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ACIPSS-newsletter

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that will become intelligence history of tomorrow -
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**Das ACIPSS-Newsletter-Team wünscht allen Abonnenten und Lesern
ein Frohes Weihnachtsfest!**

We wish all our subscribers and readers a Merry Christmas!

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Friday, reportedly killing 24 people and signalling a widening of the CIA covert campaign.

- (a) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/dec/17/cia-chief-pakistan-drone-cover>
- (b) <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/pakistan/8210019/CIA-station-chief-pulled-from-Pakistan-after-death-threats.html>

4227/2010 -----

Zweifel an Aussage zu Litwinenko-Mord

(Sueddeutsche) Die Internet-Plattform Wikileaks hat Dokumente veröffentlicht, nach denen die russischen Behörden angeblich den Mördern von Alexander Litwinenko auf der Spur waren, bevor dieser in London getötet wurde. Der britische Geheimdienst habe den Russen jedoch mitgeteilt, 'sie hätten die Verdächtigen unter Kontrolle'. Ein Vertreter der russischen Regierung habe dies einem US-Kollegen bei einem Abendessen in Paris am 7. Dezember 2006 mitgeteilt, schreiben die New York Times und der britische Guardian unter Berufung auf die Depeschen. Zwei Wochen vor dem Gespräch war Litwinenko an den Folgen einer Vergiftung mit dem radioaktiven Polonium-210 gestorben.

Sollten diese Depesche und der darin enthaltene Vorwurf stimmen, würde dies den britischen Geheimdienst schwer belasten und dessen Professionalität in Frage stellen. Allerdings könnte dies den Medienberichten zufolge ebenso gut der Versuch sein, die Anschuldigungen zu entkräften, Russland selber stehe hinter der Tat. Marina Litwinenko, die Witwe des Getöteten, sagte der New York Times, sie halte die russischen Ausführungen für 'gezielte Desinformation'. Auch 'britische Offizielle' hätten diese Behauptung dementiert, schrieb die Zeitung.

<http://www.sueddeutsche.de/b5x38v/3800266/Zweifel-an-Aussage-zu-Litwinenko-Mord.html>

4228/2010 -----

Pakistan's Top Spies Won't Testify in U.S. Court, Premier Says

(Bloomberg) Pakistan's government won't ask officials from the nation's spy agency to obey a summons to testify in a U.S. court case relating to the 2008 terrorist attack in Mumbai.

"We are sensitive about this issue," Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said in parliament yesterday, according to the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan. "We are ready to sacrifice our lives for the sovereignty and integrity of Pakistan. There won't be any compromises," Gilani said. The comments were in response to a lawsuit filed last month in a federal court in Brooklyn by relatives of victims of the Mumbai attacks, the New York Times reported. The lawsuit alleges that the Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate was complicit because it nurtured Lashkar-e-Taiba, the militant group that India and the U.S. believe was responsible, the paper said.

The Mumbai terror attack, which left 166 people dead, overturned five years of improving ties with India that have been bedeviled by six decades of distrust and three wars. The U.S. wants a revival of regional peace talks to support its strategy to defeat the Taliban in Afghanistan, where India and Pakistan are competing for influence.

The lawsuit seeking damages names Lt. Gen. Ahmad Shuja Pasha, the director general of the ISI and his predecessor Lt. Gen. Nadeem Taj, the Times reported.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-24/pakistan-s-top-spies-won-t-testify-in-u-s-court-premier-says.html>

4229/2010 -----

Syria uncovers Israeli spy networks with Egypt's help

(Jerusalem Post) Arab press reports Kung Fu coach bribed security officials to share intelligence; arrest comes shortly after four spies found in Egypt.

A security official was arrested and three "spy networks" were found in Syria, allegedly gathering intelligence for the Mossad, UK daily Al-Quds al-Arabi reported on Friday, days after four were arrested in Egypt on suspicion of espionage. Tarek Abdel-Razek, a Kung Fu coach, reportedly bribed a senior Syrian security official "for a huge sum of money" to give him security-related files. Egypt reportedly shared intelligence with Syria, that led to the arrest. A Lebanese journalist also claimed that Tarek tried to recruit him to work for the Mossad, offering him \$200,000.

On Monday, an Egyptian security official has said that four locals were arrested on suspicion of spying for Israel and plotting to kidnap of tourists to harm Egypt's economy. The official revealed Sunday that the four suspects allegedly set up offices in Egypt, Britain, Israel, and the Gaza Strip to record officials' phone conversations and collect information about Japanese and Chinese tourists visiting the Sinai Peninsula.

<http://www.jpost.com/MiddleEast/Article.aspx?id=200863>



WIKILEAKS CABLEGATE - UPDATE

4230/2010 -----

WikiLeaks revelations keep coming, but few pay attention

(IntelNews) Most Western news outlets are now focusing almost exclusively on the fate of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. Few are paying attention to the details of Assange's rape allegations in Sweden, which have sparked an interesting -though limited- debate about possible links between Assange's accusers and American intelligence. Even fewer are paying attention to the actual US diplomatic cable revelations by WikiLeaks, which keep appearing daily, mostly in British quality broadsheet The Guardian (The New York Times has largely lost interest at this point).

One such revelation, published on Monday, concerns allegations by the Director of the Shabat, also known as Shin Bet (Israel's internal security service), that Palestinian group Fatah asked Israel to attack rival Palestinian group Hamas, in 2007. The leaked cable claims Shin Bet director Yuval Diskin told US diplomats that Fatah, the secular Palestinian nationalist faction that controls the West Bank, was "demoralized" and "desperate" to halt the rapid rise of Islamic Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip. Diskin further told US officials that Fatah understood it could

only survive with Israeli support, and had thus directly "asked us [Israel] to attack Hamas". Perhaps more importantly, the leaked cable appears to confirm intense speculation among some intelligence observers that Fatah is "actively gathering information on behalf of Israeli intelligence". Specifically, Diskin told US diplomats that Fatah's security force maintains a "very good working relationship" with Israeli intelligence and shares with Shin Bet "almost all the intelligence that it collects". This disclosure appears to confirm allegations made last April by Hamas official Mohammed Nazal, who said that Fatah Central Committee member Mohammed Dahlan, leader of Fatah's security service, was actively gathering information on behalf of Israeli intelligence. The latest WikiLeaks disclosures are some of the very few concerning Israel that have been released so far by the whistleblower website.

<http://intelligencenews.wordpress.com/2010/12/22/01-619/>

4231/2010 -----
Ex-Intelligence Officers, Others See Plusses in WikiLeaks Disclosures

The Obama administration "is on the wrong side of history" in trying to silence whistleblower site WikiLeaks, according to a group of former analysts, intelligence officers and diplomats, which include retired CIA officer Ray McGovern.

<http://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2010/12/07-13>

4232/2010 -----
WikiLeaks: Anonymous hierarchy emerges

(Guardian) Anarchic, leaderless group who brought down MasterCard revealed to be more hierarchical with a dozen expert hackers.

They were described as a leaderless, anarchic group of "hacktivists" who briefly brought down MasterCard, Visa and PayPal after those companies cut off financial services to WikiLeaks. But inside Anonymous, the Guardian has found that the organisation is more hierarchical - with a hidden cabal of around a dozen highly skilled hackers co-ordinating attacks across the web.

The secretive group that directs the Anonymous network was also behind the assault on the Gawker websites in the US at the weekend, according to documents seen by the Guardian. That led to email addresses and passwords of more than 1.3 million Gawker users being made public, and spawned a spam attack on Twitter that is now being investigated by the FBI.

In the last 10 days, Anonymous has also orchestrated Operation Payback, which attacked Visa, MasterCard and PayPal for cutting off financial services to WikiLeaks under pressure from the US government. Given the youthful demographic of the group, insiders expect the attacks to be stepped up in the next week as schools, colleges and universities break up for Christmas.

Several members of Anonymous have contacted the Guardian, wanting to provide more information about their motives and how the group works. Although some have been prepared to reveal their identities in private, none is willing to be named in public for fear of a backlash within the hacker group.

- (a) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2010/dec/16/wikileaks-anonymous-hierarchy-emerges>
- (b) What It's Like to Participate in Anonymous' Actions:
<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2010/12/what-its-like-to-participate-in-anonymous-actions/67860/>

4233/2010 -----

Bank of America stops handling Wikileaks payments

(BBC) Bank of America has stopped handling payments for whistle-blowing website Wikileaks, joining several other major financial institutions.

It said it acted because "Wikileaks may be engaged in activities that are... inconsistent with our internal policies for processing payments". In response, Wikileaks urged its supporters to stop doing business with the bank - one of the world's largest. MasterCard, PayPal and other companies earlier cut off Wikileaks' payments.

The financial institutions acted after Wikileaks - together with several major media organisations - began publishing thousands of secret US diplomatic cables, causing tension between Washington and some of its allies. Wikileaks founder Julian Assange was earlier this week freed on bail in the UK while facing extradition proceedings to Sweden over sexual assault allegations. Mr Assange, 39, dismissed the claims as part of a "smear" campaign.

He also said he was worried about an attempt to extradite him to the United States, adding that Washington was conducting an "aggressive" and "illegal" investigation into him and the website.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-12028084>

4234/2010 -----

WikiLeaks Boss: 'My Life Is Under Threat'

(SkyNews) WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has claimed his life is under threat as he prepares to fight an extradition attempt to Sweden over sexual assault claims.

Speaking outside a friend's home where he is staying after being released from prison on bail, he said there were "significant risks" facing him and his staff. The 39-year-old, who is wanted in the Scandinavian country, denies the sex offence allegations and his lawyers claim the Swedish authorities are waging a "vendetta".

Strict conditions attached to his bail mean he is residing at Ellingham Hall, a country retreat on the Norfolk-Suffolk border owned by Vaughan Smith, the founder of London's Frontline journalism club. He also has to report to a police station each day.

Assange told journalists: "There is a threat to my life. There is a threat to my staff. There are significant risks facing us."

http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/UK-News/WikiLeaks-Julian-Assange-Claims-His-Life-Is-Under-Threat-As-He-Prepares-To-Fight-Extradition-Bid/Article/201012315859347?lpos=UK_News_First_World_News_Article_Teaser_Region_3&lid=ARTICLE_15859347_WikiLeaks_Julian_Assange_Claims_His_Life_Is_Under_Threat_As_He_Prepares_To_Fight_Extradition_Bid

4235/2010 -----

10 days in Sweden: the full allegations against Julian Assange

(Guardian) Unseen police documents provide the first complete account of the allegations against the WikiLeaks founder.

Documents seen by the Guardian reveal for the first time the full details of the allegations of rape and sexual assault that have led to extradition hearings against the WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange. The case against Assange, which has been the subject of intense speculation and dispute in mainstream media and on the internet, is laid out in police material held in Stockholm to which the Guardian received unauthorised access.

Assange, who was released on bail on Thursday, denies the Swedish allegations and has not formally been charged with any offence. The two Swedish women behind the charges have been accused by his supporters of making malicious complaints or being "honeytraps" in a wider conspiracy to discredit him. Assange's UK lawyer, Mark Stephens, attributed the allegations to "dark forces", saying: "The honeytrap has been sprung ... After what we've seen so far you can reasonably conclude this is part of a greater plan." The journalist John Pilger dismissed the case as a "political stunt" and in an interview with ABC news, Assange said Swedish prosecutors were withholding evidence which suggested he had been "set up."

However, unredacted statements held by prosecutors in Stockholm, along with interviews with some of the central characters, shed fresh light on the hotly disputed sequence of events that has become the centre of a global storm.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2010/dec/17/julian-assange-sweden>

4236/2010 -----

Julian Assange: WikiLeaks faces 'very aggressive' investigation by US

(Guardian) WikiLeaks faces a "very aggressive" and secretive investigation by US authorities stung by a perceived loss of face following the release of thousands of secret American diplomatic cables, the organisation's founder, Julian Assange, said today.

Speaking to reporters outside Ellingham Hall, the Norfolk house at which he is staying on bail following his release from prison, Assange said WikiLeaks faced "what appears to be an illegal investigation ... certain people who are alleged to be affiliated to us have been detained, followed around, had their computers seized and so on".

He said he believed it was "80% likely" that the US authorities were seeking to prepare an attempt to have him extradited there to face charges of espionage. He added that he was reliant on public opinion to rein in "a superpower that does not appear to be following the rule of law".

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2010/dec/17/julian-assange-wikileaks-us-investigation>

4237/2010 -----

Eigene CIA-Arbeitsgruppe untersucht Wikileaks-Folgen

(Wiener Zeitung) Der US-Geheimdienst CIA hat eine Arbeitsgruppe eingesetzt, um die Folgen der Enthüllung tausender Geheimdokumente durch die Internet-Plattform Wikileaks zu untersuchen. CIA-Chef Leon Panetta habe eine eigene "Wikileaks Task Force" damit beauftragt, zu prüfen, ob die jüngst veröffentlichten Dokumente die ausländischen Beziehungen des Geheimdienstes oder seine Einsätze beeinträchtigten, sagte Behördensprecher George Little. Einem weiteren CIA-Vertreter zufolge wird die Arbeitsgruppe von der Abteilung für Spionage-Abwehr geleitet.

Die Vereinten Nationen gehen indessen einer Beschwerde nach, wonach der als Wikileaks-Informant inhaftierte US-Soldat Bradley Manning misshandelt worden sei. Das Genfer Büro des Folter-Sonderberichterstatters der UNO, Manfred Nowak, teilte mit, es habe eine Beschwerde von Unterstützern des Obergefreiten erhalten, derzufolge die Haftbedingungen in einer Kaserne der Marineinfanterie im US-Staat Virginia auf Folter hinausliefen. Das US-Verteidigungsministerium wies diese Vorwürfe umgehend zurück.

<http://www.wienerzeitung.at/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabID=3856&Alias=wzo&cob=533509>

4238/2010 -----

Victims, jilted lovers or undercover agents

(Sydney Morning Herald) Serious questions are being asked about one of Julian Assange's accusers, write Andrew West and Sarah Whyte.



ANNA ARDIN, the Swedish political activist who has accused WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange of rape, posted a flippant comment on her Twitter account: "CIA agent, rabid feminist/Muslim lover, a Christian fundamentalist, frigid & fatally in love with a man, can you be all that at the same time ..."

It was the sort of comment designed to deflect, with irony or humour, the stories that have swirled around the woman who has levelled three charges of sexual misconduct at Assange.

But her attempt to disarm her critics - referring, perhaps jokingly, to the Central Intelligence Agency - has only provoked further questions. Could Ardin, 31, really be a spy and the charges against Assange part of a conspiracy to discredit him after he began publishing on WikiLeaks 250,000 classified documents from the US State Department? We know from Ardin's own words that, at various times, she has been infatuated and infuriated with Assange. The swift and efficient disappearance of many of her Twitter and blog posts (some were cached) also led to suggestions that any material that was incriminating - or complicating to her case - had been professionally cleansed.

'Sweden was a major site for anti-Russian activities during the Cold War and there was certainly considerable contact with the CIA.' Ardin's family is also involved with the military and NATO forces in Afghanistan, adding another layer to the conspiracy theory.

http://www.smh.com.au/technology/technology-news/victims-jilted-lovers-or-undercover-agents-20101218-191ae.html?from=smh_sb



HOT SPOTS / WARS

4239/2010 -----

White House Warns of Possible Holiday Terror Attack

(ABC News) Just days before Christmas, the White House asked Americans to be vigilant this holiday season, warning of a possible -- though unspecified -- terror threat from Al Qaeda. The caution echoed a weeks' worth of warnings from law enforcement authorities.

A spate of bombs found today in foreign embassies in Rome, Italy has again ratcheted up concern, with authorities calling on people to be on the lookout.

"We remain vigilant to attempts by Al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations to carry out cowardly attacks against innocent men, women, and children, and we are working very closely with other governments to share all threat information immediately and to coordinate closely our counterterrorism and security activities," said John Brennan, the White House counterterrorism chief, said Wednesday in a statement.

The Associated Press cited an unnamed administration official as saying the Homeland Security Department was alerting air carriers to a potential terror tactic involving insulated beverage containers like thermoses. The official stressed that there is no intelligence about an active terror plot.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/white-house-warns-holiday-terror-attack/story?id=12467637>

4240/2010 -----

Afghanistan : The great game continues

(Daily Times) Contrary to the US intelligence assessment of the Afghan war, Washington's assessment of the situation is rather optimistic. While the intelligence report has labelled the Afghan war as unwinnable, the president has declared "progress" in disrupting the al Qaeda threat. It is the intelligence report that has described Pakistan as being the reason behind what is perceived as the US military's inevitable doom in the region because of the safe havens provided to the militants in the country's border areas. Therefore, when Obama says in his assessment that progress is not coming "fast enough" from Pakistan, one begs to ask: was there really any progress to begin with?

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C12%5C19%5Cstory_19-12-2010_pg3_1

4241/2010 -----

Two Ways of Looking at Our Covert War in Pakistan

(Slate) The Central Intelligence Agency has expanded its covert war in Pakistan using armed drones against militants. Since Thursday, C.I.A.

missile strikes have killed dozens of suspects in Khyber Agency, a part of the tribal areas that the spy agency had largely spared until now because of its proximity to the sprawling market city of Peshawar.

Earlier in the week, a legal complaint was filed in Pakistan on behalf of Kareem Khan, a resident of North Waziristan who said that his son and brother were killed in a drone strike. Mr. Khan is seeking \$500 million in compensation, and accusing C.I.A.'s top clandestine officer in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, of running a clandestine spying operation out of the United States Embassy.

The complaint sought police help in keeping the station chief in the country until a lawsuit could be filed. The station chief was removed from the country on Thursday.

<http://www.slate.com/blogs/blogs/scocca/archive/2010/12/20/two-ways-of-looking-at-our-covert-war-in-pakistan.aspx>

4242/2010 -----

North Korea 'ready for holy war' against South (Update 2)

(RIAN) North Korea warned on Thursday of a "holy war" using its nuclear deterrent, following the largest-ever military drills by the South earlier today.

"To counter the enemy's intentional drive to push the situation to the brink of war, our revolutionary forces are making preparations to begin a holy war at any moment necessary based on nuclear deterrent," the North's KCNA news agency quoted Minister of Armed Forces Kim Yong-chun as saying during a rally in Pyongyang.

The South's largest show of force yet, the drills involved hundreds of military personnel and more than 100 types of weapons, including tanks, anti-tank missiles, helicopters and fighter jets. South Korean President Lee Myung-bak has vowed a "merciless counterattack" to any further Northern attack.

The South also continued its three-day naval live-fire exercises some 100 km south of the disputed maritime border with North Korea. The North earlier described South Korean exercises as "warmongering."

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20101223/161904109.html>



4243/2010 -----

Top FBI counterterrorism guy moves on to the private sector

(Washington Post) Donald F. Borelli, who retired last week as head of the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force in New York, today joined a private

security consulting company headed by Ali Soufan, another notable FBI agent who worked against al-Qaeda.

Borelli was involved in countless terrorism cases, including "the 2009 plot to bomb the New York subway system by Najibullah Zazi; the 2008 capture and extradition of Bryant Neal Vinas, who plotted with Al Qaeda to plant bombs in the Long Island Railroad; the kidnapping of New York Times investigative journalist David Rohde in Afghanistan; and the 2009 hijacking of the Maersk Alabama by Somali pirates," according to a biography supplied by his new employer.

Borelli will work on "two parts of the business--training and consulting," including in the Middle East, a company spokesman said. His new boss, Soufan, gained a measure of renown by objecting to CIA "enhanced interrogation techniques," including waterboarding.

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/spy-talk/2010/12/backchannel_chatter_top_fbi_co.html

4244/2010 -----

Spy's chief appears ignorant of British plot

(AFP) US President Barack Obama's top aide on intelligence appeared to be completely unaware in a television interview of the arrests this week of 12 men accused of plotting an Al-Qaeda-inspired attack.

US Director of National Intelligence James Clapper was asked about the attacks, with ABC News interviewer Diane Sawyer posing the questions: "First of all, London. How serious is it? Any implication that it was coming here?"

After a long pause, Clapper replied, "London?"

Earlier excerpts of the interview with Obama's national security team including Clapper, chief counterterrorism adviser John Brennan and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano had focused on the trio insisting the plots were no threat to the United States.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g7xEA-2bgnSRXYNGxzFFWJKeAWqA?docId=CNG.11ffaa04a82178ed303b72aab2e727fb.511>

4245/2010 -----

Washington Post Details Expansion of Domestic Intelligence Apparatus

(Democracy Now) The Washington Post has revealed new details about how the United States has assembled a vast domestic intelligence apparatus to collect information about Americans, using the FBI, local police, state homeland security offices and military criminal investigators. As part of the system, the FBI is operating a massive database known as Guardian with the names and personal information of thousands of U.S. citizens and residents who have never committed a crime but were reported to have acted suspiciously by a local police officer or a fellow citizen.

The database contains over 160,000 suspicious activity files. Despite the sweeping size of the database, the FBI says it has resulted in only five arrests and no convictions. In addition, the Post reveals the FBI is storing 96 million fingerprints in Clarksburg, West Virginia. The Post also reports local law enforcement agencies have begun using surveillance

equipment designed for war zones. In Memphis, Tennessee, some police patrol cars now contain military-grade infrared cameras that can snap digital images of one license plate after another while analyzing each almost instantly.

http://www.democracynow.org/2010/12/21/headlines/washington_post_details_expansion_of_domestic_intelligence_apparatus

4246/2010 -----

Obama hiring mil contractors at a rate that would make Bush blush

(Common Dreams) Without much notice or debate, the Obama administration has greatly expanded the outsourcing of key parts of the U.S.-led counterinsurgency wars in the Middle East and Africa, and as a result, for its secretive air war and special operations missions around the world, the U.S. has become increasingly reliant on a new breed of specialized companies that are virtually unknown to the American public, yet carry out vital U.S. missions abroad.

Companies such as Blackbird Technologies, Glevum Associates, K2 Solutions, and others have won hundreds of millions of dollars worth of military and intelligence contracts in recent years to provide technology, information on insurgents, Special Forces training, and personnel rescue. They win their work through the large, established prime contractors, but are tasked with missions only companies with specific skills and background in covert and counterinsurgency can accomplish.

Some observers fear that the widespread use of contractors for U.S. counterinsurgency efforts in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Horn of Africa could deepen the secrecy surrounding the American presence in those regions, making it harder for Congress to provide proper oversight.

<http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2010/12/19>



4247/2010 -----

Russia: Putin rejects revenge on sleeper spies' betrayer

(Scotsman) The "swine" who exposed ten Russian sleeper spies in the US will not be tracked down and killed because Russia has abandoned the Soviet-era practice of killing turncoats, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said yesterday.

"Russia's special services don't do that," he said during his annual televised phone-in with members of the public. "As for the traitors, they will croak all by themselves. The role played by a Russian intelligence officer in exposing the spies was reported last month by the newspaper Kommersant. President Dmitry Medvedev confirmed the report, saying that he had "found out about it on the day it happened".

Addressing the betrayal directly for the first time yesterday, Putin said the spies had been exposed by a fellow intelligence officer.

<http://news.scotsman.com/world/Russia-Putin-rejects-revenge-on.6663437.jp>

4248/2010 -----

Moldovan Journalist Jailed For 15 Years For Spying

(RFE/RL) A court in the breakaway Transdniester region has sentenced a Moldovan journalist to 15 years in prison after finding him guilty of spying for Chisinau, RFE/RL's Moldovan Service reports.

In a case that sparked international concern, Ernest Vardanean, 30, was arrested in April in Tiraspol on suspicion of spying for Moldova's secret services. He was charged with high treason, a crime that carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison in the self-styled Transdniester republic.

The Tiraspol court handed down the sentence on December 16.

http://www.rferl.org/content/moldova_transdniester_journalist_prison_spy/2251410.html

4249/2010 -----

Lukaschenkos Regime schlägt zurück

(Presse) Die Öffnung nach Westen scheint vor dem Aus. Die Proteste gegen Wahlfälschung wurden brutal niedergeschlagen, ein Oppositionskandidat ist spurlos verschwunden und die Polizei verhaftet hunderte Oppositionelle.

Die Einsatztruppen des Regimes haben mit einer Brutalität zugeschlagen, wie schon lange nicht mehr. Als Anlass wurde genommen, dass ein paar Demonstranten Glastüren eines Regierungsgebäudes eingeschlagen hatten. Ob es Provokateure des Regimes waren, werde man nie erfahren, so ein westlicher Diplomat. Von den friedlichen Demonstranten waren sie gezügelt worden. Präsident Alexander Lukaschenko nannte sie alle unterschiedlos „Banditen“.

http://diepresse.com/home/politik/aussenpolitik/620164/Lukaschenkos-Regime-schlaegt-zurueck?_vl_backlink=/home/politik/aussenpolitik/index.do

4250/2010 -----

Former spy Anna Chapman looks at career in politics

(International Business Times) Once a Russian spy, later a model posing for an erotic shoot in Agent Provocateur lingerie for Maxim, now in search of promising career in the country's politics -- the flamed-haired beauty, Anna Chapman, has now joined a youth political movement in Russia. The 28-year-old glam-girl is one of 11 alleged Russian secret agents deported by US in July this year.

Chapman was one of several newly elected leaders of the ruling United Russia party's Young Guard (Molodaya Gvardiya). On Wednesday, she attended the party's congress in Moscow and in a call to the Russian youth; she urged them to fight rising radical nationalism.

"If we want to change our future, we have to begin to change ourselves," she said, amid loud cheers from party cadres and a wave of flashing cameras.

The Young Guard's website stated that the glam girl was an example of 'unconditional patriotism'. Taking a leaf from Prime Minister Valdimir Putin's book, Anna told the youth that rival politicians in the country are amassing huge fortunes and struggling for power.

<http://hken.ibtimes.com/articles/94836/20101223/former-spy-anna-chapman-looks-at-career-in-politics.htm>

4251/2010 -----

Playboy prints nude pictures of Russian spy Anna Chapman



(Independent) Playboy has published naked photographs of Anna Chapman, the Russian spy expelled from the US this year. The US edition of the magazine features nude photographs which the publishers say were "provided by an ex-boyfriend".

The 28-year-old Russian posed in lingerie two months ago in Russia's edition of 'Maxim', adopting poses as a James Bond girl and holding a gun. (photo to the left)

<http://www.independent.ie/world-news/europe/playboy-prints-nude-pictures-of-russian-spy-anna-chapman-2471724.html>

4252/2010 -----

Russian Police Only Translate the Good News

(Krebs) Internet security and cybercrime experts often complain that Russian law enforcement agencies don't place a high priority on investigating and arresting hackers in that country. While that criticism may be fair, it may also be that Russian bureaucrats simply do not wish to call any attention to any sort of crime in their country – at least not to Westerners' view.

I discovered something fascinating while searching for information on the Web site of the Russian Interior Ministry (MVD), the organization that runs the police departments in each Russian city: The Russian version of the site features dozens of stories every day about police corruption, theft, murder, extortion, drug trafficking and all manner of badness. If, however, you opt to view the English version of the site, the MVD shows you only news with a positive slant.

http://krebsonsecurity.com/2010/12/russian-police-only-translate-the-good-news/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+KrebsOnSecurity+%28Krebs+on+Security%29

4253/2010 -----

Russian Espionage Steals 2010 Limelight

(IntelNews) As the first decade of the 21st century is coming to an end, few would dispute that Israeli and American spy agencies have been among the most talked-about intelligence organizations of 2010. The reasons for this are equally undeniable: the United States tops the list because of its

political prominence, which inevitably attracts media attention; Israel tops it because of the sheer ferocity of its espionage output throughout the Middle East.

And yet there is nothing new about this, since neither the Central Intelligence Agency nor the Mossad are exactly novices when it comes to high-profile media exposures. The same cannot be said with respect to Russian intelligence agencies, which went through a period of prolonged hibernation following the end of the Cold War. Indeed, the year that is about to end demonstrates that the stagnant interlude in Russian espionage may well be in its closing stages.

<http://intelligencenews.wordpress.com/2010/12/24/01-621/>

4254/2010 -----

Putin expects Russian Foreign Intel Service to help modernize economy

(RIAN) Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin expects the country's Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) to help modernize Russia's economy, while analyzing information on future developments and directing appropriate industries.

"At a time when we are facing a problem related to modernization of the economy, assistance from the intelligence services is not superfluous," Putin said adding that this does not mean that the service should violate laws of other states.

The premier said that intelligence services in other countries work faster intercepting interesting modern and perspective pilot projects.

"It is necessary to move to perspective areas of focus," Putin said.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20101218/161833412.html>



NEAR / MIDDLE EAST / NORTH AFRICA

4255/2010 -----

Israel silent on alleged Mossad spy ring uncovered in Egypt [updated]

(IntelNews) Israeli government officials have refused comment on charges announced yesterday against an alleged Mossad spy ring in neighboring Egypt.

Less than a week after the discovery of what appear to be Israeli surveillance devices hidden in the mountains around Lebanese capital Beirut, two Israelis have been charged with espionage by the Egyptian government and are reportedly on the run. (Update: the names of the two Israelis, as reported on their arrest warrants, are Joseph Daymour and Idid Moushay). A third member of the alleged ring, Egyptian businessman Tareq Abdel Razeq Hussein Hassan, 37, will be facing similar charges in court soon, according to Egypt's State Prosecutor Hisham Badawi.

According to Badawi, Hassan set up an import-export business in Egypt to act as a front company, under instructions by Israeli intelligence agency Mossad, after he met with Mossad officers in Thailand in 2007. He then allegedly used his company regional business activities as an alibi in order to travel to Syria and Lebanon and establish close contacts with telecommunications personnel throughout the region, in exchange for money from the Israelis. Depending on the news source, it is reported that Hassan was secretly detained by Egyptian counterintelligence forces in either May or August of this year. Egyptian officials have told reporters that Cairo plans to try in absentia Hassan's two Israeli handlers, who managed to escape and are currently being wanted by Interpol. The date for Hassan's trial has not yet been announced.

<http://intelligencenews.wordpress.com/2010/12/21/01-618/>

4256/2010 -----

Syria eyed Israel for 2008 killing: US cable

(AFP) Syria suspected Israel of carrying out the 2008 murder of a top security aide of President Bashar al-Assad, according to US diplomatic cables leaked by WikiLeaks and published by the Guardian Tuesday.

The suspicion weakened the case for continuing indirect peace negotiations with the Jewish state that was being put forward by Assad and others within the Syrian government and played into the hands of hardliners, the cables said. They said that Brigadier General Mohammed Sleiman, a shadowy figure whose assassination by a sniper in the coastal city of Tartus on August 1, 2008 Syria kept under wraps for days, was a top "presidential security aide." "Sleiman enjoyed a reputation among embassy contacts as having special status and proximity to Bashar," one leaked cable said.

"Sleiman was said to have managed special projects for Assad, some of which may have been unknown to the broader Syrian military leadership." His assassination came just 11 months after an Israeli air strike deep inside Syrian territory destroyed a still shadowy facility that may have been one of the special projects that Sleiman managed.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gg6aQzqitWMvTR23IhEMJKPb_DeA



FAR EAST & ASIA

4257/2010 -----

Ex-S.Korean spy jailed for spying for N.Korea

(Straits Times) A FORMER South Korean spy was sentenced to seven years in jail on Thursday for leaking military information to North Korea.

The man, identified only as Park, was convicted of handing over documents on military training and operations between September 2003 and August 2005

to a North Korean agent in Beijing in return for payment. 'It is confirmed that Park leaked military intelligence to a North Korean agent, an act which could threaten national security and our free democracy,' the Seoul central district court said in a statement.

But the court noted that Park did not support the communist North Korean cause and had helped promote inter-Korean trade. Park allegedly became acquainted with the North Korean spy when both were working in Beijing in the mid-1990s.

He and several colleagues were fired by the South's intelligence agency in 1998 in connection with a botched attempt to frame then-presidential candidate Kim Dae Jung by linking him to North Korean funds.

http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/Asia/Story/STIStory_616794.html

4258/2010 -----

Indian Cops probing how Pak spy gained access to vital sites

(Indian Express) Javed Mozawala, a 28-year-old visa agent arrested by the Mumbai Police Crime Branch last week for allegedly spying for Pakistan, was on Thursday taken to one of the sensitive sites he had recced in the past two years. The police said Mozawala will reconstruct how he managed to gain access to the sites and photograph them. They said Mozawala will be interrogated by the army and navy intelligence as well.

"Mozawala was taken to a location outside the city. The process will be repeated for all the places he gained access to and photographed. Some of these sites are restricted, and we need to verify his explanation on how he managed to breach security. He has told us certain ways in which he gained access, but these need to be verified before we can divulge details," said a senior Crime Branch officer, who did not wish to be named.

According to the Crime Branch, over the past two years he had passed on sensitive information such as photographs of these sites on a micro-chip to these diplomats during his frequent trips to the capital. Mozawala knew secret telephone numbers of senior officials in defence establishments and vital installations.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/Cops-probing-how-Pak-spy-gained-access-to-vital-sites/725855>



EUROPE (GEOGRAPH.)

4259/2010 -----

Europe: The New Plan

(StratFor) Europe is on the cusp of change. An EU heads-of-state summit Dec. 16 launched a process aimed to save the common European currency. If

successful, this process would be the most significant step toward creating a singular European power since the creation of the European Union itself in 1992 – that is, if it doesn't destroy the euro first.

Envisioned by the EU Treaty on Monetary Union, the common currency, the euro, has suffered from two core problems during its decade-long existence: the lack of a parallel political union and the issue of debt. Many in the financial world believe that what is required for a viable currency is a fiscal union that has taxation power – and that is indeed needed. But that misses the larger point of who would be in charge of the fiscal union. Taxation and appropriation – who pays how much to whom – are essentially political acts. One cannot have a centralized fiscal authority without first having a centralized political/military authority capable of imposing and enforcing its will. Greeks are not going to implement a German-designed tax and appropriations system simply because Berlin thinks it's a good idea. As much as financiers might like to believe, the checkbook is not the ultimate power in the galaxy. The ultimate power comes from the law backed by a gun.

http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20101220-europe-new-plan?utm_source=GWeekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=101221&utm_content=redmore&elq=4c2f1625c71745c9bdd85850dfc8c309

4260/2010 -----

Bombenalarm in Rom: Sprengsatz ohne Zünder in U-Bahn entdeckt

(Sueddeutsche) Besorgnis hat in Rom am Dienstag der Fund eines Sprengsatzes in der U-Bahn ausgelöst. Roms Oberbürgermeister Gianni Alemanno teilte aber im Lauf des Tages mit, die technischen Untersuchungen hätten ergeben, dass die simple Konstruktion aus Rohrstücken und Schießpulver nicht hätte explodieren können. Sie sei nicht mit einem Zünder versehen gewesen. Zunächst war gemeldet worden, dass Alemanno in einer ersten Reaktion von einer explosionsbereiten Bombe gesprochen habe.

Ein U-Bahn-Fahrer hatte am Vormittag unter dem Sitz eines Waggons ein verdächtiges Päckchen entdeckt, aus dem Drähte ragten. Der Zug der Linie B befand sich zu diesem Zeitpunkt auf einem Rangiergleis der Endstation Rebibbia am nordöstlichen Stadtrand. Sprengstoffexperten der Carabinieri und Feuerwehrleute stellten das verdächtige Paket sicher. Das Gebiet wurde untersucht, die Aufzeichnungen der Videokameras an dem U-Bahnhof werden ausgewertet. Bürgermeister Alemanno versicherte, dass alle Stationen überprüft worden seien und keine weitere Gefahr bestehe. Der U-Bahnbetrieb lief unterdessen ohne Unterbrechung weiter.

<http://www.sueddeutsche.de/T5p38t/3800267/Bombenalarm-in-Rom.html>

4261/2010 -----

Russian Spy Tale Rattles Czechs

(NY Times) It could be the plot of a Cold War thriller: a Russian spy working undercover as a prison psychologist seduces an attractive female army major, dubbed the Czech Mata Hari, who passes on state secrets from three senior generals. The spy flees the country. The generals resign in disgrace.

But in what some here have called the worst espionage scandal in the Czech Republic since 1989, the Rakhardzho affair – named for Robert Rakhardzho, a wily Russian spy – appears to contain elements of both fact and fiction.

Distinguishing the two is difficult, but the tale includes a subplot involving one of the largest nuclear power deals in Czech history, an intricate web of deceit and a cast of characters that has reached the highest levels of the army and government.

"It is disturbing to many Czechs that Russian spies are working here, influencing us, even as we don't even realize it," said Jaroslav Spurny, a leading investigative journalist who has written widely on the case. "We got rid of those people and now they are coming back."

The scandal, which began to surface last summer, is still reverberating in a country where the memory of 40 years of communist rule overseen by the Soviet Union remains strong. Fears are intensifying that Russia, under Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin, is seeking to re-establish its influence in its former satellites, using its vast energy resources – and a network of Russian spies masquerading as diplomats and businessmen – to dominate the region.

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/24/world/europe/24iht-spies24.html?_r=1

4262/2010 -----

Russian spy hid in Poland for 10 years

(Montreal Gazette) A Polish court has jailed a Russian "sleeper agent" for three years.

The spy, who spoke fluent Polish, was a "vital link" in an espionage network belonging to the GRU, Russia's foreign intelligence service. Intelligence officers feared he was about to become active after hiding for 10 years behind his cover as a businessman selling sights for hunting rifles. The judge said that the agent, known as Tadeusz J, had good knowledge of cryptography and had been in regular contact with his Moscow handlers via "cutting edge" communications systems designed to look like mundane electronic equipment.

The court, which was closed to the public because of security issues, rejected the Russian's claims that he had bought the equipment in a market. Polish counter-intelligence officers arrested Tadeusz J in February 2009. One officer said he "had become increasingly hostile and damaging" in his actions.

The arrest was kept secret for more than a year because of the sensitive nature of the case.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/world/Russian+Poland+years/4020451/story.html>

4263/2010 -----

Italy prevents trial of intelligence agents over Abu Omar rendition

(Amnesty International) Amnesty International today called on Italy to stop using the 'state secret' privilege to shield its officials, after an appeals court increased the sentences of 23 US officials and confirmed the conviction of two Italians for the illegal rendition of an Egyptian cleric.

The court however upheld that high-ranking Italian agents cannot be prosecuted over the incident. Originally sentenced to five and eight years' imprisonment respectively, the 22 CIA agents and one US military official

had their sentences increased by the Milan appeal court to seven and to nine years for their role in the abduction of Usama Mostafa Hassan Nasr, better known as Abu Omar.

The 23 convicted US agents were tried in their absence as their extraditions were never formally requested by the Italian government. Abu Omar was snatched from a Milan street in 2003 and transferred unlawfully to Egypt, where he was held in secret and allegedly tortured.

"The Italian courts have acknowledged that the chain of events leading to such serious abuses cannot go unanswered" said Julia Hall, Amnesty International's expert on counter-terrorism and human rights in Europe.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/italy-prevents-trial-intelligence-agents-rendition-abu-omar-2010-12-16>

4264/2010 -----

Bulgarian Deputy Interior Minister Resigns over Spy Past

(Novinite) Bulgaria's Deputy Interior Minister, Pavlin Dimitrov, submitted his resignation on Monday, just days after he was exposed as a former agent of the Communist State Security.

"I submit my resignation fully aware of the responsibility that I have in front of the government. Amidst the ongoing debate about the State Security files I think that my presence in the Interior Ministry will breed new and unnecessary speculations," reads Pavlin Dimitrov's letter to the prime minister. "This is my personal decision. It is in line with the obligations that I have committed to and my professionalism," it adds.

The news comes hours after Prime Minister Boyko Borisov signed the resignation of the Minister without Portfolio for Bulgarians Abroad, Bozhidar Dimitrov, over the same reason.

Almost half of Bulgaria's ambassadors and consuls provided information to communist secret services before the fall of the regime in 1990, according to data released last week in the capital Sofia by the committee overseeing secret records.

http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=123378



4265/2010 -----

Britain expels Russian spy for 'overstepping the mark'

(Telegraph) Britain has expelled a Russian spy, as sources accused him of "overstepping the unwritten rules of spying".

William Hague, the Foreign Secretary, said in a written statement that the government had asked the Russian embassy in London withdraw a member of

their staff from Britain on December 10. He said the request was "in response to clear evidence of activities by the Russian intelligence services against UK interests."

"They broke the rules of the game," a security source said. "Once we detected what they were doing we had no other option than to act. It's just not on." The source said it was a "question of Smiley-esque tradecraft," referring to the character from novels by John le Carre. "There is a huge Russian intelligence operation in the UK and all over the world which is both active and assertive but in this case they have crossed a line and it needed a response," he added.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/russia/8217996/Britain-expels-Russian-spy-for-overstepping-the-mark.html>

4266/2010 -----

For Britain and Russia, another round of spy wars

(Washington Post) "Spy wars" are the Gilbert and Sullivan of foreign relations. Most of the time the punishment fits the crime, to coin a phrase (which happens to be theirs). Each side boots out the other's spy in high dudgeon.

And so it went this week, when British foreign secretary William Hague announced that he had sent a Russian "diplomat" packing from London on Dec. 10, "in response to clear evidence of activities by the Russian intelligence services against U.K. interests." Hague said the Russians had responded by booting a British diplomat from Moscow six days later, without "any basis for this action."

Early leaks suggested that the unnamed Russian had indeed gone overboard in his espionage zeal. The Guardian said "he was described as having 'crossed the line' between what is regarded as acceptable and unacceptable behavior of an intelligence officer. It is believed he was discovered approaching an individual rather than stealing information or entering any sensitive buildings."

Government officials denied that the expulsion had anything to do with spying allegations leveled at Ekaterina Zatuliveter, the Russian research assistant of Mike Hancock, a Liberal Democrat member of parliament. Zatuliveter is fighting deportation. But it was quite possible, intelligence sources suggested, that the unidentified Russian expelled from London had tried to build on contacts in Parliament.

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/spy-talk/2010/12/for_britain_and_russia_another_round_of_spy_wars.html

4267/2010 -----

Terrorism plot suspects may be charged 'within days'

(Guardian) Unusually high level of anxiety remains within counter-terrorism circles about extent of plotting, despite arrests.

Criminal charges will be brought within days over a terrorism plot that police disrupted this week by arresting 12 men, the government's reviewer of counter-terrorism powers said today. The plot was "significant", said to Lord Carlile of Berriew, who added that police were continuing their searches yesterday in east London, Cardiff, Stoke and Birmingham, where the

men were arrested on Monday. However, the police searches are yet to yield any hazardous materials or clear evidence of explosive devices, but Lord Carlile, in a rare move, declared it was "very possible that people may well be charged" over the next few days.

The 12 suspects were between 17 and 28 and had been under surveillance, Lord Carlile told MPs on the home affairs select committee. Surveillance officers saw suspects allegedly carrying out reconnaissance on shopping areas and night spots in the West Midlands and on Whitehall in London, the site of many government buildings and close to the Houses of Parliament.

Despite the arrests there remains a continued and unusually high level of anxiety within counter-terrorism circles about the extent of plotting that has been detected by alleged terrorists wanting to attack the United Kingdom. One source said: "There is a lot of anxiety about. It is no time to relax. The whole of Europe is edgy at the moment."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/dec/21/terrorism-plot-suspects-may-charged>

4268/2010 -----

Judge questions SFO evidence in BAE case

(Telegraph) The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) suffered another blow to its reputation after a High Court judge questioned evidence and terms of a plea bargain brought in a corruption probe into BAE's \$40m (£25m) radar deal with Tanzania.

Mr Justice Bean threatened to call a halt to the sentencing of BAE, questioning whether he could continue on the basis of the facts before him. Although he continued with the sentencing it was not before tearing into the evidence presented by the prosecution. "My overriding feeling is that you cannot sentence with this evidence," Mr Justice Bean said. "The proposition that the Crown cannot prove to criminal standard that corrupt payments were made is one thing. To say that those payments were not properly used is another.

"There is a big gap."

The SFO's deal with BAE involved the company paying a £30m fine after pleading guilty to failing to keep proper accounting records. The accounting records relate to \$12.4m paid to a "marketing agent" in Tanzania, Shailesh Vitlani, to facilitate an air traffic control deal with the country. As part of the deal BAE admitted that there "was a high probability that part of the \$12.4m would be used in the negotiation process to favour BAE".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/industry/defence/8215317/Judge-questions-SFO-evidence-in-BAE-case.html>

4269/2010 -----

WikiLeaks cables: Sudanese president 'stashed \$9bn in UK banks'

(Guardian) Speculation that Omar al-Bashir siphoned \$9bn in oil money and deposited it in foreign accounts could fuel calls for his arrest.

Omar al-Bashir, the Sudanese president, has siphoned as much as \$9bn out of his impoverished country, and much of it may be stashed in London banks,

according to secret US diplomatic cables that recount conversations with the chief prosecutor of the international criminal court. Some of the funds may be held by the part-nationalised Lloyds Banking Group, according to prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, who told US officials it was time to go public with the scale of Bashir's theft in order to turn Sudanese public opinion against him.

"Ocampo suggested if Bashir's stash of money were disclosed (he put the figure at \$9bn), it would change Sudanese public opinion from him being a 'crusader' to that of a thief," one report by a senior US official states. "Ocampo reported Lloyds bank in London may be holding or knowledgeable of the whereabouts of his money," the cable says. "Ocampo suggested exposing Bashir had illegal accounts would be enough to turn the Sudanese against him."

Lloyds responded by saying it had no evidence of holding funds in Bashir's name. "We have absolutely no evidence to suggest there is any connection between Lloyds Banking Group and Mr Bashir. The group's policy is to abide by the legal and regulatory obligations in all jurisdictions in which we operate."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/dec/17/wikileaks-sudanese-president-cash-london>

4270/2010 -----

British al Qaida members 'killed'

(Belfast Telegraph) The Foreign Office is investigating reports that two white British al Qaida members have been killed in a drone attack in Pakistan.

The Muslim converts are said to have died in a Hellfire missile strike by a remote-controlled US aircraft near the town of Datta Khel six days ago. The militants, aged 48 and 25 and using the pseudonyms Abu Bakr and Mansoor Ahmed, were apparently in a vehicle in the mountainous region with two other fighters at the time.

A Foreign Office spokeswoman said: "We are aware of media reports of the death of two British nationals in Pakistan."

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/world-news/british-al-qaida-members-killed-15031367.html#ixzz18YvqQXd>

4271/2010 -----

Britain 'trained Bangladeshi government death squad'

(Belfast Telegraph) The British government has been training an elite police force in Bangladesh accused of extra-judicial killings and human rights violations, according to the latest cables revealed by WikiLeaks.

The paramilitary force has been condemned by human rights organisations as a "government death squad" Members of paramilitary group the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) were trained by British authorities in "investigative interviewing techniques" and "rules of engagement", according to wires from US ambassador to Dhaka James Moriarty. In a cable dating from May 2009 published by the Guardian, Mr Moriarty writes: "The US and UK representatives reviewed our ongoing training to make the RAB a more transparent, accountable and human-rights compliant paramilitary force."

"The British have been training RAB for 18 months in areas such as investigative interviewing techniques and rules of engagement. They said that the training had been widely disseminated within RAB and that they were undertaking an assessment of its effectiveness." The latest revelations from the cache of US embassy cables also revealed British police provided training to members of the RAB to address the allegations of human rights abuses.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/uk/britain-trained-bangladeshi-government-death-squad-15036506.html#ixzz18sbrnoNF>

4272/2010 -----

MI6 spy's death may have been linked to interest in bondage

(Sydney Morning Herald) British detectives believe the death of the MI6 spy Gareth Williams will be solved by getting an insight into his private life after they revealed he had visited bondage websites and a drag club and had £15,000 (\$23,000) worth of unworn designer womenswear in his wardrobe.

Mr Williams's decomposed body was discovered in a padlocked bag in his apartment, about a kilometre from MI6 headquarters in London where he was a senior analyst.

Police believe he died a week earlier, early on August 16, and that someone else was present. Tests have shown no signs of a struggle or forced entry and no sign that he was drugged.

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/mi6-spys-death-may-have-been-linked-to-interest-in-bondage-20101223-196my.html>



NORTHERN IRELAND

(This section is edited entirely by Oliver PLAUDER)

4273/2010 -----

NI policing budget to be cut by £260m over four years

(BBC) More than £260m is to be cut from the policing budget over the next four years.

Northern Ireland's prison service will have to find savings of just over £65m. The figures are in a draft budget proposal published by the Department of Justice on Thursday. Details of the cuts come at a time when the PSNI is asking the Treasury for additional emergency funding of £200m to combat the dissident republican threat. The Department of Justice has a budget of more than £4.5bn for the next four years. But, like other Stormont departments, Finance Minister Sammy Wilson has asked it to make savings.

The vast majority of the justice budget is spent on policing and prisons, and they will bear the brunt of the cuts outlined in the department's draft proposals. The PSNI will have a budget of more than £3bn during the next

four years. But it's also being asked to make savings of just over £260m during that time. The prison service will have a budget of more than £500m for the next four-year period. But it will have to deliver savings of just over £65m.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-12071083>

4274/2010 -----

CIA rendition flights did land in Ireland: Ahern

(Belfast Telegraph) Irish Justice Minister Dermot Ahern believed at least three US flights involved in so-called extraordinary renditions landed on Irish soil, a confidential diplomatic memo reveals.

Mr Ahern's suspicions that CIA flights refuelled at Shannon Airport before or after conducting renditions prompted him to ask the US ambassador if Irish officials could conduct random inspections of aircraft. This, he said, would "provide cover" should it ever be proven such fiercely controversial flights had passed through Ireland.

Publicly, Mr Ahern has always said he accepted US assurances that the CIA had not used Shannon for rendition operations. However, a leaked US embassy cable published by the whistleblowing website WikiLeaks reveals that Mr Ahern expressed serious concern on the issue in private meetings with US officials.

According to a cable written by former US ambassador Thomas Foley in December 2007, Mr Ahern "seemed quite convinced" that the flights had refuelled at the Co Clare airport either en route to or returning from rendition missions.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/republic-of-ireland/cia-rendition-flights-did-land-in-ireland-ahern-15032409.html#ixzz18MTkoMyU>

4275/2010 -----

Fresh demand for Pat Finucane files at MI5 base protest

(Belfast Telegraph) Campaigners have demanded that confidential security force files about one of the most notorious killings of the Troubles be handed over.

The family of murdered solicitor Pat Finucane made the demand during a protest yesterday outside MI5 headquarters in Holywood following recent revelations by WikiLeaks about the case. According to US embassy cables, published by WikiLeaks earlier this month, the British security service MI5 was prepared in 2005 to hand over files on Mr Finucane. The high-profile civil rights and defence lawyer was murdered in front of his wife and three young children in February 1989.

The 39-year-old was shot 14 times in his north Belfast home by loyalist paramilitaries but there have been persistent allegations of involvement by security services. The family has been calling for a fully independent inquiry, similar to the Bloody Sunday Inquiry, into the killing.

According to the Finucane family, until the WikiLeaks revelations MI5 had denied they had information on the case or refused to comment on whether it had.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/fresh-demand-for-pat-finucane-files-at-mi5-base-protest-15035417.html#ixzz18scZF1Ej>

4276/2010 -----

Gerry Adams welcomes 'MI5 offer' to disclose files on Finucane murder

(Guardian) Sinn Féin president says existence of files on murder of Finucane, who was shot dead in 1989 by loyalist gunmen working with members of the security forces, is significant.

The Sinn Féin president said the existence of MI5 files on the murder of Pat Finucane, the civil rights lawyer who was shot dead in 1989 by loyalist gunmen working with members of the security forces, could be significant. "The assertion that MI5 were prepared to disclose files on Pat Finucane is a more pertinent story," Adams told the BBC as he dismissed separate claims in the US cables about his alleged links with the IRA.

"If there is any credibility in the report from the MI5 chiefs that they are prepared to disclose files this is proof that they have files and those files should of course be disclosed."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2010/dec/13/gerry-adams-mi5-offer-pat-finucane-murder>

4277/2010 -----

Newry security alert is declared hoax

(BBC) A security alert in Newry has ended and been declared a hoax. Army bomb experts had been examining a suspicious object in the city. A number of road closures were put in place in the city due to the security alert. It was reported at 1900 GMT on Friday. The object was examined at the Camlough Road roundabout. The Five Ways roundabout, the Camlough Road, the Forkhill roundabout, the Redbridge Road, and the A1 at Carnbane South are all closed. Sinn Fein MP for Newry and Armagh, Conor Murphy, said the alert caused "serious disruption" on one of the biggest nights for shopping and Christmas parties.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-12024817>

4278/2010 -----

Judgement reserved in Fusco case

(BBC) Judgement has been reserved in the trial of a convicted loyalist killer who denies the sectarian murder of Belfast chip shop owner Alfredo Fusco in 1973.

Belfast Crown Court judge Mr Justice McLaughlin told Robert James Clarke, 58, from Dundrod Road, Nutts Corner, that he would give his ruling in the New Year. Clarke, who was released on continuing bail, was arrested in August last year after a review of the case by the Historical Enquiry Team. They were able, for the first time, to identify Clarke's palm and finger prints which had been found on the door through which Mr Fusco was shot.

The defence claim there must be "an innocent explanation" for his prints being on the door, but because of the lapse in time, Clarke is unable to recollect what it could be. He said he had always maintained, "he had not shot Mr Fusco". The prosecution claim that Clarke was the gunman, armed with a Sterling type sub-machine gun, who chased Mr Fusco to the rear storeroom of his York Road cafe where he tried to barricade himself behind the door.

Clarke has said he could not be the gunman as he would have been unable to fire a such a weapon, having lost two fingers in an industrial accident while working in England some years earlier. His trial heard that in 1976, Clarke was convicted with others of the sectarian drive-by shooting of 58-year-old Newlodge Road woman Margaret O'Neill in June 1975.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-12042104>

4279/2010 -----

Former RUC officer to be charged in Hamill case

(Irish Times) MORE THAN 13 years after his killing, three people are to be charged in connection with the murder of Robert Hamill in Portadown, Co Armagh, it was announced yesterday.

The North's Public Prosecution Service (PPS) confirmed that based on evidence provided to the Robert Hamill Inquiry, there are grounds to prosecute three people in relation to his death. One of those to be charged is a former RUC officer, it is understood. In a statement, the PPS said: "It has concluded that the test for prosecution is met in respect of two persons for an offence of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and one person for an offence of doing an act with intent to pervert the course of justice".

Mr Hamill (25), a Catholic, died 11 days after he was assaulted by a loyalist mob in a sectarian attack in the centre of Portadown on April 27th, 1997.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2010/1222/1224286077044.html>



GERMANY

4280/2010 -----

WikiLeaks "no threat," top German official says

(Washington Post) Germany's top security official said Monday that WikiLeaks is "irritating and annoying for Germany, but not a threat." (a)

Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere also he said he was opposed to financial entities cutting off payments to WikiLeaks under pressure from Washington. "If this occurs under pressure from the U.S. government, I don't think it is acceptable," de Maiziere, a confidant of Chancellor Angela Merkel, said in an interview with the German weekly Der Spiegel. (b) "If a company freely decides to do so, then that is a corporate decision, but it is also politically problematic. I am a big advocate of what is

known as net neutrality. This means that providers are compelled to transmit content without political or commercial pre-selection."

PayPal and Bank of America have announced they will no longer process payments to WikiLeaks. De Maiziere, Merkel's former chief of staff, also questioned how "intelligent" the U.S. government is for allowing so many people access to classified documents. "From an international perspective, I see their actions as totally irresponsible," de Maiziere said of WikiLeaks. "One might also ask, however, if a government is acting intelligently when it organizes its entire diplomatic correspondence on a network that can be accessed by 2.5 million people."

The Government Accountability Office reported last year that over 2.4 million people have security clearances.

- (a) http://voices.washingtonpost.com/spy-talk/2010/12/wikileaks_no_threat_top_german.html
- (b) <http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,735587-2,00.html>

4281/2010

US-Botschaft sieht Ulm/Neu-Ulm als Zentrum des Islamismus

(Südwest Presse) Geahnt haben es viele, seit den Veröffentlichungen von Wikileaks ist es Gewissheit: Der US-Geheimdienst war in der Region aktiv und hat seine Erkenntnisse über die Botschaft nach Washington gemeldet.

Spätestens mit der Verhaftung der Sauerland-Gruppe um den Ulmer Fritz Gelowicz im September 2007 hat auch die US-Botschaft in Berlin Ulm/Neu-Ulm als die "Brutstätte des radikalen Islamismus" erkannt. Das geht aus geheimen Mitteilungen der Botschaft an das Außenministerium nach Washington hervor, die jetzt von dem Enthüllungsportal Wikileaks im Internet veröffentlicht wurden. Darin wird auch klar, welcher massiven Einfluss die USA auf die Bundesregierung ausgeübt hat, etwa um die Aufklärung der Verschleppung von Khaled El Masri zu verhindern.

Der Deutsch-Libanese aus Neu-Ulm war am Silvestertag 2003 entführt und von US-Agenten für fünf Monate nach Afghanistan verschleppt worden - bis heute kämpft er vergeblich um Rehabilitation. Zum Gegenstand in den Botschafts-Depeschen wurde die Region Ulm/Neu-Ulm aber erst mit der Verhaftung der Sauerland-Gruppe im September 2007. Damals kabelte die Botschaft nach Washington, dass die Doppelstadt ein Zentrum der Radikalisierung sei.

http://www.swp.de/ulm/lokales/ulm_neu_ulm/US-Botschaft-sieht-Ulm-Neu-Ulm-als-Zentrum-des-Islamismus;art4329,769562



SWITZERLAND

4282/2010

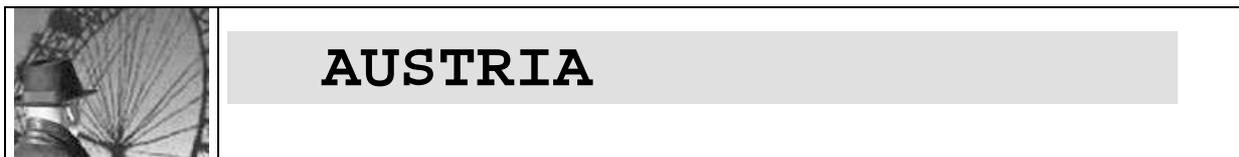
Fall Tinner: Bundesrat stand unter Druck der CIA

(DRS) In der Atomschmuggel-Affäre Tinner will der Eidgenössische Untersuchungsrichter heute die Ergebnisse seiner Voruntersuchung vorstellen.

Die Tinner-Familie soll den USA geholfen haben, das Atomwaffen-Programm Libyens aufzudecken und zu verhindern, dass Pakistan sein Atomwissen an andere Staaten weitergeben konnte. David Albright, ein früherer amerikanischer Inspektor der Internationalen Atomenergiebehörde, kritisiert die USA und den schweizerischen Bundesrat hart.

Dieser habe auf Druck des amerikanischen Geheimdienstes CIA Akten über die Tinner vernichtet, um die Entdeckung illegaler Tätigkeiten des CIA in der Schweiz zu verhindern.

<http://www.drs.ch/www/de/drs/nachrichten/nachrichtenticker/oid.8687db113578f3f05cb47e9229f49f75.html?s=ch>



4283/2010 -----

Fall Sanader: Geheime Konten in Österreich gefunden

(Kurier) Interpol soll geheime Bankkonten des ehemaligen kroatischen Premiers gefunden haben. Sanader sitzt in Salzburg in Haft, er könnte noch heuer ausgeliefert werden.

Interpol hat zwei - angeblich geheime - ausländische Bankkonten des ehemaligen kroatischen Premiers Ivo Sanader gefunden. Das berichtete der staatliche Sender HTV am Mittwochabend unter Berufung auf Ermittlerkreise.

Auf den Konten sollen 1,2 Millionen Euro liegen. Die Zeitung "Jutarnji list" berichtete am Donnerstag unter Berufung auf zwei unabhängige Quellen, dass sich die Konten bei österreichischen Banken befinden sollen.

Eines der Konten soll Sanader selbst gehören, das andere seinem verstorbenen Vater. Auf letzterem solle mehr als eine Million Euro liegen. Die Zeitung stellte die Frage, wie Sanaders Vater, aus einfachen Verhältnissen stammend, über eine so hohe Geldsumme verfügen konnte. Laut dem Blatt vermuten Ermittler auch Konten in Liechtenstein, der Schweiz und USA. Insgesamt sollen die Konten und das Vermögen von 14 Familienmitgliedern Sanaders durchleuchtet werden.

http://diepresse.com/home/politik/aussenpolitik/618889/Fall-Sanader_Geheime-Konten-in-Oesterreich-gefunden?direct=619271&_vl_backlink=/home/politik/index.do&selChannel=

4284/2010 -----

Fekter lernt die russische Polizei kennen

(standard) Innenministerin Maria Fekter (V) hat am Freitag Bekanntschaft mit russischen Polizeimethoden gemacht. Die Ressortchefin besuchte am letzten Tag ihres Moskau-Besuchs die Sondereinheit SUBR (Wiesent), quasi die russische Cobra. Besprochen wurde dabei erneut die geplante Kooperation der unterschiedlichen Einsatzeinheiten. Interesse zeigte die russische Seite auch an den Erfahrungen Österreichs mit sportlichen Großevents. Speziell der im wesentlichen reibungslose Ablauf der Fußball-Europameister-

schaft 2008 soll bei den Planungen für die WM 2018 sowie für Olympia in Sotschi 2014 genau analysiert werden.

<http://derstandard.at/1292462095683/Erfahrungsaustausch-Fekter-lernt-die-russische-Polizei-kennen>

4285/2010 -----

Österreich kassiert Millionen von Kim Jong Il

(Kurier) Nach dem Prozess um illegale Geschäfte mit Nordkorea, gibt es einen Geldsegen für das österreichische Justizressort.

Der nordkoreanische Diktator Kim Jong Il hat durch ein illegales Geschäft mit einem Wiener fast zwölf Millionen Euro verloren. Mehr als drei Millionen davon an den österreichischen Finanzminister.

Wie vom KURIER als einziger Tageszeitung am Dienstag berichtet, hatte der totalitäre Herrscher über den Wiener Strohmann acht Limousinen und zwei Edel-Motoryachten bestellt und dafür Millionen-Anzahlungen geleistet. Da ein UN-Handelsembargo für Nordkorea besteht, sind solche Geschäfte mit Luxusgütern verboten. Der Deal flog auf, der Wiener wurde verurteilt. Die 3,3 Millionen auf seinem Konto, die Kim Jong Il im Voraus bezahlt hatte, werden vom Staat kassiert. Der Finanzminister wird sie dem Budget des Justizressorts gutschreiben. (a)

Der Prozess gab Einblick in die Vernetzungen des nordkoreanischen Regimes. Man schleuste als Handelsdelegierten einen persönlichen Sekretär des Diktators nach Europa ein. Yon Rok Kwon heißt der Mann. Seine Aufgabe war es, Geschäftspartner zu finden, die sich trotz bestehenden Embargos bereit erklärten, den nordkoreanischen Regierungschef nach dessen Gelüsten mit allem Möglichen zu versorgen. Trompeten, Trommeln, auch einen Steinway-Flügel soll sich Kim Jong Il gewünscht und auch bekommen haben. Yon Rok Kwon war zuerst in Berlin tätig, bis ihm Deutschland nahelegte zu verschwinden. So kam Kwon nach Österreich. Vielleicht war er auch ein Mitbegründer der "Golden Star Bank" in der Wiener Kaiserstraße, der einzigen Bank Nordkoreas im Ausland (die sich bis 2004 hier halten konnte). (b)

(a) <http://kurier.at/nachrichten/wien/2056430.php>

(b) <http://kurier.at/nachrichten/wien/2055939.php>

4286/2010 -----

Moskaus letzte Geheimnisse

(Kleine Zeitung) Im Militärarchiv in Moskau sammelten die Sowjets ihre wichtigsten Akten - auch aus Österreich. Historiker Stefan Karner wurde dort rasch fndig.

Kleine Zeitung 19.12.2010, 12f.

4287/2010 -----

Zielfahnder: Hundert Festnahmen in sieben Jahren

(Presse) Seit 2003 agieren Zielfahnder des österreichischen Bundeskriminalamtes, nun haben sie in Spanien ihre 100. Festnahme arrangiert. Innenministerin Fekter lobt sie als "Eliteeinheit in Europa".

Der in Österreich gesuchte mutmaßlichen Chef eines Schlepperringes wurde in Nordspanien festgenommen und wartet nun in Madrid auf seine Auslieferung nach Österreich. Die Informationen, die zur Verhaftung führten, kamen von österreichischen Zielfahndern. Das besondere an der Verhaftung: Es ist die 100. Festnahme seit Beginn des Bestehens der österreichischen "Zielfahnder"-Spezialgruppe.

Anlässlich dieses "Jubiläums" lobte Innenministerin Fekter die Gruppe am Dienstag in Wien als eine "Eliteeinheit in Europa". Im Rahmen der Zielfahnder-Aktivitäten der österreichischen Spezialisten seit 2003 gab es bisher 43 Festnahmen in Europa, sechs in Südamerika, vier in den USA sowie je eine in Kanada, dem Irak und in Thailand. Es handelte sich durchwegs um Verdächtige nach schweren Delikten gegen Leib und Leben bzw. gegen Vermögen.

Der kroatische Ex-Premier Ivo Sanader wurde vor wenigen Tagen in Österreich ebenfalls festgenommen, nachdem man seinen Aufenthaltsort via Zielfahndungshilfe lokalisiert hatte.

- (a) http://diepresse.com/home/panorama/oesterreich/620351/Zielfahnder_Hundert-Festnahmen-in-sieben-Jahren-?_vl_backlink=/home/panorama/oesterreich/index.do
- (b) <http://kurier.at/nachrichten/wien/2059702.php>

4288/2010 -----

Grasser-Abhörprotokolle veröffentlicht



(Standard) Wieder ein Knalleffekt rund um die Ermittlungen der Justiz gegen Ex-Finanzminister Karl-Heinz Grasser und seinen Freund und Trauzeugen Walter Meischberger: Die Wiener Wochenzeitung "Falter" kündigte heute Dienstag mittags in einer Aussendung an, in ihrer morgen Mittwoch erscheinenden Ausgabe die Abhörprotokolle der Ermittler von Telefongesprächen der im Buwog-Skandal Beschuldigten Grasser, Meischberger und Ernst Karl Plech unzensuriert zu veröffentlichen. Mittlerweile sind die gesamten Protokolle online auf der Internet-Seite des Falter zu finden.

- (a) <http://derstandard.at/1292462323124/Falter-enthueellt-Telefongefluenster-Grasser-Abhoerprotokolle-veroeffentlicht>
- (b) http://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXIV/J/J_07154/imfname_202761.pdf
- (c) http://viewer.dialogperfect.de/5765/Protokolle.html?dia_id=2

4289/2010 -----

WikiLeaks auf Österreichisch: PilzLeaks

Der Grünpolitiker Peter PILZ präsentiert auf seiner Homepage die „wichtigste Entlastungszeugin für die Tierschützer“: die verdeckte Ermittlerin "Danielle Durand" und ihre Berichte an Führungsoffizier Wappel. Der 96-seitige Sammelbericht, der auch im Prozess gegen die Tierschützer vorgelegt wurde, ist auf 5 Dokumente aufgeteilt.

- (a) http://www.peterpilz.at/data_all/VE1.pdf
- (b) http://www.peterpilz.at/data_all/VE2.pdf
- (c) http://www.peterpilz.at/data_all/VE3.pdf
- (d) http://www.peterpilz.at/data_all/VE4.pdf

(e) http://www.peterpilz.at/data_all/VE5.pdf

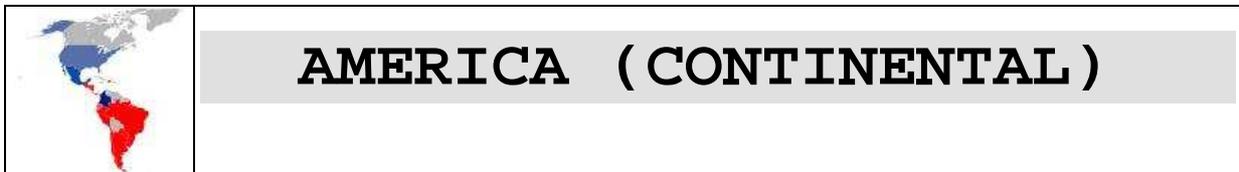
4290/2010 -----

Was uns Kreisky einbrockte: Bruno Kreiskys Nahostpolitik

(Standard) Die eigenständige Nahostpolitik Bruno Kreiskys ist mittlerweile ein Mythos. Seine Gegner sehen nur die Schatten-, seine Anhänger nur die Lichtseiten. Es war beides im Übermaß vorhanden.

Eine Analyse der Standard Redakteurin Gudrun Harrer, basierend auf der Neuerscheinung von Thomas Riegler, Im Fadenkreuz. Österreich und der Nahostterrorismus 1973 bis 1985.

- (a) <http://derstandard.at/1292462113549/Was-uns-Kreisky-einbrockte-Die-eigenstaendige-Nahostpolitik-Bruno-Kreiskys-ist-mittlerweile-ein-Mythos>
(b) Der Standard vom 18. Dezember 2010, Album, Alf.



4291/2010 -----

WikiLeaks: Paraguay govt sought DEA spying help

(Washington Post) The Paraguayan government worked closely with the DEA earlier this year to expand its capacity to spy on cell phone calls to confront the threat posed by a band of leftist rebels, according to a U.S. diplomatic cable published by WikiLeaks.

The cable, dated Feb. 18, 2010, and published Wednesday night on the internet site, said the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency had been intercepting the phone calls of suspected traffickers since Sept. 2009, but was leery of helping Paraguay's interior ministry use the technology to go after the so-called Paraguayan People's Army.

The DEA had closely guarded the technology while running the spying program in conjunction with Paraguay's anti-narcotics office, which acts only through court orders and focused exclusively on drug traffickers, the cable said.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/23/AR2010122303759.html>

4292/2010 -----

Al Qaeda-affiliated website targets Arab Christians in Canada

(The Star) More than 100 Canadian-Arab Christians are listed on an Al Qaeda affiliated website, apparently targeted because of their alleged role in attempting to convert Muslims.

Some of those named say concerned Canadian intelligence officials have contacted them. The Shumukh-al-Islam website, often considered to be Al Qaeda's mouthpiece, listed pictures, addresses and cellphone numbers of Coptic Christians, predominantly Egyptian-Canadians, who have been vocal about their opposition to Islam. In a forum on the website, one member named Son of a Sharp Sword, says "We are going to return back to Islam and all of the Mujahedeen (holy warriors) will cut off their heads."

Three pages of the fundamentalist, Arabic-language website titled "Complete information on Coptics" sets to "identify and name all of the Coptics throughout the world who hope to defame Islam," The website calls the Coptic Christians living abroad "dogs in diaspora," a derogatory reference in Arabic. Among those named on the Shumukh-al-Islam website is Samuel Tawadrous, a Coptic Egyptian living in Quebec.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/910167--al-qaeda-affiliated-website-targets-arab-christians-in-canada>



AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

4293/2010 -----

Australia told to prioritise spy recruitment

(ABC News) A national security expert says a review of Australia's intelligence agencies should look at ways to improve information gathering from human sources.

The Federal Government has commissioned the review to see if Australia's spy agencies are working well together. Carl Ungerer from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute says agencies need to get better at cultivating people who are willing to pass on information. "What we have found particularly dealing with global terrorist organisations, it is the reliance on human sources that ultimately probably gives us the best picture of some of those threats, and rebuilding those skills across the board, I think, is a major priority," he said.

But Mr Ungerer says Australia's intelligence agencies should be prepared for cutbacks in their funding.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/12/24/3100857.htm?section=justin>

4294/2010 -----

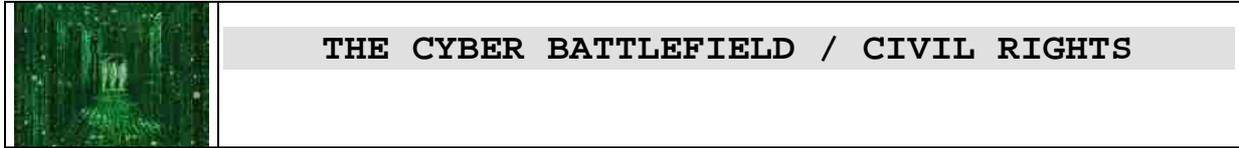
US said NZ over-reacted in 2004 Israeli spy incident

(Jerusalem Post) WikiLeaks cable reveals US said New Zealand tried to improve credibility with Arabs by jailing Israelis suspected of working for Mossad.

US diplomats criticized New Zealand's 2004 arrest of two Israeli citizens suspected of spying, saying the government tried to cozy up to Arab countries in order to increase exports to them, the Guardian reported on Tuesday, citing a recently released WikiLeaks cable.

The arrest and conviction of the two Israelis caused a major rift between New Zealand and Israel, with allegations that the two men and others involved in the incident were Mossad agents, reported the Guardian.

<http://www.jpost.com/International/Article.aspx?id=200496>



4295/2010 -----

How Smartphone Apps Spy on Their Users

(Forbes) The Wall Street Journal marches on with its always interesting, but sometimes overly-alarmist, "What They Know" series. The latest instalment, "Your Apps Are Watching You," highlights the fact that smartphone applications, like websites, make money by sending some consumer information on to advertisers.

The WSJ tested out over 100 Android and iPhone applications to see what kind of data leakage was happening, and has a fun interactive graphic showing which apps leak what information. Unsurprisingly, many of the apps send data to third parties as part of doing what they do.

In fact, most of the data being shared seems to be going to Facebook, Google Analytics, but there are also some ad networks tapping into it. That includes information like your age and gender, your location, your phone's unique ID, and your contacts. Popular game app Angry Birds, for example, sends a user's username, contacts, location and phone ID along to Google/Chillingo (a unit at Electronic Arts, which markets the game) and to Flurry, an application analytics company. Do Angry Birds actually seem more menacing to you now?

<http://blogs.forbes.com/kashmirhill/2010/12/20/how-smartphone-applications-spy-on-their-users/?boxes=Homepagechannels>

4296/2010 -----

Stuxnet's Finnish-Chinese Connection

(Forbes) I recently wrote a white paper entitled "Dragons, Tigers, Pearls, and Yellowcake" in which I proposed four alternative scenarios for the Stuxnet worm other than the commonly held assumption that it was Israel or the U.S. targeting Iran's Bushehr or Natanz facilities. During the course of my research for that paper, I uncovered a connection between two of the key players in the Stuxnet drama: Vacon, the Finnish manufacturer of one of two frequency converter drives targeted by this malware; and RealTek, who's digital certificate was stolen and used to smooth the way for the worm to be loaded onto a Windows host without raising any alarms. A third important piece of the puzzle, which I'll discuss later in this article, directly connects a Chinese antivirus company which writes their own viruses with the Stuxnet worm.

Most people who have followed the Stuxnet investigation know that the international headquarters for Vacon is in Finland, but surprisingly,

Finland isn't where Vacon's frequency converter drives are manufactured. Vacon's manufacturing plant is actually located in the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) under the name Vacon Suzhou Drives Co. Ltd., located at 11A, Suchun Industrial Square 428# Xinglong Street, SIP Suzhou 215126 China.

<http://blogs.forbes.com/firewall/2010/12/14/stuxnets-finnish-chinese-connection/>

4297/2010 -----

US-Regulierer legen Regeln für Netzneutralität fest

(Sueddeutsche) Mit neuen Regeln für den Datenverkehr im Internet haben amerikanische Regulierer eine wichtige Weichenstellung für die sogenannte Netzneutralität in den USA unternommen. In einem umstrittenen Schritt setzte dies die US-Telekom-Aufsicht FCC am Dienstag (Ortszeit) verstärkt durch.

Danach müssen Internet-Anbieter alle legalen Inhalte in ihren Netzen gleich behandeln und dürfen nicht bestimmte Endgeräte ausschließen. Die Behörde setzte damit weitgehend einen Vorstoß um, den der FCC- Chefs Julius Genachowski Anfang Dezember gemacht hatte. Die Initiative soll einen Kompromiss darstellen zwischen den verschiedenen Interessen von Netzbetreibern, Inhalteanbietern und Konsumenten.

Generell unterscheidet die FCC bei den Regeln zwischen Festnetz- Breitband und Mobilfunk. Während die Neutralitätsregeln fürs Festnetz strenger ausfielen, ließ die Behörde beim mobilen Internet die Zügel lockerer. Den Mobilfunk-Betreibern wird zwar untersagt, Dienste wie den Online-Videoservice Netflix oder Internettelefonie-Anbieter wie Skype ganz zu sperren.

Unterschiedliche Geschwindigkeiten bei der Zustellung von Datenpaketen bleiben aber weiterhin erlaubt. Genachowski begründet das damit, dass der mobile Internet-Markt sich noch im Aufbau befindet.

<http://newsticker.sueddeutsche.de/list/id/1086942>

4298/2010 -----

Google Debuts "This Site May Be Compromised" Warning

(Krebs) Google has added a new security feature to its search engine that promises to increase the number of Web page results that are flagged as potentially having been compromised by hackers.

The move is an expansion of a program Google has had in place for years, which appends a "This site may harm your computer" link in search results for sites that Google has determined are hosting malicious software. The new notation - a warning that reads "This site may be compromised" - is designed to include pages that may not be malicious but which indicate that the site might not be completely under the control of the legitimate site owner - such as when spammers inject invisible links or redirects to pharmacy Web sites.

Google also will be singling out sites that have had pages quietly added by phishers. While spam usually is routed through hacked personal computers, phishing Web pages most often are added to hacked, legitimate sites: The Anti-Phishing Working Group, an industry consortium, estimates that between 75 and 80 percent of phishing sites are legitimate sites that have

been hacked and seeded with phishing kits designed to mimic established e-commerce and banking sites.

http://krebsonsecurity.com/2010/12/google-debuts-this-site-may-be-compromised-warning/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+KrebsOnSecurity+%28Krebs+on+Security%29

4299/2010 -----

The cyberwar will not be streamed

(CSO online) In early 2000 -- ages ago in Internet time -- some of the biggest names in e-commerce were brought to their knees by a brief but massive assault from a set of powerful computers hijacked by a glory-seeking young hacker. The assailant in that case, known online as Mafiaboy, was a high school student from a middle-class suburban area of Canada who was quickly arrested after bragging about his role in the attacks.

It wasn't long before the antics from novice hackers like Mafiaboy were overshadowed by more discrete attacks from organized cyber criminal gangs, which began using these distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) assaults to extort money from targeted businesses. Fast-forward to today, and although vanity DDoS attacks persist, somehow elements in the news media have begun conflating them with the term "cyberwar," a vogue but still-squishy phrase that conjures notions of far more consequential, nation-state level conflicts.

<http://www.csoonline.com/article/647778/the-cyberwar-will-not-be-streamed>



SPYCRAFT

4300/2010 -----

'Israeli spying devices' found in Lebanon (update)

(BBC) The Lebanese army has said it has dismantled two Israeli spy systems planted in the mountains above Beirut.

The army said it was alerted to the long-range surveillance devices by the Shia Islamist movement, Hezbollah. One of the devices bore writing in Hebrew. Meanwhile, an explosion in the southern port of Sidon late on Wednesday sparked reports of a possible Israeli attempt to destroy a third device there. Israel denied any involvement, saying there had been "no unusual activity".

On Wednesday, the Lebanese army released a statement saying troops had located two sophisticated, Israeli-made surveillance devices in the mountains of Sannine and Barouk, north and south of the capital, Beirut. Pictures on the army website showed devices concealed inside large fake rocks on the slopes of the mountains. The system found in Sannine included a camera, a device to send images and a third to receive signals, the army said.



The device found in Barouk was "more complicated", it added. The system was placed at a height of 1,715m and made up of two artificial boulders. One boulder contained equipment for transmitting and receiving signals, which covered the towns of the western and central Bekaa Valley - a Hezbollah stronghold - towns in southern Lebanon, and parts of Syria.



It had the ability to communicate with wireless transmission stations in Lebanon and the Palestinian territories, the army said. The other boulder contained a large number of batteries which would have provided power for the equipment for a number of years, it added. One picture showed a device bearing the words "mini cloud" in Hebrew, along with the name of the manufacturer - "Beam Systems Israel Ltd" - in English.

Photo- update (c - f)



- (a) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12012452>
- (b) <http://intelligencenews.wordpress.com/2010/12/20/01-617/>
- (c) http://media.kansascity.com/smedia/2010/12/15/15/22-Mideast_Lebanon_Israel.sff.standalone.prod_affiliate.81.jpg
- (d) http://media.kansascity.com/smedia/2010/12/15/15/584-153Mideast_Lebanon_Israel.sff.standalone.prod_affiliate.81.jpg
- (e) http://media.kansascity.com/smedia/2010/12/15/15/253-935Mideast_Lebanon_Israel.sff.standalone.prod_affiliate.81.jpg
- (f)

4301/2010

Spy Mystery: Listening Device Found At Charlotte Town Hall

(WPTZ) Town officials in Charlotte, Vt., think that there might have been a spy on the prowl. In October, employees working to weatherize the ceiling at the Town Hall found a strange device tucked away in the rafters.



"And somebody picked it up, looked at it and said, 'You know, this almost looks like a bug,'" said Shelburne Police Officer Chris Morrell. Morrell said the bug is probably a decade old, with dead batteries, and hasn't been used in years. But he is curious about why somebody would want to eavesdrop on small-town government in Vermont. "Most of us like to do business with a handshake, face to face, and be candid when we do have disagreements with anyone," he said.

The room where the bug was found is being used for meetings of the Select Board, discussing arcane issues like zoning and parking regulations.

"I think we can excuse the National Security Agency, and cross them off the list of potentials," Morrell joked.

<http://www.wptz.com/mostpopular/26250566/detail.html>

	<h2>INTELL HISTORY</h2>
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4302/2010 -----

CIA's Intel Art Collection: The Unveiling of "Irrawaddy Ambush"

(CIA) In fall 2010, the Center for the Study of Intelligence and the Fine Arts Commission unveiled a painting titled "Irrawaddy Ambush" by Stuart Brown. The new addition to the Intelligence Art Collection depicts Detachment 101 of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) –the predecessor of today's CIA – in Burma during World War II. Mr. Michael DeSombre donated the painting to CIA in tribute to the work of today's National Clandestine Service.

The painting illustrates one of Detachment 101's many guerrilla operations staged to disrupt Japanese supply and reinforcement routes in Burma. Staked out on one side of the Irrawaddy River, OSS-trained Kachin rangers ambush Japanese rafts bringing troops and supplies to the Japanese-held town of Myitkyina in July 1944. Such actions helped lead to the Allied re-capture of the town and, ultimately, to the defeat of Japanese forces in northern Burma.

During World War II, the Burma Road in northeast Burma was a lifeline for the Nationalist Chinese fighting the Japanese. A primary reason for the Japanese invasion of Burma, which was a British colony at the time, was to cut this supply link. The Imperial Army accomplished this task by the summer of 1942. The Allies then began airlifting materiel from India to China through the Himalayas, all the while trying to reopen the road.

<https://www.cia.gov/news-information/featured-story-archive/2010-featured-story-archive/irrawaddy-ambush.html>

Ottawa to release more intelligence files on Tommy Douglas

(Globe & Mail) The federal government has relented on its adamant refusal to release decades-old intelligence on socialist icon Tommy Douglas.



It's now promising to review the file and release additional material. The promise follows a closed-door hearing during which a Federal Court judge expressed concern about the continued secrecy surrounding the file compiled by the RCMP on a figure of such historic significance. The late T.C. Douglas was premier of Saskatchewan and then the federal NDP's first leader, a man widely

revered as the father of medicare.

"(The government) will undertake to review all documents in good faith with a view to releasing additional information stemming from the discussions held during the in-camera hearing," federal lawyer Gregory Tzemenakis says in correspondence filed with the court.

"(The government) believes that this review will result in additional disclosure of information." The released material revealed that RCMP security officers had shadowed Mr. Douglas for more than three decades, attending his speeches, analyzing his writings and eavesdropping on private conversations. His links to the peace movement and Communist party members were of particular interest.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-to-release-more-intelligence-files-on-tommy-douglas/article1843898/>

	HOT DOCS ONLINE
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Risk Reduction for Countering Violent Extremism

The QIASS Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Risk Reduction Project was a descriptive, exploratory study, not just of "deradicalization" or "terrorist rehabilitation" programs, but also of strategic counter terrorism approaches in France, Indonesia, Northern Ireland, Singapore, and Great Britain.

<http://www.soufangroup.com/summary.pdf>

USING THE "MR. BIG" TECHNIQUE TO ELICIT CONFESSIONS

(Psychology) Canada's legal system recognizes that police interrogation procedures may contribute to false confessions, and has provided safeguards designed to protect the rights of the accused and reduce the likelihood of these errors. Police in Canada are using a complex noncustodial interrogation procedure called the "Mr. Big" technique, to elicit confessions for recalcitrant suspects. Remarkably, this undercover (in that suspects do not know they are speaking to law enforcement officers)

interrogation technique boasts a 75% confession rate and a 95% conviction rate when used (Gardner, 2004). However, it is possible that suspects in these situations may experience undue pressure to confess falsely.

<http://cryptome.org/0003/mr-big-ruse.pdf>

4306/2010 -----

SO Training Syllabus by Col Donovan

No. 42 of the famous training manual, concentrating on "The Security aspect of subversive operations.

<http://cryptome.org/0003/cia-so-train.pdf>



LITERATURE

4307/2010 -----

Journal for Intelligence, Propaganda and Security Studies VOL.4, NR.2/2010



From the contents:

- Editorial: Siegfried Beer, Is Austrian Intelligence Finally Coming out of the Closet?
- Kerstin von Lingen, Abhörung und Anwerbung: Die „SUNRISE-Gruppe“ im Fokus von CIC und CSDIC
- Daniele Ganser/Mats Deland, NATO's Secret Army in Neutral Sweden
- Gerhard Schmid, Wer betreibt wozu und wie Wirtschaftsspionage ?
- Othmar Plöckinger, Die antibolschewistische Propaganda der deutschen Obersten Heeresleitung und der Reichswehr 1918-1920, 2. Teil
- Florian Traussnig, Sexbilder als „Büchsenöffner für Gehirne“ - Die subversiven Propaganda-Operationen des österreichischen OSS-Agenten Eddie Linder, 1943-1945
- Martin Moll, Politische Propaganda im 20. Jahrhundert. Essay
- Burkhard von Grafenstein, Vom Putschplan zum militärischen Experiment: Das Unternehmen „Graukopf“
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- Oliver Dengg, Dschihad 2.0: Die Aktivitäten der „virtuellen Dschihadisten“ im Social Web
- Interview Martin Haidinger, Investigator und Gentleman: Das abenteuerliche Leben des CIC-Mitarbeiters Jury von Luhovoy im Wien des Kalten Krieges
- Operator's Page Rastislav Báčora, Operative Kräfte für Anforderungen künftiger Einsätze - Lehren aus dem Irak-Krieg?
- Book & Film Reviews

- (a) http://acipss.org/newsletter_archiv/JIPSS_extract_8.pdf
(b) Information and subscription details: <http://acipss.org/journal.htm>



MEDIA ALERTS

4308/2010 -----

Media alerts

am So, 26.12. um 00:00 SF 1

Der gute Hirte

Agentenfilm

Dauer: 165 min (a)

Beschreibung: Matt Damon ist CIA-Spion Edward Wilson, der nach der gescheiterten Invasion an der kubanischen Schweinebucht 1961 unter Verdacht gerät, ein Verräter zu sein.

am Mo, 27.12. um 22:15 ZDF

Das Bourne Ultimatum

Agententhriller

Dauer: 105 min (b)

Beschreibung: Mit "Das Bourne Ultimatum" präsentiert das ZDF-Montagskino den Abschluss der Spionagethriller-Trilogie. Matt Damon verkörpert den ehemaligen Agenten, der nach seiner Identität sucht. Die CIA sieht Jason Bourne immer noch als Bedrohung und will ihn ein für alle Mal ausschalten. Doch Bourne bekommt unerwartete Unterstützung.

am Di, 28.12. um 00:25 3sat

Tibet - Reise durch ein verbotenes Land: Das Kloster der versteckten Kinder
Dokumentation, Folge 2

Dauer: 45 min (c)

Beschreibung: Im Vorfeld der Olympischen Spiele in Peking gelang es Steffen Bayer, Regionen im seit 60 Jahren durch die Chinesen besetzten Tibet zu bereisen, die normalerweise für Journalisten unzugänglich sind. Als Reiseführer dienten Tagebücher von Heinrich Harrer und Peter Aufschnaiter, deren Lebensgeschichte durch den Film "Sieben Jahre in Tibet" bekannt wurde. - Zweite Folge des zweiteiligen Reiseberichts.

am Mi, 29.12. um 17:45 phoenix

Das Wunder von Mogadischu

Dauer: 45 min (d)

Dokumentation: Die Entführung des Arbeitgeberpräsidenten Hanns Martin Schleyer Anfang September 1977 hatte die Bundesrepublik in einen regelrechten Ausnahmezustand versetzt. Die Bonner Regierung war nicht zu einem Austausch gegen RAF-Gefangene bereit. Die Kaperung der Lufthansa-Maschine "Landshut" durch palästinensische Terroristen sollte die Bundesregierung zum Einlenken zwingen.

am Do, 30.12. um 03:45 phoenix

Geheimnisvolle Orte: Die Glienicker Brücke - Letzte Hoffnung der Spione
Dokumentation

Dauer: 45 min (e)

Beschreibung: Seit dem Fall der Mauer herrscht wieder reger Verkehr auf dem einstigen geheimnisumwitterten Ort zwischen Potsdam und Berlin. Tausend mal mehr Menschen überqueren die Brücke heute an einem Tag als in den 40 Jahren der deutschen Teilung. Nur eine kleine Tafel erinnert hier noch an die dramatischen Geschehnisse, als sich für kurze Momente der Eiserne Vorhang hob. Mit dem spektakulären Austausch des sowjetischen Bürgerrechtlers Anatoli Schtscharanski, im Februar 1986, endete das einzigartige Kapitel des Agententransfers über die Glienicker Brücke.

am Do, 30.12. um 20:15 3sat

Die Jagd nach Osama bin Laden - Mythos und Wahrheit

Dokumentation

Dauer: 45 min (f)

Beschreibung: Auf seinen Kopf ist eine Belohnung von 27 Millionen Dollar ausgesetzt. An seine Fersen haben sich Eliteeinheiten geheftet. Es wurden Armeen mobilisiert, Informanten bestochen und Gefangene gefoltert. Über zehn Jahre dauert die Jagd nun schon, und noch immer ist Osama bin Laden nicht gefasst. Wollen ihn die Amerikaner vielleicht gar nicht fangen? - Der Film stellt einige Theorien vor.

am Fr, 31.12. um 14:15 ARD Eins festival

Harlan - Im Schatten von Jud Süß

Dokumentarfilm

Dauer: 100 min (g)

Beschreibung: Veit Harlan war der Meisterregisseur des Dritten Reichs. Mehr als Hundert Millionen Zuschauer in ganz Europa sahen seine Filme, einschließlich des infamen antisemitischen Propagandafilms Jud Süß. Harlan wurde nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg zweimal wegen Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit angeklagt und beide Male freigesprochen. In dem mit zahlreichen Filmausschnitten und erstmals gezeigtem Privatmaterial aus dem Familienarchiv montierten Dokumentarfilm reflektieren Veit Harlans Söhne, Töchter und Enkel die große Zeit des Regisseurs, seine Verstrickung und Schuld, das Schicksal der Familie in der Nachkriegszeit und die Nachwirkungen auf das eigene Leben bis zum heutigen Tag.

- (a) <http://tv.intern.de/index.php?site=Detail&id=216-0-26747905&tvid=5fa48772b40d7281269e6a567e639dfe>
- (b) <http://tv.intern.de/index.php?site=Detail&id=216-0-26686516&tvid=5fa48772b40d7281269e6a567e639dfe>
- (c) <http://tv.intern.de/index.php?site=Detail&id=216-0-26667003&tvid=5fa48772b40d7281269e6a567e639dfe>
- (d) <http://tv.intern.de/index.php?site=Detail&id=216-0-26666335&tvid=5fa48772b40d7281269e6a567e639dfe>
- (e) <http://tv.intern.de/index.php?site=Detail&id=216-0-26666347&tvid=5fa48772b40d7281269e6a567e639dfe>
- (f) <http://tv.intern.de/index.php?site=Detail&id=216-0-26667091&tvid=5fa48772b40d7281269e6a567e639dfe>
- (g) <http://tv.intern.de/index.php?site=Detail&id=216-0-26707981&tvid=5fa48772b40d7281269e6a567e639dfe>

Deadline for application: 28 December 2010

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