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FROM THE WILDERNESS

*A Nonpartisan, Non-sectarian, MAP from the Here That Is,
Into the Tomorrow of Our Own Making*

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The Dam Breaks

Miracle in Venezuela -- Chavez Returns After Attempted U.S.-backed Coup

McKinney Breaks the Ice on 9-11, Stuns Critics

Major Names Speak Out on 9-11 Foreknowledge and Empire:
Nightline, Vidal, Hersh, Moore

Major Disruption in 9-11 Congressional Investigations

It's happening.

The weight of evidence that was so apparent to me and others -- from the moment the second hijacked airliner hit the World Trade Center -- has grown steadily for eight months and has begun to reach the minds of recognized opinion makers. This is one genie that cannot be put back in the bottle.

But the toughest battles may lie ahead.

In mid-April, Rep. Cynthia McKinney, D-Ga., was the subject of a Washington Post article as a result of statements she had made on Berkeley radio station KPFA on March 25. Her position: Congress needs to take a thorough look at what was known by the Bush Administration before the attacks of 9-11, and who has profited from them. Reaction from the major media: horror, shock, outrage, scorn, ridicule. Reaction from the people: surprising levels of agreement and support for McKinney (See full story, this issue).

On April 22 best-selling author Michael Moore, whose brilliant book, "Stupid White Men," is holding near the top of the NY Times list, was speaking in Eugene, Ore. He was asked about **FTW** and our work. His response: "I've read his [Mike Ruppert's] website. He's asking some good and scary questions, much scarier than mine. We should all be asking these questions."

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— **From The Wilderness** —

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Briefing Paper

The Case for Bush Administration Advance Knowledge of 9-11 Attacks

by Michael C. Ruppert

April 22, 2002, 12:00 PDT (FTW) -- A dispassionate examination of existing reliable, open-source evidence on advance warnings of the Sept. 11 attacks provides strong and sustainable grounds to conclude the Bush Administration was in possession of sufficient advance intelligence to have prevented the attacks, had it wished to do so. With a known intelligence budget of approximately \$30 billion, it must be assumed there are classified files that only add to the weight of the available data presented here. Is it reasonable to assume that what is presented here is the only intelligence the U.S. possessed?

This article will focus on four primary areas where the U.S. had information that forewarned of the attacks in sufficient detail to have prompted their prevention. Those areas are: Documented warnings received by the United States Government (USG) from foreign intelligence services; Obvious and large scale insider stock trading in the days before the attacks; Known intelligence successes achieved by the USG in its penetrations of Al Qaeda; and, the case of Delmart "Mike" Vreeland, a U.S. Naval intelligence officer jailed in Canada at the request of U.S. authorities, who -- with his attorneys - - spent months attempting to warn USG and Canadian intelligence officials of the pending attacks, only to be rebuffed and ignored.

This article will not focus on a number of well-known and documented instances where the Bush Administration actively interfered with or curtailed investigations into Al Qaeda-linked groups that could have provided even more intelligence. Included in this category are reports by the BBC's Gregg Palast, the French book "The Forbidden Truth," and a lawsuit/OPR complaint filed by an active FBI agent alleging investigations that could have prevented the attacks were derailed by superiors, in some cases on orders from the White House.

WARNINGS FROM FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

This section focuses on known advance warnings received by the U.S. government from foreign intelligence services that proved to be specific enough to have identified the date (within one week), method, **(continued on page 11)**

TURMOIL -- MIRACLE IN VENEZUELA

Chavez Dupes U.S.-backed Coup -- Democratically Elected Leader Unfriendly to U.S. Foreign Policy Regains Power After Two Days Under Military Arrest

by Joe Taglieri, **FTW** Staff

May 6, 2002, 12:00 PDT (FTW) -- President Hugo Chavez is once again at the helm of the Venezuelan government. He returned to power just two days after he was arrested April 12 in the wake of a coup d'etat organized and perpetrated by political and military opponents. The apparent coup leader, Pedro Carmona, held the office for less than 48 hours. It has been widely reported the U.S. military provided support to anti-Chavez factions during the coup, and State Department and other U.S. officials met with coup organizers in the months and weeks leading to Chavez's ouster.

As early as last June, "American military attaches had been in touch with members of the Venezuelan military to examine the possibility of a coup," wrote Britain's the Guardian newspaper on April 29. Quoting Wayne Madsen, a former Naval and National Security Agency (NSA) intelligence officer who is now an investigative journalist, the paper reported U.S. Navy ships provided signals intelligence and communications jamming support to the Venezuelan military as the coup against Chavez unfolded.

"The NSA supported the coup using personnel attached to the U.S. Southern Command's Joint Interagency Task Force East (JIATF-E) in Key West, Fla.," wrote Madsen and Richard M. Bennett on the Intel Briefing website. "NSA's Spanish-language linguists and signals interception operators in Key West; Sabana Seca on Puerto Rico and the Regional Security Operating Center (RSOC) in Medina, Texas also assisted in providing communications intelligence to U.S. military and national command authorities on the progress of the coup d'etat.

"From eastern Colombia, CIA and U.S. contract military personnel, ostensibly used for counter-narcotics operations, stood by to provide logistics support for the leading members of the coup. Their activities were centered at the Marandua airfield and along the border with Venezuela. Patrol aircraft operating from the U.S. Forward Operating Location (FOL) in Manta, Ecuador also provided intelligence support for the military move against Chavez. Additional USN vessels on a training exercise in the Outer Range of the U.S. Navy's Southern Puerto Rican Operating Area also stood by in the event the coup against Chavez faltered, thus requiring a military evacuation of U.S. citizens in Venezuela. The ships included the aircraft carrier USS George Washington and the destroyers USS Barry, Laboon, Mahan, and Arthur W. Radford. Some of the latter vessels reportedly had NSA Direct Support Units aboard to provide additional signals intelligence support to U.S. Special Operations and intelligence personnel deployed on the ground in close co-operation with the Venezuelan Army and along the Colombian side of the border."

On how he learned of these U.S. coup connections, the intelligence analyst told **FTW** via e-mail, "It happened by circumstance that I was in attendance at a military banquet in Tysons Corner, near CIA HQ the night the coup took place, and I merely blended in with some of the active and retired contractor officers who were talking freely about what was occurring." Madsen also has a number of other sources, he said.

Chavez has been a thorn in the side of the Bush Administration since he was first elected. Inspired by Latin American populist hero, Simon Bolivar, Chavez won landslide elections in 1998 and 2000 on a platform of social and economic reform. And in addition to his tenacious anti-poverty stance, Chavez has time and again thumbed his nose at U.S. foreign policy. In his drive to maintain independence, he has established friendly relations with a number of countries who have opposed U.S. interests, including Cuba, Iraq and Libya. Contrary to rhetoric out of Washington, Chavez has never been linked to any terrorist operations anywhere.

Rather, observers say his alliances are driven by the need for allies in his determined attempts to prevent American corporate interests from determining Venezuelan policies. Chavez's steadfast goal has been to walk a truly independent path and make Venezuelan independence a reality, along with higher standards of living for his people. If successful, say Chavez advocates, he would threaten U.S. economic control all throughout South America and might prompt other nations to follow suit. It is for this reason primarily that U.S. economic interests wish to see him fail.

It is also important to factor into the political equation leading to April's coup attempt Chavez's stubborn defiance of U.S. objectives in neighboring Colombia against the leftist guerillas known as the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). Chavez has consistently refused to allow U.S. military flights destined from Colombia to fly through Venezuelan airspace. This has been problematic since the closest U.S. bases are in Puerto Rico, and Venezuela is in between the two.

To add insult to injury, Venezuela under Chavez is also a stringent member of OPEC. Chavez even came out against the U.S. military action in Afghanistan, chiding the U.S. not to "fight terrorism with terrorism."

OTTO REICH

Another curious Washington player involved in the goings-on in Venezuela is Otto Reich, who President Bush appointed U.S. assistant secretary for Western Hemisphere affairs last year. Reich, a former ambassador to Venezuela under President

Reagan, has an interesting, spooky past -- especially in Latin America. He was a big part of the Regan-Bush era drugs for weapons, etc. operations. Reich was implicated as a disinformation hack in the Iran-contra scandal and was removed from Reagan's White House staff.

Reich's appointment was criticized by Democratic Senators John Kerry of Massachusetts and Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The senators' "concerns over Reich focus on his leadership of the State Department's one-time Office of Public Diplomacy for Latin America and the Caribbean," reported the Associated Press March 9, 2001. "The office -- which Reich led from its inception in June 1983 until January 1986 -- was accused of running an illegal, covert domestic propaganda effort against Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government and in favor of the Contra rebels."

"The issue is not his conservative politics," Kerry told the AP. "It was his central part in 'deeply divisive' policies and the domestic propaganda his office allegedly generated to support the Reagan administration's Central American policies in the 1980s."

Reich has denied wrongdoing related to his Iran-contra activities.

Now leading the State Department's present Latin America crew, Reich is reported to have been in contact by telephone with Venezuela's president-for-a-day, Carmona, while the coup was happening on April 11 and 12. It has also been widely reported Carmona and other coup conspirators met repeatedly with Reich and other U.S. officials in Caracas, Venezuela's capital, in the months and weeks prior to Chavez's arrest.

Salon magazine reported in a meeting with senior Latin American diplomats in Washington on April 12, Reich "was in possession of suspiciously precise details about the circumstances of Chavez's removal. Some attendees believed Reich must have been in contact with conspirators because his 'tortured' justifications for the overthrow 'could only have been rationalized by the coup plotters themselves.'"

White House spokesman Ari Fleisher acknowledged the meetings between U.S. officials and coup conspirators, but firmly dismissed any notion that the U.S. would support a coup. Fleisher characterized the conversations that took place between coup conspirators and "State Department and National Security Council" officials as "routine."

SHAPIRO "ALL SMILES"

The Guardian reported April 29, "In Caracas, a congressman has accused the U.S. ambassador to Venezuela, Charles Shapiro, and two U.S. embassy military attaches of involvement in the coup. Roger Rondon claimed that the military officers, whom he named as (James) Rogers and (Ronald) MacCammon, had been at the Fuerte Tiuna military headquarters with the coup leaders during the night of April 11-12.

"And referring to Shapiro, Rondon said he and others saw the ambassador leaving Miraflores palace, 'all smiles and embraces, with the dictator Pedro Carmona...[His] satisfaction was obvious. Shapiro's participation in the coup d'état in Venezuela is evident.'"

MADSEN: U.S. INTEL ORGANIZED COUP FOR MONTHS

But despite no crystal clear, undeniably declassified "smoking gun" linking American political players to the coup, still, there are many questions as to just how deeply Washington was involved.

In November after Chavez's "fighting terrorism with terrorism" comment, the NSA, Pentagon, and State Department held meetings to discuss various U.S. gripes with Chavez in the foreign policy arena. Secretary of State Colin Powell subsequently spoke out against Chavez, as did CIA director George Tenet in congressional testimony.

Madsen and Bennett report the CIA actively organized a coup against Chavez. "The CIA provided Special Operations Group personnel, headed by a lieutenant colonel on loan from the U.S. Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to help organize the coup against Chavez. They had been in the country since the summer of 2001 and consisting of U.S. Special Operations Intelligence Support Activity (ISA) personnel. The group reportedly made contact with senior, pro-U.S. military officers, including armed forces chief Gen. Lucas Rincon, Deputy Security Minister Gen. Luis Camacho Kairuz, and business and union leaders, especially those with the state-owned oil company, PDVSA, and the Venezuelan Workers' Confederation (CTV). Last summer, the CIA lieutenant colonel began meeting with corporate and labor leaders at the PDVSA refinery in Maracaibo to lay plans for the coup against Chavez. One of those recruited early on by the CIA was the new interim Venezuelan president, Pedro Carmona, the head of the Fedecamaras business syndicate.

"The coup was also supported by Special Operations psychological warfare (PSYOPs) personnel deployed from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. They put together Spanish-language television announcements, purportedly from Venezuelan political and business leaders and aired by Venezuelan television and radio stations, saying Chavez 'provoked' the crisis by ordering his supporters to fire on peaceful protestors in Caracas. U.S. electronic warfare technicians also helped to jam cell phone and radio frequencies in Caracas and other major cities in co-operation with the intelligence battalion...of the Venezuelan Army High Command."

Some point to more circumstantial events, which nonetheless suggest U.S. complicity in the coup. For example, the White House and State Department's 180-degree flip-flop on the attempted coup indicated for many a tacit endorsement of Carmona's camp. The Bush Administration first seemed to embrace the Carmona government and didn't condemn the coup until after it was apparent Chavez would return to power. At that point on the night of April 13, the U.S. officially jumped on the anti-

Chavez Organization of American States (OAS) bandwagon, condemning the coup. The OAS's condemnation was preceded by denouncements from the presidents of 19 Latin American nations, as well as other governments around the world.

HOW IT HAPPENED, WHAT'S TO COME

Early Sunday morning, April 14, President Hugo Chavez stepped off a helicopter that had just landed at Venezuela's presidential palace, Miraflores. The Associated Press reported he was greeted by hundreds of well-wishers, in addition to a crowd of thousands cheering and singing the country's national anthem upon catching sight of their returning president.

"I do not come with hate or rancor in my heart, but we must make decisions and adjust things," Chavez said moments after stepping off the helicopter, flown by members of his former Venezuelan military division, the 42nd Army Paratrooper Brigade.

The paratroopers reportedly turned the tide in favor of the deposed Chavez. Gen. Raul Baduel received a call at the division's base in Maracay from Chavez, who was then in the custody of the rebellious generals who arrested him and took him to an island off the coast of Venezuela, called La Orchila. "The president never suggested he had resigned," Baduel told the AP. "He told me, 'Brother, I'm not just ordering you, I'm begging you, don't get involved in the bloodshed.'"

But Baduel and his fellow paratroopers felt it was their duty to restore constitutional order to the country, so they moved to reinstate their deposed president. And they had even stronger grounds to do so thanks to Carmona's first act as interim president -- to dissolve Venezuela's constitution, national legislature, supreme court, attorney general's office, and comptroller's office, ceding all functions of those government bodies to his cabinet advisors.

Baduel learned on April 13 an aircraft registered in the U.S. to a Venezuelan media executive was at the La Orchila airstrip, and was likely poised to fly Chavez out of the country. But by the time the paratroopers' three choppers reached the island, Carmona's transitional government had collapsed, largely thanks to nationwide uprisings in several Venezuelan cities.

The AP reported thousands of Venezuelans converged on the paratroopers' base in Maracay, located 80 miles west of Caracas, in support of their attempt to rescue Chavez. "The 42nd was the first unit to oppose Chavez's April 12 ouster by dissident generals," wrote the wire service. "An hours-old interim government quickly crumbled when word reached Caracas that the paratroopers were angry. The brigade retrieved Chavez from captivity and returned him to Caracas April 14."

A massive, heavily promoted anti-Chavez demonstration took place on April 12 in Caracas, which resulted in the deaths of 17 people and injuries to hundreds. Most of the dead, totaling more than 40 at the end of the three-day coup, were Chavez supporters killed in several Venezuelan cities, and many also were the victims of rooftop snipers. The identities and allegiances of these gunmen are now the subject of several investigations by the Venezuelan government and human rights groups.

The generals who would eventually carry out the coup arrested Chavez when they began receiving unsubstantiated reports circulated by Venezuelan anti-Chavez media that the president had ordered snipers to fire on the crowd, made up of an estimated 150,000 protestors. Management recently terminated by Chavez of the state-owned oil company, Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA), and union officials organized the protest march.

According to Gregory Wilpert, an American sociologist living in Caracas, "Supposedly at the spur of the moment, the [anti-Chavez] organizers decided to re-route the march to Miraflores, the president's office building, so as to confront the pro-government demonstration, which was called in the last minute. About 5,000 Chavez supporters had gathered there by the time the anti-government demonstrators got there. In-between the two demonstrations were the city police, under the control of the oppositional mayor of Caracas, and the National Guard, under control of the president."

Now that relative calm has again returned to this nation of 24 million, some, including Wilpert, see a rather ambiguous immediate future. "There is an overall atmosphere of uncertainty here, which definitely makes Chavez appear weaker, since people seem to think that Chavez could still fall, either through another coup attempt or through some other, more constitutional means, though I don't really see any," Wilpert told **FTW** via e-mail. "There is a strong push from the opposition to have a referendum on Chavez's tenure, and given his razor-thin majority in the national assembly, it could pass. If it does and he loses, which is possible, there would certainly be another crisis, because I doubt Chavez would resign, and the referendum itself cannot force him out of office."

And as June Thomas of Slate online magazine pointed out, the first U.S.-backed coup against the Chilean regime of President Salvador Allende failed in June 1973. "Three months later, the plotters tried again," Thomas wrote. "That time they brought down the government and killed Allende."

MEDIA'S ROLE IN COUP QUESTIONED BY MANY JOURNALISTS

It is no secret most of the Venezuelan news media, primarily the country's privately owned television networks, was at odds with Chavez and his "Bolivarian Revolution," which focused the state's energy and resources towards alleviating the harsh impoverished conditions under which 80 percent of Venezuelans live.

This, however, angered Venezuela's entrenched financial oligarchy, which controls the media, thus prompting a smear campaign against Chavez, culminating with the April coup attempt.

Venezuela's news media -- as well as mainstream U.S. press outlets -- have been criticized for biased, anti-Chavez coverage during the coup. Many online journalists, however, such as Madsen, Roy S. Carson and Patrick O'Donoghue of VHeadline.com, and Al Giordano of the Narco News website (www.narconews.com) tirelessly reported what appeared to be significant U.S. complicity in Chavez's ouster.

Throughout this tumultuous past month in Venezuela, the disinformation flew steadily via the nation's TV, which most

foreign press agencies took as gospel reporting. A true disinfo highlight: The notion repeatedly echoed by mainstream American journalists was Chavez had resigned, though it would later be revealed this was not, in fact, the case. Coup plotters came up with that one while Chavez was in custody, promptly circulating the lie around the planet through the mainstream media.

The anti-Chavez mainstream mantra also contained other non-facts reported as the truth. Another key misnomer was Chavez ordered National Guard troops to fire on the crowd of protestors outside Miraflores. While he did enact Plan Avila, which is the government's state of emergency security plan for Caracas and calls for tanks and National Guard troops to defend government compounds, Chavez did not order anyone to shoot civilian demonstrators -- most of the dead were pro-Chavez.

And while Chavez did order a media blackout just prior to his arrest by rebellious generals, it was in response to the TV news' constant airing of footage that was edited to suggest Chavez supporters were the only ones firing on the crowd outside Miraflores.

"Chavez's biggest and perhaps only mistake of the day, which provided the last remaining proof his opposition needed for his anti-democratic credentials, was to order the black-out of the private television stations," wrote Wilpert. "They had been broadcasting the confrontations all afternoon, and Chavez argued that these broadcasts were exacerbating the situation and should, in the name of public safety, be temporarily shut-down."

Wilpert, who was on the ground at Miraflores when anti-Chavez and pro-Chavez factions clashed there, claimed most of the violent exchanges primarily involved rock throwing and tear gas. But, Wilpert wrote, "I got there just when the opposition demonstration and the National Guard began fighting each other. Who started the fight...is, as is so often the case in such situations, nearly impossible to tell. A little later, shots were fired into the crowds and I clearly saw that there were three parties involved in the shooting, the city police, Chavez supporters, and snipers from buildings above."

Giordano of Narco News refers to the strongest disinfo offenders of the American mainstream media as "the Four Horsemen of Simulation" -- Associated Press, Reuters, the New York Times, and CNN. He went on to write April 15, "The fledgling movement of Authentic Journalism -- above all online journalism -- broke the information blockade and refused to allow the simulation to continue."

"The Bolivarian Revolution of Venezuela's poor majority has won back more, so much more, than its own country. It has delivered Washington's policy of simulation against democracy its first major defeat, and the dominoes have only begun to fall," Giordano wrote.

In February, a federal judge in New York threw out a libel suit against Giordano's Web publication brought by a reported Mexican drug dealer and money launderer. This decision set a very important precedent for online journalists particularly. The court decision for the first time equates the Internet publishing medium as having the same press freedoms under the U.S. Constitution as print or broadcast news.

CHAVEZ vs. CIA, U.S. ECONOMY'S TIES TO DRUG MONEY

The Andean Initiative, formerly called Plan Colombia under President Clinton, is the U.S. military's multi-billion-dollar aid package to the Colombian government, which has been involved in a civil war for decades against the FARC.

Venezuela represents a major strategic stronghold in Washington's campaign against the FARC. The guerillas control the southern portion of Colombia, which borders Venezuela. Chavez has refused to allow U.S. planes to fly through Venezuelan air space to attack FARC-held territory and re-supply troops on the ground. Chavez also won't militarize the border with Colombia, preventing FARC soldiers from retreating to sanctuaries in Venezuelan territory, much like how the Viet Cong used Cambodia for sanctuary during the Vietnam War.

Colombia is one of the leading drug-producing regions on Earth, exporting most of the 500-plus tons of cocaine and some 60 percent of the heroin that end up on American streets each year. The FARC, who have admittedly used drug money and "taxes" from drug barons to finance their forces, are sitting on billions in unlaundered drug funds. The FARC's stake in the drug trade was significant enough for Richard Grasso, the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), to make a trip in June 1999 to the jungles of Colombia to seek out the FARC. Grasso hoped to convince the rebels to invest some of their drug capital on Wall Street.

Apparently, the infusion of drug money into the global financial system is an important priority for Grasso and his ilk, especially given the outlandish figures that have been thrown around by the U.S. government pertaining to money laundering and criminal cash flows. The U.S. Senate estimates that \$500 billion is washed annually through the U.S. stock market and banking system.

OIL

Venezuela is quite oil-rich, and 14 percent of U.S. consumption is of Venezuelan crude. Leading up to Chavez's ouster, Venezuela's petroleum industry was in crisis. Chavez got into a major tiff with the management of the state-owned oil company, PDVSA, when he appointed a board of directors friendly to his industry reforms. Management imposed a work slow-down at Venezuela's refineries and other oil facilities, which ballooned into a national strike, culminating in the fateful protest march on Miraflores.

In the week after returning to power, Chavez appointed a new board of directors. He "has insisted the new board will still have to implement government oil policy, which includes higher royalty rates for operating state-owned oil fields and strict compliance with production quotas imposed by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries," reported the Associated

Press.

Big American oil companies are not too pleased with Chavez's nationalistic values, especially when it pertains to Venezuela's oil industry and economy. The Guardian reported Jan. 30, "The Chavez Government is presently trying to change the 60-year-old agreement with foreign oil companies that charges them as little as one percent in royalties, plus hands out huge tax breaks. There is a lot at stake here.

"Venezuela has 77 billion barrels of proven reserves, and is the U.S.'s third largest source of oil. It is also a major cash cow for the likes of Phillips Petroleum and ExxonMobil," wrote the Guardian. Chevron Texaco and Occidental Petroleum are two other major oil companies with interests in Venezuela and Colombia.

In recent years, Occidental in particular has been heavily embroiled in Colombia's civil war. Ever since the firm discovered a Colombian oil field worth a billion barrels in 1983, the company and its employees have come under direct attack from the FARC and other anti-government guerilla factions.

Between the FARC in Colombia and the Chavez Administration, big oil's interests in South America seem to be on quite shaky ground. With the failed coup now a painful memory, it will be interesting to see if democracy in Venezuela can survive such a vehement, political and economic tug-of-war.

Kill the Messenger

Public Reaction to Rep. McKinney's Call for 9-11 Investigation Quashes Intended Media Massacre

by Michael Davidson, *FTW* Staff Writer

May 6, 2002, 12:00 PDT (FTW) -- It's not a good idea to go up against the powers that be with an idea that calls into question generally accepted wisdom. Galileo contradicted the Roman Catholic Church when he said the Earth revolved around the sun. He was put in jail, and it took a few hundred years for the church to exonerate him and admit he was correct.

Hopefully, a fate similar to Galileo's will not befall Cynthia McKinney.

McKinney is the representative from the 4th district of Georgia. The district includes Decatur, just outside Atlanta. McKinney is a Democrat, black, and, obviously, a woman. Three strikes in an area that has sent the likes of Newt Gingrich and Bob Barr to Congress.

On March 25 McKinney was interviewed by telephone on Flashpoints, an independent radio program produced and hosted by Dennis Bernstein and broadcast on Pacifica station KPFA in Berkeley, Calif. The congresswoman read a roughly 10-minute statement, then answered questions and chatted with Bernstein for another 16 or so minutes. A major portion of McKinney's statement concerned U.S. actions in Africa, and contained stinging attacks of the Clinton administration, particularly former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. She also discussed the high incarceration rate of blacks, their treatment by the police, and the actual mechanics of the massive voter fraud in Florida that benefited George W. Bush during the 2000 presidential election. Rep. McKinney also pointed out how the current administration has created a climate in which elected officials need to censor themselves lest their patriotism be questioned. Only a few sentences in the almost 30-minute segment were her comments about the need for an investigation into what the Bush Administration knew prior to the events of 9-11.

Two-and-a-half weeks later on April 12, an article appeared in the Washington Post about McKinney's appearance on Flashpoints. The article was written by Juliet Eilperin, a Post staff writer who said a colleague received the show's transcript in an anonymous e-mail, and passed it along to her. Eilperin's article was headlined, "Democrat Implies Sept. 11 Administration Plot."

What McKinney actually said was the American people deserve a full, complete and no-holds-barred investigation of the events involving 9-11, and what the Bush administration knew and when they knew it. Every single question McKinney raised was based on information readily available from mainstream media sources. Among the issues McKinney raised regarding 9-11 were:

- The warnings from several foreign governments to the highest levels of the U.S. government that were ignored;
- The huge profits made in sophisticated stock transactions involving several airlines, brokerages and insurance firms whose stock prices were affected dramatically by 9-11;
- The relationship between the oil company Unocal and the Taliban rulers of Afghanistan;
- The relationship between the administration and the Carlyle Group, an investment firm with major defense holdings for whom the president's father works;
- The requests by both the president and vice president that any congressional investigations into 9-11 not be particularly intense or lengthy;

- The huge profits persons close to the administration will make thanks to increased defense spending.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

Almost immediately after the Washington Post article, the administration, the mainstream media and its pundits shifted into overdrive, floored the pedal, and wound the smear engine right to the redline. Interestingly, no one has challenged the accuracy of a single word McKinney said. What has been said, in a variety of ways, is that her call for a complete investigation is an indication that McKinney is either "crazy" or "treacherous."

In the original Washington Post article, Bush spokesman Scott McLellan was quoted as saying "The American people know the facts, and they dismiss such ludicrous, baseless views." Carlyle Group spokesman Chris Ullman posed the question "Did she say these things while standing on a grassy knoll in Roswell, New Mexico?"

That same day, April 12, "Representative Awful" was posted on National Review Online by Jonah Goldberg, son of Lucianne Goldberg -- literary agent, Linda Tripp crony, and former Nixon dirty trickster. National Review was founded by William F. Buckley, whose family fortune was made in the oil business. Goldberg dismissed McKinney's suggestion for an investigation, saying "I am not aware of any evidence that Ms. McKinney has murdered several children or that she personally profited from sleeping with the entire defensive squad of the Atlanta Falcons." He then goes on to say that the congresswoman is suffering "paranoid, America-hating, crypto-Marxist conspiratorial delusions."

Anyone who remembers the Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings will remember Anita Hill was described as "a little bit nutty, a little bit slutty." Apparently, Goldberg has learned some big words to repeat the easy smear used against any black woman to the left of Condoleezza Rice. Keep in mind that in an Oct. 29 attack piece on McKinney Goldberg wrote, "Taking black politicians seriously pays them a compliment."

Next, McKinney's hometown newspaper took up the charge. An April 13 Atlanta Journal-Constitution (AJC) article by staff writer Melanie Eversley reported Democratic Georgia Sen. Zell Miller issued a "bristling" statement saying her on-air comments were "dangerous and irresponsible." Not being content to dismiss the legitimate, American ideas of dissent and question, Miller made a sarcastic comment about McKinney attempting to get kissed by President Bush. Bush's Press Secretary, Ari Fleischer, is quoted: "All I can tell you is the congresswoman must be running for the hall of fame of the Grassy Knoll Society." Interesting that the "grassy knoll" allusion was made twice by people connected to the administration, yet they will not dispute her facts.

The AJC article also quotes Emory University political scientist Merle Black: "It reinforces the view among serious people in her district that she's a very ineffective representative if this is how she chooses to spend her political capital." Apparently there are very few "serious" people Black will be able to "reinforce" with his totally "unscientific" opinion, as McKinney has won five elections in a row, with her lowest margin of victory being 58 percent.

Along with Eversley's article, AJC put up a poll on its website asking the question, "Are you satisfied the Bush administration had no advance warning of the Sept. 11 attacks?" A visitor could vote "Yes," "No, I think officials knew it was coming" or "I'm not sure. Congress should investigate."

BIG MISTAKE

Within hours, the "No, I think officials knew it was coming" vote led the "Yes" vote 51 percent to 47 percent, with two percent "Not sure." The ultra-conservative website FreeRepublic.com alerted its viewers and encouraged them to vote against McKinney, to no avail. The vote seesawed back and forth across the 50 percent mark, each side holding a slim lead at various points throughout the day. By mid-afternoon 23,145 people had voted. "Yes" (anti-McKinney) had 52 percent, "No" (pro-McKinney) had 46 percent, and "Not sure" had one percent. Forty-seven percent of voters do not believe the story the world has been told by the Bush Administration.

Then, the poll vanished. Gone. Disappeared. Not there. People signed on to vote, but there was no poll to vote at. The article was there, but the poll was gone. There was no explanation.

On April 21, AJC columnist Mike King explained what happened. "The responses broke down the tabulator we use to keep track of the votes." So can we assume, then, when Mr. King gets a flat tire he throws the entire car away and abandons his trip?

King goes on at great length to inform the reader that even if the poll had not been taken down due to "mechanical problems," the poll was meaningless anyway because "groups and people who believe there is evidence of a conspiracy in the attacks urged friends to vote on ajc.com to send Congress a message of the need to investigate." This undoubtedly occurred, as did urging from the other side which King makes no mention of. He also says that voters were not "scientifically" chosen to represent a broad cross-section of views and that "most online polls are really just opportunities to register an opinion." How registering an opinion differs from a vote will be left for Noah Webster to explain.

Another online poll has been running regarding McKinney's call for a thorough investigation. This one is at truthout.com, an online digest of articles being published in the mainstream media. While truthout readers are undoubtedly more open to McKinney's ideas than the general public, at press time, the poll shows 5,616 supporting the congresswoman versus 80 opposing her. Truthout also reports McKinney's call for a 9-11 investigation is supported by two additional members of the House -- Democrats Loretta Sanchez of California and Major Owens of New York.

Interestingly, while truthout is a non-profit organization entirely dependent on donations, it has had no problems keeping its poll functioning, while the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, a major for-profit entity, claims they could not.

WHERE ARE THE CLOWNS?

With the AJC poll having turned into a debacle, the forces arrayed against McKinney became desperate, and the smear became vicious. On April 16, the Southeastern Legal Foundation (SLF) released a report claiming 21 percent of McKinney's 1999-2000 campaign contributions of over \$101 came from Arab or Middle-Eastern-connected individuals and organizations. The report states among the organizations donating to McKinney's campaign are "the American-Muslim Council and the Council on American/Islamic Relations, both of which maintain ties or have expressed support for terrorist organizations."

Phil Kent, SLF president, is quoted in the report: "If we are to give any credence to her baseless claims, the American people deserve to know that McKinney's financial 'relationships' -- her campaign contributors -- are heavily represented by Arab and Middle Eastern-connected individuals, as well as organizations which have expressed sympathy for terrorist organizations." Here we have examples of how McKinney's call for an investigation morphs into "claims," and how an investigation into her is acceptable, while one into the Bush Administration is not. The SLF report flew around the Internet, and was posted on several conservative websites. It was generally headlined to the effect, "McKinney Supported by Terrorists."

SLF was founded in 1976 and has received major financial support from Richard Mellon Scaife, the billionaire reactionary who funded the 10-year effort to destroy President Bill Clinton. In 2000 the Democratic National Committee accused the SLF of sending a quarter-million deceptive pieces of mail designed to interfere with that year's census and result in inaccurate congressional representation. In issue after issue during its 26 years, SLF has consistently taken vehement anti-black, anti-environment, anti-worker, anti-gay, and anti-public education positions. They are currently preparing litigation to invalidate portions of the Bush-signed McCain-Feingold/Shays-Meehan campaign reform legislation. Some in the Atlanta area believe SLF's long-range goal is overturning the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

SLF describes itself as "an Atlanta-based public interest law firm which advocates limited government, individual economic freedom, and the free enterprise system in the courts of law and public opinion." SLF's website includes links to other reactionary groups including the Heritage Foundation, the Hudson Institute, Federalist Society, and the Conservative Caucus Foundation. Along with links to expected conservative media outlets such as WorldNetDaily, Drudge, and the Conservative News Service, SLF links itself to Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, C-SPAN, and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Matthew Glavin was SLF president and chief executive from 1994 to 2000, and devoted a tremendous amount of energy, and Scaife's money, trying to get Bill Clinton disbarred in Arkansas for his alleged perjury in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case. Glavin, however, was forced to abandon these efforts, and resign after he was arrested for fondling himself in public. According to an Oct. 4, 2000 report on CNSNEWS.com, an affiliate of the above-mentioned Conservative News Service, an undercover federal officer found Glavin masturbating near a parking lot in the Chattahoochee National River Park in Atlanta, an area said to be popular with homosexual cruisers. The arresting officer says that he, himself, was fondled lewdly when he spoke to Glavin on Oct. 13, 2000. The AJC reported Glavin had pled guilty and was sentenced to a year's probation.

On April 22 SLF sent a letter to House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt demanding McKinney be removed from her seats on both the House Armed Services and International Relations committees, citing the above-mentioned campaign donations from Middle Eastern contributors. That same day, an identical request using virtually identical language was made by the African-American Republican Leadership Council (AARLC). Like SLF, AARLC also requested an ethics investigation of McKinney. Additionally, AARLC has also asked the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Texas, to suspend McKinney from that group. This is a transparent ploy to intimidate and divide black members of Congress, lest their patriotism be questioned.

Also on April 22, an article was posted on the website of Human Events, the National Conservative Weekly. Written by David Freddoso, it's headlined "Feds Searched Offices of Seven McKinney Donors." Many Arab names are listed as well as several organizations, some of which have names with Arab or Islamic references. Going into excruciating detail, Freddoso lists names of individuals, organizations, dollar amounts, dates of search warrants, judges signing search warrants (interestingly, copies of search warrants were allegedly obtained by Human Events), and the connections between all these details. Then, Freddoso writes, "None of the McKinney contributors has been charged with any crime, a Customs spokesman said." Apparently, Freddoso finds not being charged with a crime to be news.

HYSTERICAL BLINDNESS

Britain's The Guardian reported March 25 on a recent FBI raid. The Republican Party was accepting sizeable donations to a political action committee called The Islamic Institute from an alleged terrorist support group, the Safa Trust. It seems that the Safa Trust had been sending money to both the Republican Party and to terrorist groups at the same time. This reported direct linkage between terrorist funding and the Republican Party was conveniently ignored, while McKinney was attacked with much weaker allegations. These backfired too.

SLF's report, AARLC's letter, and Freddoso's article all specifically discuss donations to McKinney from Abdurahman Alamoudi, founder and executive director of the American Muslim Council (AMC). According to an April 24 article at onlinejournal.com, AMC supported George W. Bush in the 2000 campaign and donated money to him. Bush also invited Alamoudi to the Sept. 14 prayer service for the 9-11 victims at the National Cathedral. Additionally, long-time Bush associate Grover Norquist has been doing business with Alamoudi, and is a registered lobbyist for the Islamic Institute. According to the Oct. 4 issue of the Boston Phoenix, Norquist's firm, Janus-Merritt Strategies LLC, has been paid over \$20,000 by Alamoudi.

Despite Alamoudi's Republican connections, his donation to McKinney is used as the "smoking gun" in the April 22 column

by nationally syndicated columnist Kathleen Parker. Parker has been one of the most prolific members of the "get McKinney" team, jumping into the smear campaign with all four paws. Parker wrote about McKinney's radio comments on April 17 and 22. She's very upset. In the April 17 column, Parker dreams of inaugurating "The McKinney Award -- for people too stupid to serve in public office." Further on, Parker, like everyone participating in the smear campaign, claims that McKinney said Bush knew of the impending 9-11 attacks, and accused the president of mass murder. She also picks up Jonah Goldberg's pathetic attempt at sarcasm, writing "A complete investigation also might prove that McKinney has been dropping acid and living with cross-dressing dental hygienists under the Brooklyn Bridge." What is it about outspoken black women that makes right-wing nut jobs attribute unusual sexual behavior to them?

In her April 22 column, Parker reiterates her lie as to what McKinney actually said. She goes on: "She's black, which means people give her a pass lest they be perceived racist." Parker quotes an unnamed "e-mailer" who quotes a friend in Ramallah: "If you see 'Cynth,' kindly tell her that Arab TV networks appreciate her comments for they now have the needed 'proof' that their paranoia is rational." Parker closes: "None of which is to suggest that Cynthia McKinney is a terrorist, or a terrorist sympathizer, or even a socialist rabble-rouser who despises her own country. On the other hand, using McKinney's own talent for inferential dot-connecting, she just might be."

Despite finding nice ways to call McKinney a terrorist and traitor, Parker strenuously defends her independence and complete lack of bias. In her April 24 column, which is about so-called "conspiracy theories," Parker wrote, "I'm told, for instance, that I'm paid by the right-wing propaganda machine, given my support of most Bush policies in the wake of 9-11 and my rejection of current conspiracy theories. 'You're being paid to lie to the American people,' wrote one of my new friends. Here's the truth: I know of no reporter, editor or columnist in the Western hemisphere who wouldn't sell his mother's honeymoon pictures for a good story, no matter whose life gets ruined. No one, especially a president, is off limits when truth is at stake, not to mention Pulitzers." Perhaps Parker found a new dedication to Truth after writing two consecutive columns filled with lies, innuendo and character assassination.

The story about McKinney's comments on the Flashpoints radio show traveled around the media for about 12 days, then just petered out. Several newspapers ran editorials condemning her, including the AJC and the New York Post. Comments and asides were made about her on CNN, MSNBC, and Fox News. Generally, she was described as crazy, pro-Iraqi, a conspiracy theorist, irresponsible or dangerous, but it didn't seem to work. The public wasn't responding with the sense of outrage the media is used to being able to create.

On April 17 ABCNews.com ran a piece by Dean Schabner headed, "What Consensus? Conspiracy Theorist Immune to the Widespread Support For War on Terror." First line: "When the government said evidence pointed to Islamic fundamentalist terrorists, other voices wondered why investigators weren't looking in other directions." The article, about three pages, lays out many of the beliefs that, apparently, a lot of people have, and discusses them in a calm, measured manner. While Schabner does eventually get around to dismissing everything but the official story as "conspiracy theories," his words and the words of the "experts" he quotes don't have the wild-eyed hatred and anger that the stories about McKinney generally do. Schabner comes close to giving the "non-believers" a degree of respect.

TRUE GRIT

The acceptability of alternate explanations for 9-11 may be growing for a very simple reason. According to a poll taken in late-April by Scott Rasmussen Public Opinion Research, 36 percent of Americans believe Al Gore won the 2000 presidential election. Over a third of America's citizens believe the man occupying the White House to be a fraud! With such a large portion of the country believing George W. Bush is not really the president, it's not hard to understand why almost half of the voters in the AJC poll indicated they do not believe the Bush Administration's story about 9-11, and support McKinney's call for a full investigation.

Whenever Bush allies try to impose new police-state tactics on Americans, such as warrantless searches, random drug tests, racial profiling, or stop-and-frisk laws, they always say, "If you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to worry about. It's just a minor inconvenience for the public good." If the Bush Administration keeps repeating that mantra, then they should have no trouble supporting McKinney's call for a full and complete investigation into 9-11.

Michael Ruppert's Lecture/TV Schedule

April 12 & 13 -- Portland, Ore.: Spoke at First Congregational Church; over 1,000 in attendance.

April 14 -- Eugene, Ore.: Spoke at the Eugene Hilton Conference Room. Capacity crowd of 350.

April 27 -- Long Island, N.Y.: Private speaking engagement. Sold out.

May 25 & 26 -- Sydney, Australia: Speaking at the Rex Hotel.

June 1 -- Sacramento, Calif.: Speaking at the Antioch Progressive Church.

June 2 -- Chico, Calif.: Speaking at the Senator Theatre.

June 6 -- Calgary, Canada: Speaking at the Science Theater

June 8 -- Edmonton, Canada: Speaking at the SICES School.

June 11 -- Vancouver, Canada: Speaking at the Raya Cinema.

Check our website for details.

(continued from page 2, The Case For Bush Administration Advance Knowledge of 9-11 Attacks)

targets, and perpetrators of the attacks. It will not include warnings issued to the USG that could be considered vague or non-specific. The latter includes documented warnings sent by the governments of Egypt and Israel. However, in light of the specific warnings, these additional warnings add greater weight to the argument that the Administration was in possession of sufficient information to have prevented the attacks.

As reported in the respected German daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ) on Sept. 14, the German intelligence service, the BND, warned both the CIA and Israel that Middle Eastern terrorists were “planning to hijack commercial aircraft to use as weapons to attack important symbols of American and Israeli culture.” The story specifically referred to an electronic eavesdropping system known as Echelon, wherein a number of countries tap cell phone and electronic communications in partner countries and then pool the information. The BND warnings were also passed to the United Kingdom.

No known denial by the BND of the accuracy of this story exists, and the FAZ story indicates that the information was received directly from BND sources.

According to a Sept. 14 report in the Internet newswire online.ie (<http://www.online.ie/news/viewer.adp?article=1512332>), German police, monitoring the phone calls of a jailed Iranian man, learned the man was telephoning USG intelligence agencies last summer to warn of an imminent attack on the World Trade Center (WTC) in the week of Sept. 9. German officials confirmed the calls to the USG for the story but refused to discuss additional details.

In August 2000 French intelligence sources confirmed a man recently arrested in Boston by the FBI was an Islamic militant and a key member of Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda network. The FBI knew the man had been taking flying lessons at the time of his arrest and was in possession of technical information on Boeing aircraft and flight manuals, as reported by Reuters on Sept. 13.

According to a story in Izvestia on Sept. 12, Russian intelligence warned the USG that as many as 25 suicide pilots were training for missions involving the crashing of airliners into important targets.

In an MSNBC interview on Sept. 15, Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that he had ordered Russian intelligence to warn the USG “in the strongest possible terms” of imminent assaults on airports and government buildings before the attacks on Sept. 11.

As reported by CNN's Daniel Seberg on Sept. 28, Newsbytes' Brian McWilliams on Sept. 27 and the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz, Odigo, the Israeli instant messaging company located in Herzliyya, Israel, received telephone calls stating that attacks on the WTC were imminent. The calls came less than two hours before the first plane hit the WTC. This information was immediately forwarded to Israeli and U.S. intelligence.

Conclusion: From just these six press stories, then, the USG had received credible advance warnings, some from heads of state, that commercial aircraft would be hijacked by as many as 25 suicide pilots at airports, with Boston a strong candidate, during the week of Sept. 9. The call to Odigo would have signaled the exact day.

No known preventive measures were taken.

INSIDER TRADING

The documented pre-Sept. 11 insider trading that occurred before the attacks involved only companies hit hard by the attacks. They include United Airlines, American Airlines, Morgan Stanley, Merrill-Lynch, Axa Reinsurance, Marsh & McLennan, Munich Reinsurance, Swiss Reinsurance, and Citigroup.

In order to argue that the massive and well-documented insider trading that occurred in at least seven countries immediately before the attacks of Sept. 11 did not serve as a warning to intelligence agencies, then it is necessary to argue that no one was aware of the trades as they were occurring, and that intelligence and law enforcement agencies of most industrialized nations do not monitor stock trades in real time to warn of impending attacks. Both assertions are false. Both assertions would also ignore the fact that the current executive vice president of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) for enforcement is David Doherty, a retired CIA general counsel. And also ignored is the fact that the trading in United Airlines stock -- one of the most glaring clues -- was placed through the firm Deutschebank/Alex Brown, which was headed until 1998 by the man who is now the executive director of the CIA, A.B. “Buzzy” Krongard.

One wonders if it was a coincidence then, that Mayo Shattuck III, the head of the Alex Brown unit of Deutschebank -- which had its offices in the WTC -- suddenly resigned from a \$30 million, three-year contract on Sept. 12, as reported by the New York Times and other papers.

The American exchanges that handle these trades, primarily the Chicago Board of Options Exchange (CBOE) and the NYSE, know on a daily basis what levels of put options are purchased. “Put options” are highly leveraged bets, tying up blocks of stock, that a given stock's share price will fall dramatically. To quote 60 Minutes from Sept. 19, “Sources tell CBS News that the afternoon *before* the attack, alarm bells were sounding over unusual trading in the U.S. stock options market.”

It is hard to believe that they missed:

- A jump in UAL put options 90 times (not 90 percent) above normal between Sept. 6 and Sept. 10, and 285 times higher than average on the Thursday before the attack [CBS News, Sept. 26]
- A jump in American Airlines put options 60 times (not 60 percent) above normal on the day before the attacks. [CBS News, Sept. 26]
- No similar trading occurred on any other airlines. [Bloomberg Business Report, the Institute for Counterterrorism (ICT),

Herzliyya, Israel citing data from the CBOE]

- Morgan Stanley saw, between Sept. 7 and Sept. 10, an increase of 27 times (not 27 percent) in the purchase of put options on its shares. [ICT Report, "Mechanics of Possible Bin-Laden Insider Trading Scam", Sept. 21, citing data from the CBOE].

- Merrill-Lynch saw a jump of more than 12 times the normal level of put options in the four trading days before the attacks. [Ibid]

These trades were certainly noticed *after* the attacks.

"This could very well be insider trading at the worst, most horrific, most evil use you've ever seen in your entire life... This would be one of the most extraordinary coincidences in the history of mankind if it was a coincidence," said Dylan Ratigan of Bloomberg Business News, interviewed on Good Morning Texas on Sept. 20.

"I saw put-call numbers higher than I've ever seen in 10 years of following the markets, particularly the options markets," said John Kinnucan, principal of Broadband Research, as quoted in the San Francisco Chronicle," reported the Montreal Gazette on Sept. 19. The paper also wrote, "Agence France Presse, on Sept. 22, reported, 'And Germany's Bundesbank chief, Ernst Weltke, said on the sidelines of the meeting that a report of the investigation showed "bizarre" fiscal transactions prior to the attacks that could not have been chalked up to coincidence.

"Weltke said the transactions, 'could not have been planned and carried out without a certain knowledge,' particularly heavy trading in oil and gold futures."

ABC World News reported on Sept. 20, "Jonathan Winer, an ABC News consultant said, 'it's absolutely unprecedented to see cases of insider trading covering the entire world from Japan, to the U.S., to North America, to Europe."

How much money was involved? Andreas von Bulow, a former member of the German Parliament responsible for oversight of Germany's intelligence services estimated the worldwide amount at \$15 billion, according to Tagesspiegel on Jan. 13. Other experts have estimated the amount at \$12 billion. CBS News gave a conservative estimate of \$100 million.

Not a single U.S. or foreign investigative agency has announced any arrests or developments in the investigation of these trades, the most telling evidence of foreknowledge of the attacks. This, in spite of the fact that former Security and Exchange Commission enforcement chief William McLucas told Bloomberg News that regulators would "certainly be able to track down every trade."

What is striking is that a National Public Radio report on Oct. 16 reported Britain's Financial Services Authority had cleared bin Laden and his henchmen of insider trading. If not bin Laden, then who else had advance knowledge? Who else had certainty that the attacks would succeed to give them confidence to make millions of dollars in stock purchases?

It has been standard and established USG policy to be alert and responsive to anything even remotely resembling an attack on U.S. companies and/or the economy. The word "remote" does not apply here. The possible claim by the Bush Administration that, 'Gee, we just happened to miss this,' becomes even more implausible when considering the lengths intelligence agencies go to in order to track stock trades.

Note that the Israeli Institute for Counter-Terrorism was the first entity to release a detailed report on the insider trading. That alone is prima facie evidence of a direct relationship between the financial markets and terrorist investigations.

CIA AND THE MARKETS

We can thank Fox News on Oct. 16 for breaking post 9-11 stories disclosing the use of sophisticated PROMIS software by the FBI and the Justice Department. A multitude of court records and investigative reports have established not only the reality, but the versatility of a program initially designed to incorporate data from a variety of data bases in different languages into one readable format. PROMIS has since been refined to include artificial intelligence and "back doors" inserted by intelligence agencies to allow for surreptitious retrieval and/or removal and alteration of data.

The Fox stories clearly confirmed, especially when added to stories from last summer by the Washington Times which were based on interviews with Justice Department officials, that PROMIS was used to monitor banking and financial transactions in a virtual real-time environment.

This writer has written extensively on the software. More information can be found on the Web site at <http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/index.html>.

However, one point is critical to this report. In fall 2000 I was visited in Los Angeles by two members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) national security staff. They were conducting a major investigation inside the U.S. to determine whether or not the RCMP's version of the software had been compromised. During discussions with the Mounties, I confirmed several times that the software was used to monitor stock trades in real time. A subsequent investigation led me to contact several people in Canada who had been interviewed in the same investigation. They were stockbrokers.

In a taped panel discussion, which aired March 14 on Canada's Vision-TV, I faced a panel of three Canadian experts on the issue of U.S. foreknowledge of, and possible complicity in, the 9-11 attacks. Among them was Ron Atkey, former Canadian solicitor-general and the former parliamentary head of the committee charged with oversight of Canada's military and intelligence operations. Over the course of the program I made specific statements, relying not only on the RCMP interactions but also on previous investigations, in which it was documented that intelligence services track stock trades in real time. On camera, I produced the business cards of the two RCMP agents. Atkey, who had not hesitated to challenge me on other points during the show, went silent.

INTELLIGENCE SUCCESSES

Four basic intelligence successes need to be acknowledged here. These admitted successes, while not addressing any other still secret penetrations of the Al Qaeda network, further diminish any Bush Administration assertion that it did not know of the attacks.

On Feb. 13 United Press International terrorism correspondent Richard Sale, while covering a Manhattan trial of one of Osama bin Laden's followers, reported that the National Security Agency had broken bin Laden's encrypted communications. Even if that prompted an immediate change in bin Laden's methods of communication, just six months before the attacks, the administration has consistently maintained -- and military and covert experience dictates -- that the attacks were planned for at least several years.

The FAZ story indicates that the secret eavesdropping program Echelon had been successful in securing details of the pending attacks. Echelon employs highly sophisticated computer programs capable of both voice and word recognition to filter billions of telephone conversations and locate specific targets. Assuming, as some sources indicate, Al Qaeda stopped using encrypted communications after it was known that their system was compromised, why was the NSA not able to pick up any cell phone calls or e-mails? Mohammed Atta and other alleged hijackers were known to have used cell phones. The FAZ story establishes that as late as June, Al Qaeda operatives were being tracked in this manner.

In the trial of a former Deutschebank executive Kevin Ingram, who pled guilty to laundering drug money to finance terrorist operations linked to Al Qaeda just two weeks before the 9-11 attacks, indications surfaced that the Justice Department had penetrated the terrorists' financial networks. A Nov. 16 Associated Press story by Catherine Wilson stated, "Numerous promised wire transfers never arrived, but there were discussions of foreign bankers taking payoffs to move the money to purchase weapons into the United States, said prosecutor Rolando Garcia."

Two questions are begged but unanswered. How were the wire transfers blocked and how was the Justice Department able to monitor the money flows without alerting either the bankers or the suspects?

Finally, as reported by the German paper Die Welt on Dec. 6 and by Agence France Presse on Dec. 7, Western intelligence services, including the CIA, learned after arrests in the Philippines, that Al Qaeda operatives had planned to crash commercial airliners into the WTC. Details of the plan, as reported by a number of American press outlets, were found on a computer seized during the arrests. The plan was called "operation Bojinka."

Details of the plot were disclosed publicly in 1997 in the New York trial of Ramsi Youssef for his involvement in the 1993 WTC bombing.

DELMART "MIKE" VREELAND

"I believe that, from the information I have seen, Mike Vreeland tried to pass information to the Canadian government that should have been passed to the U.S. government. That information had to do with the attacks of Sept. 11. Whatever other attempts were made by Vreeland and his attorneys to alert U.S. and Canadian officials of the attacks, it is clear that he did pass information about the pending attacks to his guards in August. I am willing to go to the Secretary of the Navy to determine whether or not he was actually a Navy officer."

"I know that there have been other U.S. citizens with a similar background used on missions similar to what has been alleged by Vreeland. This man fits a pattern. I would like for the Secret Service to put him on a polygraph." -- Mike Osborne, a veteran former CIA case officer with 26 years of experience in counter-terrorism.

With a court record now estimated to approach 10,000 pages, the case of Delmart "Mike" Vreeland is starting to attract worldwide attention. Vreeland, with a growing amount of evidence admitted into court record in Toronto, Canada, claims to be a former U.S. Naval lieutenant assigned to the Office of Naval Intelligence. He was jailed in Canada -- at the request of U.S. authorities -- in December 2000 after returning from Moscow.

Although Canadian authorities initially alleged vague fraud charges against him and also held him on an extradition warrant alleging credit card fraud in Michigan, the actual motive for his arrest now seems to be something quite different. All Canadian charges against Vreeland were dropped this March and he has been granted political refugee status in Canada until the extradition issues are resolved.

Vreeland's position is that he returned from Russia to meet with a Canadian and a Russian intelligence operative, and had intended to hand over a sealed pouch containing intelligence documents. When the handoff was compromised and the Canadian did not show for the Toronto meet, Vreeland opened the pouch and looked at some of the documents. Those documents, which he later had translated, gave specific warnings of the pending WTC attacks that were to take place nine months later. Again, on its face, since these documents were in a sealed intelligence pouch, this indicates that intelligence operatives were aware of the contents because they had placed them there originally.

According to both Vreeland and his lawyers, as reported in numerous interviews with this writer and other members of the **FTW** staff, immediately after his arrest Vreeland began making urgent attempts to alert both Canadian and U.S. intelligence officials of the coming danger.

After eight months of unsuccessful attempts to have either Canadian or U.S. intelligence services debrief him, Vreeland wrote a desperate, last-ditch warning in August. Through means he will not disclose, he acquired two high-tech Pilot water-based pens with light blue ink and used them to write the letter. The only pens permitted by Canadian jail authorities were oil-based, dark blue Bic pens.

Immediately after writing the letter, Vreeland notified his jailers that he had pens which might be considered contraband. A Sept. 17 letter from the Ministry of Correctional Services was entered as Exhibit "M" into court records on Oct. 7, along with Vreeland's warning letter which had been opened on Sept. 14 and entered as Exhibit "N." The letter states, "On August 13, 2001 inmate Vreeland's corridor #2 was searched and as far as we know 2 blue ink pens were removed from his cell because they were considered contraband. There is no written record of them being placed in his personal property. He did submit a request to have them returned to him on August 14, 2001, but was denied."

Since the ink on the warning letter, if tested, will match the ink in the confiscated pens, there can be no doubt that the letter was written a month before the attacks.

In an interview with this writer published on April 4, Vreeland clearly stated his belief that Al Qaeda operations had been completely penetrated by U.S. intelligence services. That belief is supported by a statement in his warning letter.

The statement, following a list of potential targets that included the WTC, the Pentagon and the White House said, "Let one happen, stop the rest." Such a statement could only imply complete penetration or compromise of the terrorist cells perpetrating the attacks.

Compelling evidence continues to grow that Vreeland was, in fact, a U.S. Navy officer. On Jan. 10 from open court with a court reporter recording the conversation, his attorneys placed a speaker-phone call to the Pentagon. A Pentagon operator, after checking a back-up military database, confirmed Vreeland was a U.S. Navy officer and provided an office listing and a telephone number for his office. The primary database had been disabled, according to Vreeland, on 9-11. In addition, redacted and incomplete military records provided by the Pentagon to the Canadian courts indicate Vreeland had a service record of more than 1,200 pages.

This is difficult to reconcile with the U.S. Navy's assertion that Vreeland was discharged as a seaman recruit after four months of unsatisfactory service in 1986.

No press entity has covered the Vreeland case more than **FTW**. This writer has traveled twice to Toronto, sat in on court proceedings, and retained the services of a Canadian correspondent to cover the case. I have interviewed Vreeland personally and conducted numerous interviews with his attorneys. Greta Knutzen, **FTW's** Canadian correspondent, has also interviewed Vreeland and his attorneys, as well as Vreeland's mother. Knutzen has attended every court proceeding since January. All of our previous reporting on the case can be located on the Internet at www.copvcia.com.

Mike Vreeland believes that if he is successfully extradited to the U.S., he will be assassinated. Previous press stories concerning Vreeland's criminal past and a criminal arrest record fail to account for the fact that, as an undercover operative who targeted organized crime and terrorist organizations, a criminal record would have been necessary to give him credibility with organizations that have previously demonstrated capabilities to retrieve law enforcement records. They also fail to account for an Oct. 2, 1986 Los Angeles Times story that lists Vreeland as a non-criminal witness to a major cocaine bust carried out by LAPD investigators known to have contacts with USG intelligence services.

There is much about Vreeland's past that is objectionable, questionable, or both. But even in a worst-case scenario, nothing in his past explains how he was able to write a detailed warning of the attacks before they occurred, and why the intelligence services of both Canada and the U.S. ignored attempts to warn them while both Vreeland and his attorneys were banging down their doors.

CONCLUSION

There is clear and substantial evidence to suggest that the Bush Administration had sufficient foreknowledge of the attacks of Sept. 11 to have prevented them. Rather than viewing each of the four listed areas as a separate piece of evidence, they should be considered as a body, in the exact same way exhibits presented to a jury in a criminal trial are viewed as a body. By viewing the evidence in this manner, an unavoidable conclusion is reached -- the USG knew 25 suicide hijackers during the week of Sept. 9 were going to use United and American airlines commercial planes, some of them likely originating in Boston, to attack the WTC and the Pentagon. A multitude of press stories and intelligence reports indicate the WTC would have been the primary target.

Given the financial commitments made during insider trading activity that occurred immediately before the attacks involving businesses that were directly damaged by the attacks, the threats had clearly moved from the realm of speculation to reality. Why else would mysterious investors have risked millions of dollars to purchase the put options? There is compelling evidence to suggest these trades were noted by the CIA and other USG entities.

Recently, Rep. Cynthia McKinney, D-Ga., has been widely criticized in the mainstream press for raising the need for a Congressional investigation to answer some of these obvious questions. This, in spite of the fact that popular reaction indicates a different sentiment. An opinion poll, conducted by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution just a day after McKinney's remarks received wide public attention in a Washington Post story dated April 12, was pulled after poll numbers showed that 51 percent of the respondents agreed with McKinney.

The people seem to recognize and agree with the opinion of former CIA officer Mike Osborne who says, "I think that the U.S. government needs to get behind McKinney's questions because her agenda is truth and justice, and nothing else."

[Ed. Note: Special Thanks: To Kyle HENCE for meticulous research on insider trading coverage in the major media and to Tom Flocco for diligent work on the Kevin Ingram case.]

CIA Admits Foreknowledge of 9-11

by Larry Chin

(Reprinted with permission. Larry Chin, an outstanding investigator/analyst is a Contributing Editor to the Online Journal at www.onlinejournal.com)

On April 11, 2002 CIA Deputy Director James Pavitt delivered an address to the Duke University Law School Conference. This speech was covered by AgenceFrance-Presse (AFP) on Sunday April 28, 10:59 AM in an article titled "Top CIA official warns next terror attack unavoidable" <http://sg.news.yahoo.com/020428/1/2onzj.html>. The CIA has released the transcript of Pavitt's speech, which is posted at the CIA web site. http://www.cia.gov/cia/public_affairs/speeches/pavitt_04262002.html

The following are excerpts taken directly from Pavitt's address.

In this speech, Pavitt states clearly that the CIA had foreknowledge of the Sept. 11 attacks. My emphasis and notes are underlined and in bold, followed by the initials "LC."

Jim Pavitt, CIA Deputy Director for Operations Excerpts from Address to Duke University Law School Conference April 11, 2002

"We had very, very good intelligence of the general structure and strategies of the Al Qaeda terrorist organization. We knew and we warned that Al Qaeda was planning a major strike. There need be no question about that." [my emphasis--LC]

[After seven months of CIA, the Bush Administration and the mainstream corporate media aggressively pushing the idea of an "intelligence failure" and that the CIA was "caught unaware" by the Sept. 11 attacks, the deputy director of the CIA is clearly admitting foreknowledge.--LC]

"What didn't we know? We never found the tactical intelligence, never uncovered the specifics that could have stopped those tragic strikes that we all remember so well."

[This is flatly contradicted by what Pavitt states in another part of this address, which is detailed below. It is also contradicted by credible and extensive reports of successful pre-9-11 penetration of the bin Laden operation by the U.S. intelligence community, including CIA and National Security Agency, and the significant technical expertise possessed by the US government, including Echelon and Promis software. It is also contradicted by the fact that intelligence agencies throughout the world had specific information on the attacks, and that these agencies issued specific warnings. Certain segments of Wall Street and US financial community knew of the pending attacks. An extensive accounting of these reports can be accessed at From The Wilderness publications (www.copvcia.com) and at: http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/042202_bushknows.html --LC]

"And as a reality of that difficult and often frustrating fight against terror, the terror cells that we're going up against are typically small and all terrorist personnel in those cells, participating in those cells, perpetrating the acts of terror, all those personnel were carefully screened. The number of personnel who know vital information, targets, timing, the exact methods to be used had to be smaller still."

"Against that degree of control, that kind of compartmentation, that depth of discipline and fanaticism, I personally doubt, and I draw again upon my 30 years of experience in this business, that anything short of one of the knowledgeable inner circle personnel or hijackers turning himself in to us would have given us sufficient foreknowledge to have prevented the horrendous slaughter that took place on the 11th."

[Pavitt is inflating the operational capabilities and fanaticism of Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda, which to a large degree are creations of CIA, while deflecting focus on the extensive penetration and capabilities of CIA and its terrorist surrogates (Pakistani ISI, etc.).--LC]

"Some of you out there may have heard bin Laden himself speak about this on that shocking videotape that we recovered in Afghanistan. On that tape when he was speaking to friends as he sat around in a little room, he talks about the fact that some of the hijackers, indeed, some of the most senior members of his inner circle had been kept in the dark about the full extent of that destruction operation that took place in New York and in Washington on the 11th of September."

[The authenticity and relevance of the "notorious smoking bin Laden video" has not been confirmed. In fact, questions abound.

http://www.onlinejournal.com/12-18-01_Chin-printable.pdf--LC]

"While we did not stop the awful carnage that day our years of preparation and our experience allowed us to respond to the challenges of war quickly and effectively. From the moment the second tower was hit in New York, CIA began to shift resources to both collection and analysis. We knew from the start that our key contribution would come not in now numbers but in expertise."

"Teams of my paramilitary operations officers trained not just to observe conditions but if need be to change them,"

were among the first on the ground in Afghanistan. With a small logistical footprint they came with lightning speed. We were on the ground within days of that terrible attack.

"They came with knowledge of local languages, whatever you heard to the contrary notwithstanding, terrain, and politics.

"None of this came easy. You cannot learn Pashtun overnight, and you can't truly understand the complexities of tribalism, regionalism, and personalism in Afghanistan by reading the newspaper or a learned book. My people learned about this by years of study and years of practice often in difficult, hostile places and yes indeed, on the ground in Afghanistan itself.

"If you hear somebody say, and I have, the CIA abandoned Afghanistan after the Soviets left and that we never paid any attention to that place until September 11th, I would implore you to ask those people how we were able to accomplish all we did since the Soviets departed. How we knew who to approach on the ground, which operations, which warlord to support, what information to collect. Quite simply, we were there well before the 11th of September."
[my emphasis--LC]

[Pavitt is stating clearly that that, contrary to arguments by some current and former CIA operatives such as Reuel Marc Gerecht and Robert Baer (who have published articles and books about the CIA's lack of human intelligence in the Middle East and Central Asia), that CIA had never left Afghanistan in the wake in the 1989 Soviet withdrawal from the country.

Pavitt is in fact lauding CIA capability, penetration and presence. He also confirms here that existing CIA penetration in the region was vital to the speed and success of Operation Enduring Freedom, an operation of a magnitude that requires months -- not weeks -- of planning. Contrary to Pavitt's assertion that CIA "responded within days" to the 9-11 attacks with "lighting speed", it is impossible to build an intelligence network of such scope in a short period of time. Bottom line: CIA was already there, and has been for decades.--LC]

"In a run-up to the millennium celebrations the CIA warned the president of the United States of serious terrorism conspiracies around the world. We predicted, we told the president, that there would be between five and 15 serious attacks against on U.S. soil. But we did much much more than warn. With our allies and our partners around the world we launched immense efforts to counter those threats. Hundreds of terrorists were arrested, multiple cells of terrorism were destroyed. One terrorist cell planned to blow up a hotel, buses and holy cites in both Israel and Jordan. It had also planned to use chemical weapons.

We knew then just as we know now that Al Qaeda and those who would continue its mission of murder were nothing if they're not resilient. Remember, the World Trade Center was attacked once before."

[Particularly in light of the years of information gathered in the investigations of the prior World Trade Center bombings by FBI and CIA, claims of a dearth of sufficient intelligence are implausible.--LC]

"Because the networks of terror are fluid and dynamic, because they learn from their past and from ours -- from our past, from our action -- I'm not at liberty tonight to describe to you every thing we've done against them. You would not want me to do that.

"Today, the year 2002, I have more spies stealing more secrets than at any time in the history of the CIA." [my emphasis--LC]

[Which means what was already powerful is now super powerful, and nightmarishly so. In with all due respect, Mr. Pavitt, we do want you to come clean with the citizens you work for.--LC]

"Now for the hard truth. Despite the best efforts of so much of the world, the next terrorist attack—it's not a question of if, it's a question of when. With so many possible targets and an enemy more than willing to die, the perfect defense isn't possible." [my emphasis--LC]

[Without providing any specifics, Pavitt is announcing that new "terrorist attacks" are "unavoidable" and even "impossible" even before they have occurred---as in "CIA can't and/or won't do anything about whatever happens". Why is he issuing this vague and very public warning?--LC.]

"If I knew any society that would mount such a perfect defense devoid as it would be of the liberties that makes us great, is not worth defending." [my emphasis--LC]

[Pavitt is suggesting that mounting foolproof countermeasures against terrorism would require sacrificing civil liberties and, as a result, would produce a system that, in his view, "is not worth defending." This statement is disingenuous. It is an inarguable fact that civil liberties, and the Bill of Rights, have already been gutted post-9-11. America is already a virtual police state. Pavitt knows this. In order to get "foolproof" protection, Americans should and will relinquish what little is left of their civil liberties and accept a full dictatorship. In the wake of another major "terrorist atrocity", Americans would be frightened enough to do so.--LC]

"After the deep, debilitating cuts of the 1990s [my emphasis--LC], when any thought that the end of the Cold War would bring us a safer, more predictable world, one in which intelligence was not important, a world in which intelligence officers were no longer as necessary, we now continue to rebuild, back to essential strength where we can continue to do what you and others ask me to do. In the Directorate of Operations alone, since just five or six years ago, we are training more than 10 times as many operations officers." [my emphasis--LC]

[The CIA budget, which has been estimated at approximately \$35 billion, has been increased post 9-11. That is not counting untold amounts funneled through budgets of other government agencies.--LC]

Snider Quits

9-11 Investigation Delay Is Certain

Resignation of Staff Director for 9-11 Joint Congressional Committee Leaves Questions Unanswered Interim Replacement Has Ties to CIA Drug Ops

by Michael C. Ruppert

May 6, 2002, 12:00 PDT (FTW) -- Britt Snider, the retired CIA inspector general who had been chosen to head the Joint Senate-House Committee investigation into the attacks of 9-11, resigned suddenly on April 30. Various press reports offer mixed and vague explanations for the resignation that is certain to delay any investigation into the attacks of Sept. 11. The Associated Press reported Snider's resignation was triggered by a personnel decision that had angered the ranking member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Arkansas Republican Richard Shelby. The New York Times said Snider had resigned under pressure. In a lengthier story, the Los Angeles Times reported some on the panel feared Snider, who retired as CIA IG last year, would go soft on his old friend, Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet and possibly protect colleagues at the CIA.

Snider is no stranger to controversy. In July 1998, after being appointed by President Clinton, he assumed the CIA IG post. In that capacity he supervised the Oct. 8, 1998 release of an explosive report prepared by his predecessor, Frederick Hitz, who now holds the Goldman Sachs intelligence chair at Princeton. That report, [Volume II of the IG's investigation into "Allegations of Connections Between CIA and the Contras in Cocaine Trafficking To The United States" (96-0143-IG)], which examined CIA's connection to drug trafficking during the Contra war of the 1980s, is perhaps the single most incriminating document ever released by the CIA. Wrapped inside innocuous cover letters and executive summaries, its pages contain hundreds of admissions of criminal acts by the Agency in protecting and facilitating drug trafficking operations. The report also describes how CIA personnel regularly lied to Congress and briefed then-Vice President George Bush on ways to misdirect congressional investigations.

Until a replacement is named, Snider's deputy, Rick Cinquegrana, will serve as head of the investigative staff which now numbers about 30. Cinquegrana is not much of an improvement. Volume II reports that Cinquegrana, while serving as the Justice Department's deputy counsel for intelligence policy, was the point-man in 1981 negotiations for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between then-Attorney General William French-Smith and CIA director William Casey, which told the CIA it no longer had to report drug trafficking by any employees who were not officers in the Agency. This writer has used the letter of transmittal for the MOU in lectures around the country to demonstrate criminal complicity on the part of the Agency in the drug trade. It contains the sentence, "In light of these provisions, and in view of the fine cooperation the Drug Enforcement Administration has received from CIA, no formal requirement regarding the reporting of narcotics violation has been included in these procedures."

Volume II, which has never been fully or publicly examined by Congress, was made public on the CIA's web site just one hour after Henry Hyde's House Judiciary Committee began the impeachment of Bill Clinton.

As the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) closed down their secret, closed-door investigations into CIA drug trafficking in May 2000, several mysterious deaths followed. First the staff director, John Millis, was the victim of an alleged suicide in June. Then in November, Charles Ruff, Bill Clinton's point man on the impeachment and reported liaison on the drug investigation, accidentally died in his shower. Julian Dixon, the African-American ranking member of HPSCI died of a sudden heart attack just weeks later.

These are deep waters. Snider's sudden departure may be a reflection of more trouble yet to come. Cinquegrana is definitely not the man to be trusted with oversight of this investigation. But until the American people can have confidence in an open investigation with some degree of transparency, we might we look forward to and even expect more delays and "mysterious" developments.

Always remember to access our site through: www.copvcia.com

That way you will have access to our mirror sites should our main site be hacked again.

Thank you for so many requests to host our mirror sites!

Ruppert Addresses Private, Mostly Muslim Group in New York; Reports Israel Did Not Perpetrate 9-11 Attacks

by Greta Knutzen, **FTW** Canadian Correspondent

Long Island, N.Y., April 30, 2002, 12:00 EDT (FTW) -- Michael C. Ruppert, **FTW** editor and publisher, delivered here on April 27 his 12th lecture titled, "Truth and Lies of 9-11."

During the two-and-a-half-hour lecture held at a Holiday Inn, Ruppert detailed the mounting and irrefutable evidence proving U.S. government foreknowledge of 9-11; the obvious inconsistencies of the official line dictated by the U.S. and dutifully relayed through mainstream media institutions; the evidence suggesting that the "war against terror" is fronting a U.S. imperial agenda aimed at securing the world's oil resources; and the dependence of the global economy and financial markets on drug money. Ruppert presented this evidence to a gathering of 100 professional men and women including doctors, lawyers, stockbrokers and academics. Many were Muslim.

The private lecture was organized and funded by Dr. Faiz Khan and Dr. John Kahoun. Both men specialize in emergency medicine and experienced, first-hand, the destruction that occurred on Sept. 11. Khan explained the decision to invite Ruppert to present a private lecture to their associates and peers was motivated by the belief that "the more people who know [the truth behind] what is going on, the better."

The goal shared by Khan and Kahoun was to present a "highly educational evening that promised to provoke serious re-examination of paradigms used to interpret the current state of affairs," Khan said. He made it clear the decision to host Ruppert's lecture was not motivated by Islamic, leftist, or progressive impulses. Ruppert's investigative journalism instinctively resonated with Khan, who first learned about Ruppert through the **FTW** website. Ruppert's research and analysis appealed to Khan because, he said, it transcends party-political division, religious preference and racial difference, and simply seeks the truth.

Khan and Kahoun intentionally limited the size of the audience, and intended to use the private event as a litmus test designed to gauge the reaction to Ruppert's lecture among their friends and peers. Khan and Kahoun hope the interest generated by the event will in turn generate the capital and support necessary to fund a public forum in New York, wherein Ruppert will be invited to deliver his lecture to a much larger audience. Khan stated frankly, "The best way to facilitate the truth is to help provide capital [for a cause you deem worthwhile]. Mike Ruppert has done all the legwork, what he needs is capital. Facilitating a worthwhile enterprise through funding is the easy way to contribute and act."

The Long Island audience responded positively to Ruppert and the evidence he presented -- many wanted to know when and where he would be speaking next. Attorney Raymond D. Kohlman, who presently serves as a legal consultant to the government of Pakistan, witnessed the positive response to the lecture and thought it very likely Ruppert would be returning to New York before long.

In 1999, Kohlman and his law partner, Dr. William Pepper, successfully represented the family of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in a lawsuit claiming the civil rights leader was the victim of a murder conspiracy involving the U.S. government and not a lone assassin. The many years Kohlman has spent defending controversial clients such as Bill Tyree, has taught him "what the government is capable of." Reacting to Ruppert's lecture, Kohlman said, "it sits very well," adding the true value lay in the audiences' ability to take the factual information given by Ruppert and "start their own search."

The information and analysis included in Ruppert's lecture was unfettered by ideological bias and offered a unique and accurate map of how the world works. Ruppert delivered a frank assessment, based on the evidence of the precise nature of Israeli connections to 9-11. Ruppert detailed evidence that supports the conclusion that, while Israeli intelligence sources had learned of impending attacks, they promptly informed the U.S., which did nothing to stop them. Ruppert stressed there is no evidence to suggest Israel perpetrated the 9-11 attacks. Ruppert made it clear he believes Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government may be blackmailing the Bush Administration, because the Israelis have evidence that the Americans had foreknowledge of the Sept. 11 attacks and did nothing to stop them. This blackmail, according to Ruppert, is what has given Sharon the leverage he needs to "act like an 800-pound gorilla in Palestine."

Arshad Majid, a junior partner of a prominent law firm in New York, attended Ruppert's lecture. In addition, Majid opened a production company this year, Tiger Eye Productions, which produces documentaries and hard news programs. Majid, who was employed for many years as an assistant district attorney and prosecutor for the state of New York, said the various theories circulating within the Muslim community concerning the extent of Israeli involvement in 9-11 run the gamut, including the theory propagated in right-wing and some Middle Eastern circles, claiming 9-11 was the direct result of a Mossad operation.

Majid said Ruppert was the first journalist many had heard who presented evidence that Israeli intelligence had in fact warned the U.S. of pending attacks, and, he said, Ruppert provided information that encouraged people to think for themselves and begin asking the right questions of their government. Kohlman stated many people seek "to blame the Muslim community for the events of Sept. 11, and Ruppert gives [Muslims] information they can use" to defend themselves against the tide of disinformation.

(continued on page 20)

(continued from page 1, The Dam Breaks)

On April 25 and 26, ABC News Nightline ran a two-part series looking into the history of Caspian Sea oil in the Central Asian Republics and started connecting dots to current events. The series mentioned the unrequited Unocal pipeline across Afghanistan that is now being built, and it reported that the new Afghani prime minister, Hamid Karzai, is a former Unocal employee. And it talked about the major oil companies' need to recoup billions in investments that had been frustrated for a decade by the Taliban.

The legendary writer Gore Vidal was interviewed on April 24 in Salon magazine (www.salon.com). He had reached many of the same conclusions we have. Among his more notable quotes:

"But the whole story in Afghanistan is not about Osama and his religious views, although they have some bearing, but is about a great coup on the part of the United States to grab all of the oil and natural gas out of Central Asia. And that is what we set out to do...But far larger than the Persian Gulf is the Caspian Sea oil, and Uzbekistan, and all the other -stans that used to be part of the Soviet Union. We have been deliberately encircling that section of the world..."

"What we have been looking for is a trigger. We had already planned to go into Afghanistan in October of '01. We had been desperately trying to put a pipeline that runs through Afghanistan, Pakistan, down to Karachi and the Indian Ocean..."

"Well, the giveaway was, when Tommy Franks, the commanding general of our forces there, arrived in Afghanistan, people kept asking, 'Where is Osama bin Laden?' And he said, well, it would be nice if we found Osama bin Laden, but that's not really why we're here..."

"Ordinarily we'd have hearings...there would be hearings immediately, as there were after Pearl Harbor, an investigation into why we spend \$30 billion a year on intelligence and we didn't know about what was obviously a plot that took about four years..."

"Well any sane country is going to investigate, particularly with such a vast and proud military as we've got, why it took 90 minutes before the planes were in the air. Something is going on..."

When asked if he believed that there was American foreknowledge of the attacks, Vidal replied, "Of course there was."

When asked if, because of FDR's foreknowledge of the Pearl Harbor attack, he felt the Bush Administration would have permitted the attack of 9-11 as a pretext to invade Afghanistan, he replied, "You have said it. I didn't say it. I think it's a possibility. I would rather the Congress found out for me; that's what we pay them for."

And about halfway through the lengthy interview Vidal observed, "And unfortunately, we have no government in the U.S. We have no foreign policy. We have oil policy. We have a lot of Realpolitik stuff going on, which has to do with our national wealth and private wealth as well..."

On May 2, Chicago Magazine scored a coup by securing an interview with the dean of American investigative journalists, Seymour Hersh. In commenting on the evisceration of the Constitution since 9-11, especially in the case of the so-called 20th hijacker, Zacarias Moussaoui, Hersh commented, "We have an attorney general that is, I don't know, how would you describe him, demented? We have an attorney general who doesn't seem to understand the law..."

"I don't know about you, but I think one of the great costs of 9-11 has been this tremendous attack on the Constitution..."

After noting that Moussaoui, who did not participate in the attacks, has been held in a windowless, six-by-six cell with the lights on 24 hours a day for eight months and has been denied free access to counsel, Hersh commented, "The justification for this extraordinary procedure of not letting his lawyers unfettered access to him is because, the government says again and again he is capable of passing a message -- 'By God, if we let him have an unfettered exchange that we don't monitor, even with a lawyer, the Sears Tower will go down tomorrow.' You have to understand what's driving this. What's driving this is fear..."

"So there was a hearing that you all read about. When the hearing began he raised his hand and the judge let him speak, and for 50 minutes he buried himself. This is what's interesting to me about it. This is a man who the federal government says cannot be allowed to communicate with anybody unfettered in any way, because he's gonna pass the message...He spoke for 50 minutes. It was live on the Internet. Hundreds of reporters were listening...Not once did it [the government] say, 'Your Honor, let's go into chambers with this. He has a right to speak but we can't have him speak publicly because we think he's capable of doing something...'"

On the entire course of events since 9-11 Hersh was more pointed.

"Al Qaeda was not destroyed in the war. Afghanistan was..."

"Where are the Democrats? Where are the Republicans who know better?..."

"And I'm telling you right now, it's gonna get much worse..."

As most of you know, **FTW** has been the object of some blistering, if impotent and feeble, attacks as a result of the effectiveness we have had in reaching large numbers of people since 9-11. However, that people and institutions such as those described above have begun to acknowledge the abundant and clear evidence of the Bush Administration's guilt before and during the attacks, as well as its abhorrent conduct after the attacks, is a clear sign that the dam of denial has cracked -- much more quickly than I had expected. But it would be both naïve and short sighted to believe this means we have won.

The beast has only been mildly wounded, and wounded beasts are the most dangerous. Aside from possessing enormous wealth, the Bush Administration and those it represents also possess incredible technology and power. As these recent statements from opinion-molders affirm the position **FTW** has taken from day one and begin to seep into the mainstream

consciousness, the real fight has just begun. There must be reactions. They will not be pleasant, and those who have been fighting for these breakthroughs must now realize the point has been reached where challenges have been issued, the gloves are off and it is time for a fight.

At this time I would also like to thank and acknowledge all of those who have helped to bring the fight to this point: Prof. Michel Chossudovsky, Jared Israel, Dan Hopsicker, Dr. Len Horowitz, Mike Davidson, Greta Knutzen, Joe Taglieri, Tom Flocco, Kyle Hence, Larry Chin and so many more. As authentic journalists you have put your names and lives on the line and I am honored to be on the field with you. And special thanks to so many more who have helped with research, like Virginia Raines and Patricia Dole, Ph.D. -- and to the hundreds of people who fill my in-box daily with stories, documents and leads from all over the world. Please don't stop. My deepest thanks go out to all of the Internet warriors who have taken the **FTW** model of using mainstream and unquestioned documentation to wage the unpleasant, but necessary battles that demonstrate that liberated minds, with access to good information, can not only think for themselves -- but defend themselves and the truth nobly in the face of shameless spin-mongering and the tyrannical tactics of deceit and distraction.

The top-down, authoritarian model of waging intellectual warfare is not capable, either in its structure or conception, of defeating a people who know how to think and speak for themselves.

To quote Winston Churchill, "This is not the end. This is not even the beginning of the end. But it is the end of the beginning."

(continued from page 18, Ruppert Addresses Private, Mostly Muslim Group In New York)

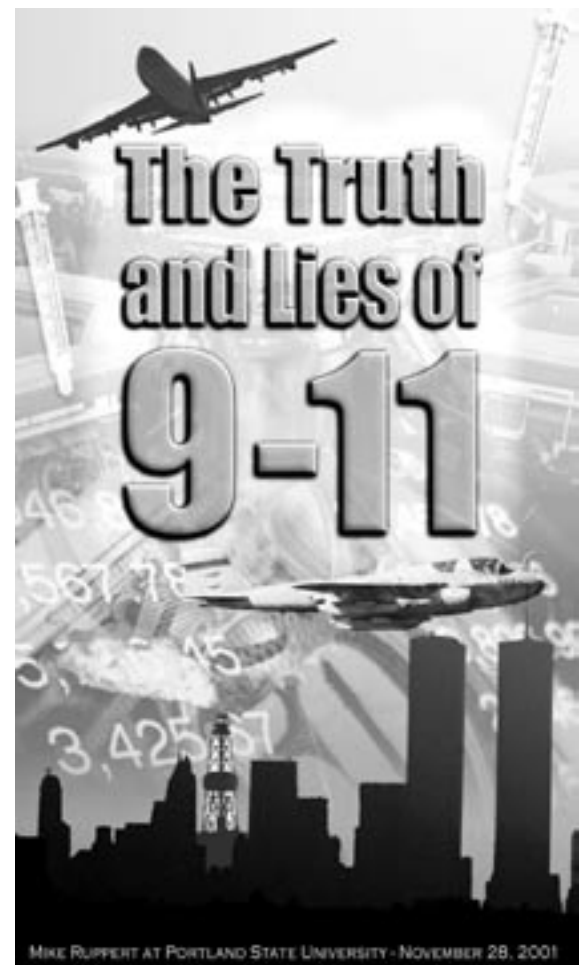
Everyone in the audience stayed for the entire lecture, and most stayed in their seats for an additional hour-and-a-half to listen and participate in the "questions and answers" part of the event. Ruppert said after the lecture he "was pleasantly surprised that the questions indicated a general consensus that the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis in the Middle East was secondary to the broader issues of 9-11."

Khan and Kahoun's written invitation to their guests at Ruppert's lecture encouraged the attendance of anyone "wishing to live up to the responsibilities of true American citizenship -- echoed in the intents of the founders of this nation, who explicitly and implicitly stated that the citizen should forever remain a watchdog over her/his government."

Within the present socio-political context, debate regarding adequate definitions of the terms "democracy" and "patriotism" is not merely an academic exercise. Since Sept. 11, traditional definitions of patriotism and democracy have been compromised by the sweeping measures curtailing civil liberties enacted by the U.S. government in response to acts of terrorism.

The sentiment implied within the Patriot Act and reiterated in the speeches of President Bush and members of his administration distill the concept of patriotism into stark binary terms defined by the now familiar sound-bite, "you are either with us, or you are with the terrorists." The weight of law behind these words was evidenced by the detention of approximately 1,400 non-U.S. nationals, many from Muslim and Middle Eastern countries, who were detained by the U.S. government without explanation in the months following Sept. 11.

According to some sources, most of them are still incarcerated, seven months after the attacks with no charges having been filed against them. An Amnesty International report released in March stated many of the 300 individuals it had documented as still in custody continue to be deprived of their human rights in violation of international law. The exact number of incarcerated Muslims, held for no other reason than their religion and ethnicity, remains unclear as many thousands are being held in a limbo state over immigration paperwork and can neither be deported, nor released until the Immigration and Naturalization Service addresses their status.



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