publishers St Martin's Press say the book's release date has been postponed until 24 September. (a)

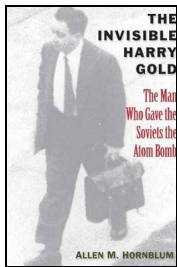
This is not the first time that Shaffer has figured in controversy. In 2005 and 2006, the House Intelligence Committee held hearings into his claim that a DIA data mining program called Able Danger had identified Mohammed Atta, the lead hijacker in the September 11, 2001 attacks, a year before the attacks in New York and Washington. The DIA revoked his security clearance in 2004 and effectively fired him from the agency in 2006 because of it. (b)

- (a) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-11263903>

- (b) <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-world/us-moves-to-block-sales-of-spy-memoir-20100911-155ex.html>
- (c) <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/42414/>
- (d) the New York Times bought its copy online:
<http://www.dailyfinance.com/story/media/pentagon-fighting-release-of-operation-dark-heart/19628725/>
- (e) Statement of the publishers:
<http://us.macmillan.com/operationdarkheart>
- (f) The NY Times' story:
http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/10/us/10books.html?_r=5
- (g) <http://intelligencenews.wordpress.com/2010/09/14/01-561/>
- (h) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2010/09/dark_heart.html
- (i) promotional material including a list of "Key Background Points and New Revelations in Operation Dark Heart.":
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/news/2010/09/dark-promo.pdf>
- (j) details on private contractors: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-isenberg/spies-and-contractors_b_712362.html
- (k) <http://www.gulli.com/news/pentagon-will-memoiren-kaufen-um-geheimnisse-zu-bewahren-2010-09-10>

2892/2010 -----

'Invisible Harry Gold' humanizes Soviet spy w/o excusing damage done



(thejewishchronicle) During World War II and the years that immediately preceded and followed it, the Soviet Union managed to persuade a few Americans, including some Jews who were Communist sympathizers, to serve as spies.

Perhaps the most notorious of these individuals were Ethel and Julius Rosenberg who were executed in 1953. Others are mostly now forgotten, but they did manage to shorten the time it took for the Soviet Union to produce an atom bomb.

Actually, the major culprit was a German anti-Nazi scientist named Klaus Fuchs who became a Communist activist before leaving Germany for England where he earned his Ph.D. in physics and began to work on the atom bomb. He was later sent to Los Alamos where he became part of the group that produced the first atomic bomb. Fuchs had prolonged contact with Harry Gold, one of the American Communist spies, who served as a courier transferring plans and papers from Fuchs to a Soviet representative.

Gold has largely passed into the shadows of history despite the role he played in facilitating the passing of atomic secrets to the Soviet Union. The apt title of his new biography, "The Invisible Harry Gold," by Allen M. Hornblum, is an appropriate characterization of its subject. However, the sub-title, "The Man Who Gave the Soviets the Atom Bomb," is somewhat overdrawn since Gold was primarily a messenger, serving as a go-between.

- (a) Allen M. Hornblum, The Invisible Harry Gold: The Man Who Gave the Soviets the Atom Bomb, 464 pages, Yale University Press (September 28, 2010), ISBN-10: 0300156766, ISBN-13: 978-0300156768
- (b) review:
http://www.thejewishchronicle.net/view/full_story/9505047/article-'Invisible-Harry-Gold'-humanizes-Soviet-spy-without-excusing-damage-done--?instance=home_news_style_right



CONFERENCES / LECTURES

2893/2010 -----

Location Intelligence GeoCloud DC 22 Sep 10

What: Location Intelligence for Geospatial Cloud Computing Executive Symposium

When: September 22, 2010

Where: The Newseum's Knight Conference Center, Washington DC

<http://www.locationintelligence.net/index.php>

2894/2010 -----

MALCON - Malware Conference



Malcon is the worlds first platform bringing together Malware and Information Security Researchers from across the globe to share key research insights into building the next generation malwares. Spread across the world, malcoders now have a common platform to demonstrate expertise, get a new insight and be a part of the global MALCODER community. This conference features keynotes, technical presentations, workshops as well as the EMERGING CHALLENGES of creating undetectable stealthy malware.

Abstract submission deadline	October 15th 2010
Notification of abstract acceptance	October 20st 2010
Final copy of full paper due	November 10th 2010
Workshop and Trainings on Malwares	December 2nd 2010
Malcon Conference, Mumbai	December 3rd 2010
Malcon Presentation, Pune (Clubhack 2010)	December 5th 2010

Contact:

- Rajshekhar Murthy | Conference coordinator
cell: +91 9769009924 | e-mail: rajsm [at] malcon [dot] org
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cell: +91 8149071277 | e-mail: atul.alex [at] malcon [dot] org

<http://malcon.org/>

2895/2010 -----

„Nachrichtendienste auf dem Prüfstand: gefordert - gerüstet ...?“

Das Institut für Friedenssicherung und Konfliktmanagement (IFK) an der Landesverteidigungsakademie beehrt sich, zur Podiumsdiskussion „Nachrichtendienste auf dem Prüfstand: gefordert - gerüstet - gefährlich?“ am 22. September 2010 um 18:00 Uhr in die Sala Terrena der Landesverteidigungsakademie (1070 Wien, Stiftgasse 2a) herzlich einzuladen.

Es diskutieren:

- Peter GRIDLING
Leiter des Bundesamts für Verfassungsschutz und Terrorismusbekämpfung
- Alfred SCHÄTZ
ehemaliger Leiter des Heeres-Nachrichtenamts
- Fred SCHREIER
Genfer Zentrum für die demokratische Kontrolle der Streitkräfte
- Anton DENG
Institut für Friedenssicherung und Konfliktmanagement
- Gudrun HARRER
Tageszeitung „Der Standard“

Moderation:

- Walter FEICHTINGER
Leiter des Instituts für Friedenssicherung und Konfliktmanagement

Wir dürfen um Anmeldung bis 20. September 2010 an Hr. Christian HUBER unter huber.christian.m@bmlvs.gv.at oder unter der Fax-Nummer 05020110 17262 ersuchen.

(Hat tip to Prof. Siegfried Beer fort his info!)

2896/2010 -----
Naked Intelligence 2010, Washington, DC -- October 12-13, 2010

SS World and Naked Intelligence have partnered to create the world's most unique Intelligence Support Systems and Intelligence Gathering conference. This event combines hands-on access to intelligence support systems solution providers with valuable insight and know-how presented by experienced practitioners of intelligence.

The ISS World Americas and Naked Intelligence conferences will share an exposition hall that will showcase both tools and services for the Intelligence and Law Enforcement Communities. Registrants will be able to attend both conferences with a single registration and choose among several tracks focused on both Intelligence Support Systems and Open Source Intelligence methods and techniques.

The Naked Intelligence agenda is below. Please click here to see the ISS World Program tracks.

We hope you can join us in Washington this fall.

http://www.telestrategies.com/ni_10/index.htm



2897/2010 -----
Media-alerts

am Do, 16.09. um 22:45 rbb
Der ungeliebte Patriot - Fritz Kolbe - Spion gegen Hitler
 Dokumentation

Dauer: 45 min (a)

Beschreibung: "Ein Gentleman liest nicht die Post anderer Leute" - dieser diplomatische Ehrenkodex wird dem wohl wichtigsten Spion des Zweiten Weltkrieges zum Verhängnis. Von 1943 bis Kriegsende liefert Fritz Kolbe den Amerikanern zahllose wichtige Dokumente, darunter 1.600 geheime Telegramme. Sein Motiv: Er hasst die Nazis.

am Do, 16.09. um 23:05 mdr

Das Ministerium für Staatssicherheit - Alltag einer Behörde

Dokumentarfilm

Dauer: 90 min (b)

Beschreibung: "Wir haben einen außerordentlich hohen Kontakt mit allen werktätigen Menschen. Ich liebe doch alle, alle Menschen", verkündete Erich Mielke am 13. November 1989 bei seinem letzten, denkwürdigen Auftritt in der Volkskammer. In der Kurzform "Ich liebe euch doch alle" wurde sein Ausspruch zum Sinnbild des Verhältnisses zwischen der Obrigkeit in der DDR als liebendem und strafendem Vater und den Untertanen als unmündigen Kindern.

am Sa, 18.09. um 00:10 SF 1

James Bond 007 - Diamantenfieber

Agententhriller

Dauer: 115 min (c)

Beschreibung: James Bond irrt sich, wenn er glaubt, den grossen Schurken Blofeld endgültig beseitigt zu haben. Jetzt plant der Bösewicht gar, die Welt mithilfe von Laserkanonen an Bord eines Satelliten in Chaos und Katastrophen zu stürzen. Geheimagent 007, nach dem unglücklichen George Lazenby noch einmal von Sean Connery verkörpert, avancierte mit "Diamantenfieber" endgültig zum eleganten Superstar des Actionthrillers. SF zeigt den Thriller mit Nostalgiewert im Rahmen seiner Spielfilmreihe zum 80. Geburtstag von Sean Connery.

am So, 19.09. um 09:00-12:00 3sat

Trotzdem Deutsch! - Juden in der deutschen Nachkriegskultur

Doku-Reihe, Folge 1-4

Dauer: jeweils 45 min (d)

Beschreibung: Hilde Domin, Therese Giehse, Fritz Kortner, Friedrich Hollaender - Mit diesen und anderen jüdischen Intellektuellen und Künstlern verbindet man das in Deutschland nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg schnell wieder auflebende Geistes- und Kulturleben. Die vierteilige Serie befasst sich mit der wichtigen Rolle, die sie im Kulturleben Deutschlands nach dem Ende des Zweiten Weltkriegs einnahmen.

am So, 19.09. um 16:30 BR alpha

Nazis wider Willen - Deutsche in amerikanischen Lagern

Dokumentation

Dauer: 60 min (e)

Beschreibung: "Michaela Kirst widmet sich dem Schicksal deutschstämmiger US-Familien, die in amerikanischen Lagern interniert und zum Teil sogar nach Deutschland zurückgeführt wurden, wo sie ebenfalls mit tiefem Misstrauen beäugt und der Spionage verdächtigt wurden. Fünf exemplarische Lebensläufe hat die Filmemacherin herausgegriffen, in denen sich die Odyssee von Menschen widerspiegelt, die, ohne es zu wollen oder es verhindern zu können, zwischen alle Fronten gerieten".

am Mo, 20.09. um 03:40 3sat

ZDF-History: Spitzel in der Synagoge - Die DDR und die Juden

Thementag: Alles koscher

Dokumentation

Dauer: 50 min (f)

Beschreibung: Die Stasi hatte sie ständig unter Kontrolle. In ihren Synagogen saßen Spitzel unter den Betenden, in ihren Gemeinden arbeiteten informelle Mitarbeiter der Staatssicherheit. Die Juden in der DDR waren der SED besonders suspekt, weil sie Kontakte in den Westen hatten oder mit Israel sympathisierten. - Der Film aus der Reihe "ZDF-History" zeigt, wie die SED die Holocaust- Überlebenden drangsalierte.

am Di, 21.09. 20:15 ZDF

Deckname Annett - Im Netz der Stasi

Szenische Dokumentation

Dauer: 45 min (g)

Beschreibung: Leipzig 1952: Mitten in der Nacht wird Gerhard Staudte von der Stasi aus dem Bett geholt und abgeführt. Zurück bleibt seine Frau Rosel mit dem erst drei Monate alten Sohn. Es folgt ein dramatischer Kampf um Leben und Freiheit, unter dessen Folgen die Beteiligten bis heute leiden.

- (a) <http://tv.intern.de/index.php?site=Detail&id=216-0-26056549&tvid=f888d3012281d983ba91899072eb5d0b>
- (b) <http://tv.intern.de/index.php?site=Detail&id=216-0-26044864&tvid=f888d3012281d983ba91899072eb5d0b>
- (c) <http://tv.intern.de/index.php?site=Detail&id=216-0-26082607&tvid=f888d3012281d983ba91899072eb5d0b>
- (d) <http://tv.intern.de/index.php?site=Detail&id=216-0-26066631&tvid=f888d3012281d983ba91899072eb5d0b>
- (e) <http://tv.intern.de/index.php?site=Detail&id=216-0-26076384&tvid=f888d3012281d983ba91899072eb5d0b>
- (f) <http://tv.intern.de/index.php?site=Detail&id=216-0-26066657&tvid=f888d3012281d983ba91899072eb5d0b>
- (g) <http://tv.intern.de/index.php?site=Detail&id=216-0-26075406&tvid=f888d3012281d983ba91899072eb5d0b>

Deadline for application: 21 September 2010

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