



FROM THE WILDERNESS

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

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Voting With Your Money

Subscriber Buys *FTW* Full Page Ad in *The Washington Post* Leaked Copy May Have Forced Resignation of Army Secretary

May 16, 2003, 0500 PDT (FTW) – ***From The Wilderness*** today ran a full-page ad in the front section of *The Washington Post* intended to educate the American people, support heroic leaders and promote a number of independent media outlets which have made important contributions since 9/11. The ad was the direct result of a donation from a subscriber who had recently viewed ***FTW*** Publisher Mike Ruppert's video, "The Truth and Lies of 9-11." The ad that ran today was actually a second version, the text of which had to be changed after the first version apparently caused some nervousness in Washington.

It's an interesting story.

The text of the first ad, which reached the *Post* on April 23rd, contained two sections of well-supported text that were sharply critical of Army Secretary Thomas White. White was suddenly fired by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld three days after the ad reached the *Post*. ***FTW*** has not been able to confirm that the ad was leaked but publisher Michael Ruppert strongly suspects it.

"It started when we got a call from a retired business executive who was so incensed by what he had seen in the 9/11 tape that he decided he wanted to do something with his own good fortune to make a difference. He specifically said that he wanted to buy us a full-page in the *Post* and that we could write anything we wanted," said Ruppert. "His only condition was that he remain anonymous. ***FTW*** never handled any of the fee – in excess of \$20,000 – to purchase the space and not once did our subscriber try to influence its content. I wrote the ad and three wonderful human beings contributed to it."

The three contributors who wrote special statements for the ad were former Assistant Secretary of Housing and past managing Director of Dillon Read, Catherine Austin Fitts, University of Illinois law professor, Francis Boyle, and former Democratic Congresswoman, Cynthia McKinney, of Georgia.

(continued on page 22)

FTW Ad Campaign

Goal: \$100,000



(donations received)

**Put this ad in the
TOP 12 Newspapers
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**Help reach more than
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See page 13 for details!

From The Wilderness

Michael C. Ruppert
Publisher/Editor

Contributing Editor----- Peter Dale Scott, Ph.D.
Contributing Editor – Energy ----- Dale Allen Pfeiffer
Office of Public Affairs----- Michael Leon

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From The Wilderness

P.O. Box 6061- 350, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

www.copvicia.com

editorial: editor@copvicia.com

subscriptions and customer service:

service@copvicia.com

(818) 788-8791 * (818) 981-2847 fax

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- **FTW Special Report on SARS**
- **The 9/11 Biowarfare Trail Lengthens**

Combining Biological and Economic Warfare

by Michael C. Ruppert and Wayne Madsen

[For more than a year and a half *FTW* has been examining the relationships between these developments:

- The attacks of 9/11;
- Biowarfare, starting with the anthrax attacks of 2001, later proven to have used a strain of the disease developed by the CIA;
- The mysterious deaths of as many as 15 world-class microbiologists specializing in infectious diseases and DNA sequencing since 9/11;
- The rush to enact unwarranted, draconian, public health measures including MEHPA, The Patriot Act, and the Homeland Security Act which have violated the constitution and given the government the right to forcibly vaccinate or quarantine American citizens and to confiscate property without due process;
- The documentary record of US, Israeli, and South African attempts to develop gene-specific bioweapons; and,
- The reality that an irreversible peak and decline in global oil and gas production would cause a massive overshoot of population that could not be fed or managed with rapidly disappearing, non-renewable, energy supplies which no amount of demand could replace. The end game of this decline would be direct competition between the United States and China, which, together are destined to consume as much as eighty per cent of the world's oil production by the middle of the century.

Back in November of 2001, I had concluded, based upon scientific data, that Peak Oil was real. It was apparent that the world's population numbers had already overshot the decline of available oil and that this was going to be increasingly difficult to conceal. Events since that time, world oil production data, and reports from *CNNHN* and the *BBC*, have proven this to be correct. I also concluded, along with several other researchers, that one possible contingency plan developed by the world's elite was consistent with an option that had been discussed by scientists looking at Peak Oil issues ten years ago – reduce the world's population by as much as 4 billion people using biological warfare. Reduction to 2 billion represents sustainable food production levels demonstrated before petroleum energy and natural gas (ammonia) changed agriculture. I mentioned this likelihood in my first post-9/11 lecture at Portland State University in November of 2001. That was before most of the above events had taken place or were even known.

With much of my earlier research having since been validated, it is fair to ask if the SARS virus fits into this scenario. The answer is that it does and it doesn't. It is becoming clear that economic and military stresses caused as nations position themselves for the end of the age of oil raise the possibility of a global conflict which could be just as deadly as the energy famine itself. In other words, competition for energy might be as destructive as not having enough. Full public acknowledgement by the markets of the reality of Peak Oil could produce chaos long before shortages become acute. So one requirement that must be addressed in the "management" of Peak Oil is how to reduce demand and weaken the competition without disclosing the underlying issue.

In this role, SARS fits the bill perfectly because it has successfully terrified much of the world's population, weakened the Chinese economy and set the stage for more deadly diseases while avoiding the real issue. SARS serves the role of something long-practiced in covert operations and warfare – a dry run on serious population reduction and management. Ultimately something will give. And ultimately – as people begin to starve – population issues will have to be addressed, both in terms of number and in terms of maintaining order. SARS, while most likely not the agent envisioned by some scientists as the "big one," conveniently serves the dual purpose of conditioning populations for the time when forced vaccinations may accomplish the task or when they will be told to surrender all personal liberties as a more deadly disease occupies the stage.

But to think of SARS only in that context is to miss a great many other "side effects" of the disease, not the least of which is the fact that it forces China to accept western medical and business practices favored by globalized financial interests and the western pharmaceutical industry. It also strengthens the political clout of China's new leader, Hu Jintao, as he is forced to respond decisively.

As I have noted many times, US-Chinese relationships are a double-edged sword. While China will ultimately become the

US's main competitor for energy, capitalism demands debt, growth and increased sales to avoid collapse. China has long been recognized as the last great market for capitalist expansion. China is the market that US corporations like Motorola, Microsoft, GM, IBM, Intel, AIG, and the pharmaceutical companies need to sustain growth, support share prices, and pay dividends. While SARS appears to be hurting the short-term interests of some American corporations, it may ultimately prove to be a bonanza for the WTO, the World Bank, and the financial engines that can use debt and "transparency" to shift some of the west's economic weakness by lending dollars and compelling China to adopt western practices.

The questions then are whether SARS is manmade and is it man used. The answers, especially considering the US's history of engineering bioweapons, and some very pronounced links to 9/11, are not reassuring. And there are lingering questions of the connections between SARS and the research work of the recently deceased microbiologists.

To access **FTW's** previous reporting on these issues please visit:

<http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/index.html> and look under the headings of Oil, Biowarfare and Civil Liberties.
– MCRJ

May 09, 2003, 1900 PDT (FTW) – Strong circumstantial evidence is mounting that the Bush administration may be engaging in a new form of warfare: bio-economic attacks against countries that either opposed the US war on Iraq or are showing signs of surpassing the United States in economic vitality and growth. Ascendancy on the global stage now would provide any nation or group of nations with the ability to successfully compete for rapidly diminishing supplies of oil and natural gas where no viable replacement energy regime has been offered or implemented. With China's robust economy reeling and Chinese prestige suffering as a result of admitted "mishandling" of the disease, the economic impacts of SARS are hard to miss. Indeed, *The Wall Street Journal's* web site lists 57 SARS-related stories in the 5 day period starting on May 1, 2003.

But SARS, riding on the back of unprecedented media saturation for a disease that has killed fewer people than influenza will this year, is also furthering a number of other agendas which have become prominent since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. A Google news search revealed that more than 19,800 stories from recognized news outlets have been published on the disease in less than two months (330 a day) and that several hundred thousand SARS entries are available on the internet from all sources.

Perhaps the most important, yet unexplained, fact about the appearance of SARS is the unquestioned reality that it is a coronavirus with a unique RNA sequence that is not directly related to known human or animal viruses. In other words, SARS is very possibly man made. Yet, in all the press coverage from major media outlets, we have not seen that question asked or addressed once.

Reason to Be Suspicious

Given the fact that the Bush administration used forged documents and falsified data to justify the Iraqi invasion, that Prime Minister Tony Blair relied upon intelligence plagiarized from an outdated graduate research paper, and that entities like the US Geological Survey and the Energy Information Administration have routinely misled the public about actual oil reserves, there is reason to be suspicious. In a climate where corporate books are cooked to boost share values and the Department of Defense acknowledges that it has "misplaced" more than \$3 trillion, how can we rely totally on SARS diagnoses offered by medical research interests, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), media outlets, or governments which benefit from the obvious hysteria?

CHINA – THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

There are three reasons why China is the US's number-one geostrategic concern. First, within the next decade, China and the United States will be the largest users and competitors for the world's rapidly diminishing oil reserves. Both the US and China will be importing as much as 80-90% of their oil within the next twenty years and together – in order to sustain their economies – will be using as much as 60-70% of all the oil that is produced globally. Second, China vehemently opposed the US invasion of Iraq. Third, the expanding Chinese economy and China's stranglehold on the US trade deficit has placed China in a position to challenge the US for global economic supremacy.

The first SARS case appeared almost at the same time that Western financial institutions were forecasting a record growth in China's gross domestic product of between 7.5 and 7.6 percent. They also appeared just before the US invasion of Iraq which China opposed. According to Beijing Mayor, Dr. Jiang Yangyong, the first case of SARS was reported on March 1, 2003, when an elderly man was admitted to a Beijing military hospital with the disease. At this time, China had openly opposed the US invasion of Iraq and the military invasion itself was scheduled to commence in eighteen days.

The outbreak reportedly was covered up in order to avoid any disruption of the Chinese National People's Congress which began in Beijing on March 5. When the disease began spreading and Chinese officials finally scurried to deal with the virus, the economic cost to mainland China had become devastating -- \$2.2 billion according to the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. SARS also cost Hong Kong an additional \$1.7 billion. The first public reports of the SARS virus appeared in press stories on March 19th. The US invasion of Iraq began on March 19.

Coincidence?

China had been outshining the US in the eyes of the non-aligned world. For the Bush administration, in the middle of America's worst economic downturn in ten years and spending billions on the war against Iraq, the idea of a booming Chinese economy did not sit well. China was also in the final stages of planning its first manned space launch at a time when the United States had lost its second space shuttle due to incompetence. The contrast between an economically vitalized China and a United States caught in the malaise of recession, war, and technological failure could not have been more apparent.

Hitting China in the Pocketbook

A look at a series of stories in *The Wall Street Journal* shows the economic damage done to China, and also that the economic impact of the disease is mutating perhaps as quickly as the virus itself.

On April 21, 2003, in a story headlined, "China Economy to Slow as SARS Takes Toll," the *Journal* described the heavy economic toll the disease was taking and observed, "But the weekend news unnerved many Chinese. Wang Haibo, a boisterous 27-year-old accountant carrying a bag full of disinfectant bottles for her office said she and her co-workers planned to lobby their bosses for a month off, even without pay." That sounds like a perfect 10 from the CIA's intended results of bioweapons as psychological terror tools.

Two days later, the *Journal* reported on the ripple effects of SARS in a story headlined, "Foreign-Investment Worries Grow in China as SARS Impact Spreads." By this point, the impact on foreign companies – especially those with heavy capital investment like Nissan -- was being felt around the world. The story reported, "DBS Bank economist Chris Leung said indirect economic losses could be large, especially if foreign direct investment inflow into China were to decelerate sharply."

On the 25th, the *Journal* headlined one of its stories, "SARS send tremors through world economy." That story said, "A report that top Japanese car maker Toyota Motor Corp plans to withdraw most of its Japanese staff and their families from Beijing deepened the gloom..."

"...global commerce would be shaken if trading giant China was severely hurt by the crisis."

Five days later the *Journal* was reporting that the crisis had become so severe, with so many corporations threatening to cut back operations, that it was threatening the stability of the regime. The heat on the new Chinese Premier, Hu Jintao, was being turned up. "If the impact of the epidemic is to either slow down or collapse the high rates of economic growth [even for a quarter] or to begin to turn the psychological climate sour, in terms of the seeming invincibility of China... grave social and political consequence could follow,' says [UC Professor Orville] Mr. Schell."

The story concluded by noting that the crisis was compelling China to institute reforms that were appealing to the World Trade Organization and that,

"SARS could be Mr. Hu's Sept. 11. Successful handling of the crisis would leave him in a stronger position both to push his domestic agenda to aid the disadvantaged and to diminish rivals. Among the losers would be his predecessor, Jiang Zemin, who heads the military, whose hospitals were concealing hundreds of SARS patients in the Beijing cover-up. Failure to contain SARS could open the way for a challenge to Mr. Hu's leadership."

Just a day later, on May 1st, the *Journal* was making Wall Street's position clear. In a Commentary headlined, "SARS Playing Into Beijing's Hands," Bruce Gilley wrote that Hu was handling the crisis well, consolidating power and that:

"Nor do the benefits to the new leadership from the SARS crisis necessarily stop there. In the weeks and months to come, it is quite conceivable that international financial institutions like the World Bank and UNDP may consider increasing lending to China to help it avoid such problems in future..."

"All this for a death toll in China and Hong Kong which is less than that on the roads in a given day or in the factories in a given week."

The very next day the headline story was, "SARS Outbreak Doesn't Take Long-Term Luster Off China." That story quoted a GM spokesperson as confirming that GM invests hundreds of millions of dollars in China every year and that it was building plants, or investing in other companies that were building plants, to manufacture autos. China's demand for automobiles is unnerving. It realized a 50% increase in vehicle sales in 2002 alone.

By the 6th of May the *AP* was reporting that SARS was still a threat to China's communist system, that the disease had not yet peaked, and that the disease could just as easily topple Hu as empower him. The implications from all these stories seem to be that protecting foreign investment in China by making Chinese practices conform to WTO wishes would be the critical factor, and, that an imploded Chinese economy would be the most certain guarantee of Hu's demise. On the other hand Hu's cooperation with Western financial needs might guarantee his success.

But the game is not without its risks. Economic analyst Marshall Auerback observed in *The Prudent Bear* on May 6:

"SARS was just the last thing a teetering global economy needed at this point. The U.S. and world economy has generally been weaker this year than the consensus expected... A combination of deteriorating domestic fundamentals, coupled with the exogenous shocks engendered by the Iraqi war aftermath and the SARS epidemic, are beginning to change overseas' perceptions, refocusing attention on the increasingly tenuous nature of America's economic prosperity."

And yet the message to China about how to solve the crisis was being made unmistakably clear. It was repeated by Morgan Stanley's Stephen Roach, writing in *The Global Economic Forum* on May 5 when he observed:

"The new leadership fully recognizes the risk that SARS could turn into globalization's first epidemic. No nation has more at stake in globalization than China. As such, a rethinking of China's global role may well be central to the initiatives that are being taken on SARS."... To the extent that this response reflects a new adaptability, transparency, and 'globality,' the long-run case for China may well be strengthened as a result. SARS is an admittedly painful wake-up call. But China has awakened."

One sign of that awakening was that on May 6, as reported by *Agence France Presse*, China announced that it had contracted with a Swedish firm, Isconova, to develop a vaccine for SARS. Isconova's background has been in the development of veterinary vaccines and company officials have indicated that a practical vaccine is probably two years away. Can the pharmaceutical companies be far behind?

The Rest of Asia and Canada

The economies of Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia have also been extremely hard hit by SARS, yet their plight has been only marginally discussed in the American press. Even though SARS has not made a forceful appearance in these countries (as of May 5 Indonesia has reported two cases and Malaysia six) the US has little or no reason to feel sympathy for these countries. Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world. Malaysia, also a Muslim nation, has been an economic pioneer, neatly avoiding the globalist traps of the IMF and the World Bank while pioneering in technology and industrial growth. Perhaps more importantly, with their large populations and increasingly industrialized economies, the projected energy demands – especially for oil – in these two countries puts them squarely in competition with the two gluttons at the world energy table, the US and China.

With that in mind, it is doubtful if either the US or China – unless China finds it in its geostrategic interests to save its access to large Indonesian gas reserves – will lift a finger to help with SARS in the rest of the region.

Canadian officials have moved swiftly and efficiently to respond to the SARS threat and they have effectively prevented a contemplated move by the World Health Organization to issue a travel advisory urging travelers to avoid Toronto that would have devastated the city. Recent reports reveal that occurrences of the disease in Canada are decreasing and American media attention paid to SARS cases there has been decreasing both in frequency and in scope. The less press coverage, the lower the hysteria and the smaller the hit taken by business.

But, as *FTW* noted in our October 2000 report on the RCMP's US investigation of stolen PROMIS software, used by both intelligence agencies and financial institutions, Canada remains an easily punished US stepchild that, in spite of taking occasional courageous positions opposed to outrageous US policies, can be brought into line and muzzled. I have seen no public criticism of US policies in Iraq from Canada since the SARS outbreak was first reported.

SARS has appeared and behaved on the world stage exactly as one would expect an economic weapon to behave. All warfare has its risks for both sides but the effects of SARS have proven to be of very timely and very specific benefit to the United States. Is there reason to believe that it was manufactured for this purpose or that it is being used in that manner?

CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THE US

Inside the US, SARS has resulted in the first moves taken under provisions of the Homeland Security Act and the Public Health Service Act to invoke new emergency powers giving the federal government the right to forcibly quarantine anyone in the country suspected of having the disease. An *AP* story on April 4, disclosed that President Bush "gave health officials authority to quarantine Americans sick with the highly contagious virus, though officials had no immediate plans to use the emergency powers."

The telling phrase "emergency powers" indicates that the order signed by Bush was an invocation of new powers conveyed under the Homeland Security Act which pertain to and interface with the Public Health Service Act. These are the powers which, according to some lawmakers like Congressman Ron Paul of Texas, now enable the government to vaccinate or quarantine people against their will, charge them with criminal offenses for refusal to cooperate, and seize or condemn their property without due process.

Interestingly, Executive Order 13295 announcing Bush's decision has not been posted to the White House web site as of this writing as are all other executive orders. In that order SARS is added to the list of diseases for which the Secretary of Health and Human Services may institute forced quarantines. The list includes: Cholera; Diphtheria; Infectious Tuberculosis; Plague; Smallpox; Yellow Fever; and Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (Lassa, Marburg, Ebola, Crimean-Congo, South American, and others not yet isolated or named).

But in wording that appears to be intentionally vague the order states, "The Secretary [HHS], in the Secretary's discretion, shall determine whether a particular condition constitutes a communicable disease of the type specified in section 1 of this order."

Under this definition quarantine could conceivably be ordered for people who have SARS-like symptoms but have not been proven to have the disease itself. That is to say that people could be quarantined for a common cold or the flu.

It is important to note a legal distinction which says that quarantines are measures applied to people who have been exposed to a disease and isolation describes those measures taken with people who are confirmed to have a disease.

The April 4 *AP* story went on to note, “[Bush’s] executive order adds SARS to the list of diseases for which health authorities have the authority to involuntarily hold Americans, the first time a disease has been added to the list in two decades.”

On May 5, *Reuters* reported that the White House, with strong support from congress, was preparing a national disease reporting and tracking system that will – based upon its description – likely interface with the highly controversial Total Information Awareness program operated by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). That program, as described on a government web site, will incorporate commercial and private data bases on all Americans and will include medical records provided by medical providers and HMOs. It will also likely use the well-known PROMIS software on which *FTW* has reported extensively. (For more on PROMIS, please visit the *FTW* web site.)

On May 7, the US government approved the use of force at border checkpoints to detain arriving passengers if necessary. A *New York Times* story reported that the Department of Homeland Security has provided masks and gloves to its airport inspectors and at border crossings and specifically linked SARS issues to issues of bioterrorism and anticipated attacks.

In the meantime, media stories are constantly reinforcing the notion that more of these genetically recombined diseases are going to appear in the near future and that some of them will likely be much more deadly than SARS. This is highly effective pre-conditioning.

The net effect of the extreme publicity and the reactions provoked by this disease is apparently unjustified by the numbers of deaths caused by the disease as compared to other diseases. But the American public, and indeed the entire world, is being prepared to accept draconian measures that had not even been discussed before 9/11. A quote from *The Wall Street Journal* bears repeating, “All this for a death toll in China and Hong Kong which is less than that on the roads in a given day or in the factories in a given week.”

SARS – THE BIOECONOMIC WEAPON

Some scientific reports asserting that the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) does not occur naturally have raised eyebrows among biological warfare experts. In a highly technical paper dated April 23 from the London-based Institute for Science in Society (ISIS), Dr. Mae-Wan Ho and Professor Joe Cummins offer a case that the SARS virus is a deliberately manmade virus and that critical information about the disease has been withheld from the public. They observe that no naturally occurring coronavirus is able to do what the SARS virus is doing – mutating and reproducing in different bodily environments. They also suggest that chemical footprints left by artificial genetic manipulation can help to identify “whodunit.”

They write, “The complete sequence of the SARS virus is now available, confirming it as a new coronavirus unrelated to any previously known. Has genetic engineering contributed to creating it?” Later they observe:

“If the SARS virus has arisen through recombination from a number of different viruses, then different parts of it would show different phylogenetic relationships. These relationships could be obscured somewhat by the random errors that an extensively manipulated sequence would accumulate, as the enzymes used in genetic manipulation, such as reverse transcriptase and other polymerases are well known to produce random errors, but the telltale signs would still be a mosaic of conflicting phylogenetic relationships, from which its history of recombination may be constructed. This could then be compared with the kinds of genetic manipulations that have been carried out in the different laboratories around the world, preferably with the recombinants held in the laboratories.”

The full text of the article can be read at <http://www.i-sis.org.uk/SAGE.php> .

Aside from the scientific observations offered above, is there any reason to suspect that SARS is manmade? Some of Russia’s top biological warfare experts suggest that SARS may have been created as a bio-economic weapon of mass destruction. While Russia’s motives – as a continuing opponent of US foreign policy – might be suspect, the ISIS researchers reaching the same conclusion are British. And there is a documentary record from within the US to support the conclusion that the US has both the capability and the inclination to deploy such a weapon.

Nikolai Filatov, the head of epidemiological services for Moscow, told Russia’s *Gazeta* newspaper that he thought SARS was manmade. Russian Academy of Medicine member Sergei Kolesnikov agreed with his colleague. He was quoted by the *RIA-Novosti* news agency that SARS is a “cocktail” of mumps and measles. He added that such a mixture could never appear naturally.

The culpability of the United States government in the SARS outbreak, therefore, must be seriously considered.

Official sources suggest that somehow two different organisms naturally shared genes to produce SARS. The same official explanation has been given as the origin of AIDS and that controversy is still raging as a growing body of evidence indicates that AIDS too is a product of US biowarfare research.

Other researchers and biomedical researchers opt for a different viewpoint. They, like Jon Rappoport, who has spent 15 years investigating AIDS-related issues, conclude that what we are witnessing is “science by press conference” rather than science by peer review and open research.

Indeed, many are quick to point out that the symptoms of SARS are indistinguishable from influenza (a far more deadly disease) or even the common cold. Usually reserved news organizations are noting incongruous developments connected to SARS, both in the timing and location of its occurrence and in the lopsided and near hysterical reactions to the disease which,

obviously, have been overlaid by the media itself. In short, absent peer-reviewed science, those charged with diagnosing and identifying the virus might be conveniently labeling a wide variety of organisms as SARS to suit their own interests; be they research grants, drug sales, or economic warfare.

In some parts of the world, people are being forcibly quarantined with no further testing after having their temperature taken, and, no doubt, many cases of common colds or flu are being misdiagnosed. Yet as those inflated numbers of possible or misdiagnosed cases are presented to the public, the damage is done. Deadlier diseases do not usually prompt the reactions seen with SARS. In fact the hysteria around SARS has grown so extreme in some parts of the world that people have been murdered because of it. On April 25, the Philippine news service *ABS* reported that a fisherman, afraid of contracting SARS, had shot and killed a man for sneezing near him. On May 6, 2003, the University of California announced that it would not accept students from Asian countries into its summer sessions. Russia is contemplating closing its border with China. The Women's World Cup of Soccer has been moved out of China.

Could SARS be both manmade *and* man-manipulated? This is a possibility that cannot be excluded. There may even be a connection in the mysterious deaths of as many as 15 world-class microbiologists.

The SARS virus fits the textbook pattern of intended uses for bioweapons. Only the US, Russia, Israel and South Africa (under apartheid) have been known to seriously pursue such weapons or have demonstrated any serious work in that arena. Since the US has derived the most economic and political benefit from the epidemic it is reasonable to ask if the CIA has done this kind of thing before.

THE RECORD

There is a thick record of CIA-run operations like those that would have been required to implement SARS as a weapon. Some have even employed diseases similar to SARS. And some of these lead ominously to an FBI "person of interest" in the 2001 anthrax cases - Mark Hatfill.

The use of bio-economic warfare as a weapon was first suggested by Dr. Edgar J. DaSilva, the Director for the Division of Life Sciences of the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). DaSilva stated in a 1999 article in *The Electronic Journal of Biotechnology* that bio-economic warfare - "the undermining and destruction of economic progress and stability" - can be traced to "the development and use of biological agents against economic targets such as crops, livestock and ecosystems." DaSilva also noted that bio-economic warfare can often be perceived by the public as naturally-occurring because "such warfare can always be carried out under the pretexts that such traumatic occurrences are the result of natural circumstances that lead to outbreaks of diseases and disasters of either endemic or epidemic proportions." [Emphasis added]

The United States, particularly the Central Intelligence Agency - through its joint efforts with the U.S. Army's biological warfare laboratory at Fort Detrick, Maryland - has pioneered the field of bio-economic warfare. In the 1970s, the CIA directed a bio-economic warfare campaign against Cuba. In his book, *Biological Warfare in the 21st Century*, author Malcolm Dando describes the Cuba campaign as involving the use of blue mold against the nation's tobacco crop, cane smut against the sugar crop, African swine fever (a relative of SARS) against the livestock population, and a hemorrhagic strain of Dengue fever against the human population. These attacks were designed to destabilize Cuba's agriculturally based economy. The Cuba operations were conducted after President Richard Nixon, in a 1969 Executive Order, banned the use of biological warfare agents. Nixon's order and his 1972 signing of the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention with Britain and the Soviet Union (which outlawed bio-weapons) have been systematically ignored by the CIA and Pentagon.

There have been anomalous outbreaks of the Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) - a cousin of the hemorrhagic Dengue fever - in war zones in Pakistan and Afghanistan since 9/11. Perhaps more ominously however, SARS—a coronavirus—according to research found on the web site of the National Library of Medicine (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>) is also related to the most deadly disease ever to strike the human race, the 1918 flu, or, as it is commonly called, The Spanish Flu. DNA from corpses known to have died from that disease was extracted from exhumed bodies in Britain shortly after the 9/11 attacks and reported in the British press.

Thus it can be stated that clearly there is a pattern of weapons research in which SARS and SARS-related diseases either have been previously deployed or have appeared in countries known to be targets of US interests. It can also be said that SARS-like disease agents have previously been considered as weapons. Furthermore, recent research on the Spanish Flu has been conducted by personnel from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Rockville, MD. [PMID: 12368314, Indexed for MEDLINE]

[For additional information on genetically engineered and gene-specific bioweapons please see:
http://www.fromthewilderness.com/members/030403_genetic_p1.html]

America's Shady Past

In the 1970s, a right-wing group known as the Minutemen planned on conducting a bio-terrorism campaign involving the distribution of an unknown virus in major airline terminals throughout the United States. A number of right-wing extremists, including those with ties to racist and religious zealot organizations, have found high-level jobs within the Bush administration.

The Minutemen plot was the idea of Robert DePugh, the leader of the organization, who also happened to own a veterinary drug firm called Biolab Corporation, headquartered in Norborne, Missouri. In 1972, members of an extreme right-wing group, the "Order of the Rising Sun," were arrested in Chicago after it was discovered they were going to contaminate the water supplies of Chicago, St. Louis, and other Midwestern cities with 30 to 40 kilograms of typhoid bacteria cultures. In May, 1995, Larry Wayne Harris, a member of the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations, was arrested for a probation violation when he told a police informant that he had enough anthrax to wipe out the entire population of Las Vegas. The FBI discovered that Harris's car contained several bags of a strain of anthrax that was not dangerous to humans.

CIA Connections – A Death in Orange County

Another ultra-conservative, Dr. Larry Ford, a Mormon gynecologist with the University of California at Los Angeles, maintained a close relationship with the director of South Africa's bio-weapons program, Dr. Wouter Basson. According to CourtTV.com, Ford was often accompanied on his trips to South Africa by Dr. Jerry Nilsson, a fellow Mormon and UCLA colleague. A former lab assistant of Ford's told *The New York Times* in November, 2002, that she once saw Ford carry a vial onto the plane to South Africa. She said the vial contained a deadly bacteria that could have endangered everyone on the plane had it leaked. The vial was turned over to a South African official.

In another incident related to Ford, two FBI informants reportedly attended a 1986 meeting in South Africa with South Africa's Surgeon General, Niels Knobel and Ford. The agents reported that Knobel received toxins from Ford and Nilsson. These toxins were later used in South Africa's deadly top secret bio-weapons program, code-named *Project Coast*. On February 28, 2000, James Patrick Riley, Ford's partner in the firm Biofem Pharmaceuticals, was shot and critically wounded at Biofem's Irvine, California, headquarters. After one of Ford's friends was charged in the shooting, Ford committed suicide at his Irvine home. Canisters later dug up in Ford's backyard were discovered to contain cultures of cholera, salmonella, botulism, and typhoid fever. When reports emerged that Ford worked for the CIA, FBI agent Doug Baker confirmed the story but later quickly recanted. Ford's CIA connections were reported and confirmed by a number of credible sources in a detailed report by *Court TV's* Rachel Bell in an article on the web located at:

http://www.crimelibrary.com/terrorists_spies/terrorists/larry_ford/1.html?sect=22

An April 20, 2003, article in *The Washington Post* revealed that Don Mayes, a retired CIA officer, acted as a go-between for Daan Goosen, a former employee of Basson, and the CIA and FBI. Goosen was trying to sell the CIA and FBI a pathogen that genetically fused the genes of ordinary intestinal bacteria with those that result in the lethal gas gangrene. Some samples of the pathogen were actually shipped to the United States via the CIA in a toothpaste tube. The tube was delivered to the FBI's Key West office by Robert Zlockie, another retired CIA officer. The CIA and FBI eventually declined Goosen's offer to sell them his deadly bugs as well as his offer to work in the United States on biowar defenses. Prior to the breakdown in negotiations between Goosen and the CIA and FBI, the Pentagon set up a meeting between Goosen and Bioport, the Michigan-based firm that provides anthrax vaccines to the military. Bioport has refused to comment on reports that The Carlyle Group, a controversial international investment firm on whose board former President George H. W. Bush sits, owns shares of stock in Bioport.

The *Post* also reported that Zlockie was given a receipt on FBI letterhead acknowledging that it had taken custody of "one toothpaste tube containing one ampule of *E. coli* genetically coded with epsilon toxin." The tube was then sent to Fort Detrick, which concluded that Goosen's pathogen was a legacy from *Project Coast*, the same program on which Ford and Nilsson worked. Against the wishes of the CIA and Defense Department, the FBI declined to play ball with Goosen and it alerted the South African police to the fact that Goosen had attempted to sell virulent strains of bacteria and viruses to the United States. The South Africans declined to prosecute Goosen. In addition, in April, 2002, a South African court cleared Basson, Goosen's one-time boss, of 46 criminal charges, including attempted murder of anti-apartheid activists. Earlier, Basson was cleared of 15 charges, including murder and attempted murder.

Steven Hatfill

In October, 2002, the *Sunday Mirror* of Zimbabwe reported that FBI agents traveled to Zimbabwe and South Africa to examine Dr. Steven Hatfill's role during the 1970s in the Rhodesian Selous Scout's biological warfare program and South Africa's bio-war program. Hatfill, a native of Missouri who was briefly a Marine Corps reservist, emigrated to Rhodesia at a time when the United Nations and United States were imposing severe sanctions against the breakaway minority government of Ian Smith. However, Hatfill claims he served in the Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard from 1975 to 1981 at the same time that he claimed to have been in the Rhodesian military. In an article in *The American Prospect*, writer Laura Rosen postulates that Hatfill may have been a double agent, working for both the Selous Scouts and the U.S. Army Institute for Military Assistance in Fort Bragg. In fact, Hatfill reportedly bragged to his colleagues about being a double agent.

The idea that the CIA and the U.S. Special Forces could have been running Hatfill as an agent in Rhodesia is all the more troubling when considering that the Rhodesian bio-war program targeted black Zimbabwean rebels with anthrax during the 1970s. Hatfill's résumé claims he served in the South African Defense Forces after leaving Rhodesia. The FBI was particularly interested in Hatfill's work for the same *Project Coast* that involved Zlockie, Goosen and Basson. *Project Coast* included a program of experiments on applying anthrax to the gummed flaps of envelopes sent through the mail.

In the late 1990s, Hatfill worked at Fort Detrick as a U.S. Army employee and later as a contractor for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), a company with a number of CIA and Pentagon classified contracts. Later, Attorney General John Ashcroft called Hatfill a “person of interest” in the investigation surrounding the 2001 anthrax mailings. Hatfill graduated from the University of Zimbabwe Medical School in 1983. In July 2002, South Africa’s Daily News reported that in 1987 or early 1988, Hatfill trained elite Aquila Brigade members of neo-Nazi leader Eugene Terre’blanche’s Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB), a notorious paramilitary group.

After Hatfill was identified by the FBI as a “person of interest” in the 2001 anthrax mailings, Pat Clawson became his spokesman. According to *The Baltimore Sun*, Clawson is a close associate of Oliver North, the right-wing politician, *Fox News* reporter, talk show host, and convicted Iran-contra criminal. In fact, Clawson is a program director for North’s radio show. Also coming to Hatfill’s defense was *National Review* writer Joel Mowbray, a Neocon defender of the Likud government of Ariel Sharon and Bush administration policies in Iraq. Mowbray, who is quite content with Attorney General Ashcroft’s anti-Arab and anti-immigrant policies, uncharacteristically criticized Ashcroft for leaks to the press about the investigation of Hatfill. Bill Kristol’s *Weekly Standard* reported that much of the “evidence” against Hatfill emanated from the Jewish Defense Organization, a radical offshoot of the extreme right-wing Jewish Defense League.

After Fort Detrick and SAIC severed their ties with Hatfill, he worked for Louisiana State University’s Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education, an entity that receives most of its funding from U.S. government grants, and, interestingly, SAIC which once employed him at Ft. Detrick. When Hatfill’s name surfaced as a continuing “person of interest” for the FBI, LSU fired him. Ironically, during his stint at LSU, the state of Louisiana suffered a huge outbreak of West Nile virus, which, according to *New African* magazine, was one of the pathogens weaponized by South Africa’s *Project Coast*, the program that the FBI was investigating for its prior links to Hatfill.

There is definitely an element involving scientists, military, intelligence, and government contractor personnel in the study, production, and distribution of biological weapons, including anthrax, gas gangrene, Dengue fever, and other pathogens. As the Neocons in the United States call for retaliation against countries that failed to support America’s war on Iraq, it may be more than coincidental that SARS has broken out in China and that the virus has been transmitted to Canada – another US critic - via the busy travel routes existing between China, Hong Kong, and major Canadian cities like Toronto and Vancouver due to Canada’s large Asian population.

Not only has China’s economy drastically suffered but Toronto, Canada’s most populous city, is facing an economic disaster. After the SARS outbreak in Canada, it was also reported that an Egyptian vessel carrying bauxite from Brazil to an Alcan aluminum plant in Saguenay, Quebec, suffered the death of its first mate from anthrax just prior to departing Brazil for Canada. The Brazilian police have reported that the man contracted anthrax when he opened up a suitcase containing the bacteria. Fortunately, Canadian authorities were alerted before the ship docked in Quebec, whose majority French-speaking population has been just as outspoken against America’s war policies as their kinfolk in France.

Although the Bush administration contends that the anthrax mailings, like the hijacking of commercial planes and turning them into virtual cruise missiles, were unprecedented and a surprise, history refutes such claims. In 1988, the Foundation on Economic Trends warned that Fort Detrick and the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta were shipping some of the “deadliest diseases known to man” through the U.S. postal system. One such shipment in 1987 from the CDC to Fort Detrick contained the Crimea-Congo virus (see above), a deadly pathogen carried by ticks. The shipment was “lost” somewhere in the main Philadelphia post office. In 1988, Postmaster General Anthony Frank banned U.S. government bio-toxin shipments through the mail after the U.S. Army said it would increase its postal shipments to its new bio-war laboratory at Utah’s Dugway Proving Grounds, a facility that has the only aerosolized anthrax laboratory in the United States. The Army also wanted to ship anthrax, botulism, Q fever, and Dengue fever through the mail, a frightening idea considering a report by John Broder in *The Los Angeles Times* of June 14, 1988, that Fort Detrick was missing several pathogenic strains after the commencement of the anthrax mailings.

Considering that the CIA and Pentagon considered buying genetically-fused bacteria and viruses from South African freelance bio-war scientists and that Russian scientists now claim that SARS is a similarly genetically-fused mumps and measles pathogen, an immediate investigation of Fort Detrick’s stockpiles and their points of origin should be initiated.

SARS has been reported to be mutating rapidly. This development is unclear in its implications. A *Lycos* news report from May 6 indicates that the mutations have as much chance of making the virus less deadly as they do of making it more deadly. Organisms like the coronavirus tend to adapt to keep their hosts (food sources) alive rather than killing them. The *Lycos* report also confirmed, however, the point made by Dr. Ho and Professor Cummins of ISIS. The mutations will provide investigators with a methodology to investigate the origins of the virus and establish how it came into being.

This will lead us to re-examine the mysterious deaths of as many as 15 world-class microbiologists since 9/11.

DEAD MICROBIOLOGISTS

In the five-month period from Nov. 12, 2001, through March 26, 2002, ten world-class microbiologists in different parts of the world were reported dead. Nine died of “unnatural” causes, while the cause of the tenth’s death is questionable. Also on Nov. 12, DynCorp, a major government contractor for data processing, military operations, and intelligence, was awarded a \$322 million contract to develop, produce, and store vaccines for the Department of Defense. DynCorp

and Hadron, both defense contractors connected to classified research programs on communicable diseases, also have been linked to a software program known as PROMIS, which may have been used to identify and target the victims.

In the six weeks prior to Nov. 12, two additional Israeli microbiologists were reported dead. Some believe there were as many as five more microbiologists killed in the accidental shoot down of a Russian airliner during the period, bringing the total as high as 17. These seven additional deaths, however, are not the focus of this discussion. The key deaths of interest, all of which involve world-class experts in communicable diseases and DNA sequencing (the process that would have been used to manufacture SARS) include:

- On Nov. 12, 2001 Benito Que, 52, was found comatose in the street near the laboratory where he worked at the University of Miami Medical School. He died on Dec. 6. Witnesses said that he was beaten by four men with baseball bats but a coroner's report reflected, "no evidence of foul play." He was a microbiologist specializing in oncology and hematology with experience in DNA sequencing.

- On Nov. 16, Dr. Don C. Wiley, 57, of Harvard University vanished, and his abandoned rental car was found on the Hernando de Soto Bridge outside Memphis, Tenn. His body was found on Dec. 20. The final report on Wiley's death stated that he had stopped his vehicle in a moving traffic lane on a bridge over the Mississippi river, gotten out, and suffered a rare seizure while a heavy truck passed, bouncing him into the air at the same instant that a gust of wind blew him off the bridge. Wiley was a Nobel-level award winning expert in DNA sequencing of disease organisms who also had published research papers on the swine flu – a coronavirus cousin of SARS.

- On Nov. 23, Vladimir Pasechnik, 64, was found dead in Wiltshire, England, not far from his home. Details of his death were suppressed in the major media for several weeks. Pasechnik, who had defected from the Soviet Union in the late 1980s, was the former head of all Soviet biowarfare research, including diseases like anthrax and Ebola.

- On Dec. 10, Robert Schwartz, 57, was found murdered in his rural home in Loudoun County, Va. He had been stabbed and sliced to death by his daughter's drug crazed boyfriend. Schwartz reportedly had connections to bioweapons research in Northern Virginia and well documented experience in DNA sequencing.

- On Dec, 11, Set Van Nguyen, 44, was found dead in the airlock entrance to a walk-in refrigerator in the laboratory where he worked in Victoria State, Australia. The reported cause of death, nitrogen asphyxiation, was totally inconsistent with airlock procedures as examined by experienced researchers. Though there is debate as to whether or not Nguyen was a microbiologist or a technician, it is known that the lab where he worked had just successfully crossed the DNA of mousepox and smallpox to produce a highly virulent new disease.

- On Feb. 8, Vladimir Korshunov, 56, was found dead on a Moscow street. He had been beaten to death. Korshunov had reportedly worked under Pasechnik in the Russian bioweapons program. Russian papers stated that Korshunov, head of the microbiology facility at the Russian State Medical University had developed a vaccine against bioweapons and at least one biowarfare agent.

- On Feb. 11, Ian Langford, 40, was found dead in his home in Norwich, England. He had been beaten to death. Langford had specialized in studying waste water and multiple causalities of communicable diseases. He was also an expert in tracking the geographic spread of communicable diseases.

- On Feb. 27, Tanya Holzmayer and Guyang "Matthew" Huang were the victims of a reported murder suicide in the San Francisco bay area. Both were experts in DNA sequencing. Both had focused on the development of genomic drugs to treat AIDS and cancer.

- On March 24, Dr. Steven Mostow, a veteran pilot and Associate Dean at the University of Colorado who was an expert in infectious diseases and known as "Dr. Flu" was killed in a plane crash in western Colorado.

- On March 26, British microbiologist David Wynn-Williams was killed, according to *The Telegraph* when he was caught while jogging in between two cars that were having a traffic accident. Williams was an expert on microbiology in the Antarctic ecosystem and an expert in DNA sequencing.

Even though *The New York Times* expended almost 8,000 words to refute **FTW's** research and chalk these deaths up to coincidence on Aug. 11, 2002, there is more than ample reason to believe them to be related homicides.

The question then becomes whether there is any connection between these deaths and the creation of SARS, and if so, does this provide the key to understanding the existence and unleashing of an unnaturally occurring and artificial mutation of a corona virus. Is there reason to suspect that the murders were perpetrated in anticipation of the SARS outbreak. And finally,

the big question that must be asked is whether SARS was created as a bioweapons agent to be used to kill several billion people.

In lectures throughout 2002, **FTW** Editor Mike Ruppert was questioned as to possible motives to explain the untimely deaths of so many microbiologists with experience in DNA sequencing, communicable diseases, and biowarfare. Ruppert's answers focused on two possible motives. Scientists would have been able to deconstruct the disease agent and thus determine its origin as a manmade disease. This would have led to efforts to determine the laboratory and/or microbiologists who might have contributed a small portion in a highly compartmentalized operation in the development of a virulent, new disease. There would be a strong likelihood that any one of the participating microbiologists would have recognized their own work and come forward, exposing the deliberate creation of the organism. This scenario presents a motive in keeping with the ISIS article as detailed at the beginning of this report. Ruppert has consistently favored this scenario.

A second motive explaining the untimely deaths of these microbiologists lies in the search for a SARS cure. If the disease agent was intended as a bioweapon to kill several billion people, a quick cure would not be tolerated. Had the microbiologists not met with untimely deaths, their specialties in microbiology might have qualified them to effectuate a quick cure, something obviously unwanted by the disease's creators.

In asking these difficult questions about SARS it was quickly concluded that if it could be shown that there was a direct causal link between the deaths and SARS then SARS likely was "the big one." There would have been little reason to risk so many obvious murders and attract attention for a trial run. It became necessary to look deeper into the research histories of the dead microbiologists and to seek expert analysis.

Though there is not a clear trail linking all of the deaths to SARS, there are a great many connections which cannot be dismissed out of hand. Some of these connections are very disturbing.

N. Renay Tanner, a biomedical researcher with degrees in both biological sciences and sociomedical sciences from Columbia University and with expertise in the human rights ramifications of ideologically driven research, had already concluded that there was a great deal about SARS that was suspicious. "SARS simply doesn't fit normal epidemiological patterns. Initially my belief was that SARS was a 'socially constructed' disease that simultaneously functioned as economic retaliation and to legitimize the placement of a repressive public health infrastructure to be used at a later date."

"By 'socially constructed' we mean if it walks like a duck and coughs like a duck, we can call it SARS." Diseases ranging from the common cold to bronchial pneumonia can now be called SARS for ideological purposes. This at once permits the rush to prescribe very expensive, highly controversial, and possibly harmful drugs like AZT and Interferon as a treatment and as a means of boosting corporate profits, controlling China, and moving ahead toward an open police state in America.

But after examining the available research histories of the dead microbiologists her position evolved to encompass new information. "This is fascinating. You were right. These guys were very compartmentalized – potentially a microbiological dream team."

She continued "The best bets for work with coronaviruses are Wiley and Huang. Wiley worked with virus-building technology. Huang worked with BLAST sequences, a technology that can be used to identify genetically engineered organisms. Que worked with gene expression and inflammation. Holzmayer worked on antivirals and bacteriophages (which could produce drugs or vaccines), Nguyen worked with the now infamous mousepox team." Langford worked on disease modeling and multi-causal modeling. This would be important if one intends to obfuscate but still wants to examine or track causal factors. Wynne-Williams was an eco-biologist examining microbes under extreme conditions. Data on the research of the other microbiologists was not immediately available.

Tanner warns that we must not arrive at hasty conclusions but agreed that there was a striking convergence between the complementary research histories of the dead scientists, the expertise needed to create global bio-warfare and the timely emergence of SARS.

CONCLUSIONS

So now the possibility that SARS was manmade for bioeconomic purposes cannot be dismissed out of hand. While alarming, the convergence of the SARS outbreaks and the known research histories of many of the dead microbiologists does not justify the conclusion that SARS is a bioweapons intended to kill four billion people. But it does not rule out that possibility either.

This seemingly mutually contradictory answer is explained by the fact that some biomedical researchers interviewed by **FTW** have speculated that the "big one" will be a binary or a trinary agent that will combine either with vaccines or with other agents introduced into specific environments. It is also very possible, they say, that the "big one" could be presented or camouflaged as a mutation of the SARS virus and will not make its appearance for several years. That would explain the need to eliminate the scientists who participated in its creation, even before the more deadly disease – the one we are being told to expect – has arrived. By then, tracing the connection between the deaths and the appearance of the disease would have been more difficult.

In that light, the sudden mysterious appearance of a new SARS-like disease in Cambodia must be viewed with caution. As reported by the *Associated Press* on May 8, 2003, 7 of 392 people infected with an unidentified respiratory disease have died since that disease appeared on March 2, a day after the first reported case of SARS. Unlike SARS, symptoms of the new

disease also include diarrhea and a stable, rather than elevated, white cell count. What are the chances that two new deadly diseases suddenly emerge within twenty-four hours of each other?

And as death rates for SARS are continually revised upwards – now 15% according to a WHO statement released on May 8 - there remains the possibility that SARS, as unsettling and disturbing as it already is, may become something much more horrifying. Extremely close attention needs to be paid to future reported mutations of the virus and the incidence of any other diseases which may soon make their appearance.

That SARS is being man-manipulated is beyond question. That SARS is man made is extremely likely. That SARS is only beginning to change our lives is certain. Whether or not SARS is or will become a disease killing hundreds of millions and perhaps billions of people remains to be seen. But we are right to be wary. We are justified in being distrustful of governments and corporations giving us data on SARS and how to respond to the data and the disease. And we are certainly justified in being concerned about what is coming next.

-- Wayne Madsen is a Washington-based investigative journalist and former naval officer assigned to the National Security Agency. He testified before Cynthia McKinney's hearing on the genocide in the DRC in May 2001 and has worked with Bob Barr on privacy legislation in the past. He wrote the introduction to *Forbidden Truth*. Madsen can be reached at: WMadsen777@aol.com

Special thanks to Jon Rappoport of www.nomorefakenews.com



The Mouse That Roared

9,000 *FTW* Subscribers Take on America (and the World)!

May 21, 2003, 1500 PDT (FTW) – Since our ad ran in *The Washington Post* last Friday we have been completely overwhelmed with email and calls from people who want to help run the ad in more newspapers in America and around the world.

Well, we've got your request covered!

FIRST SOME STATISTICS

The *Washington Post* ad reached an audience of more than 2.5 million people. According to Washington insiders we have spoken to, the effects of it are still reverberating throughout our nation's capitol. While we are confident that our ad hastened and very likely caused, the April 26 firing of Army Secretary Thomas White, other recent departures were also very likely influenced by it. Those include:

- Ari Fleischer (White House press secretary) who announced his departure on May 17th;
- Mitch Daniels (White House budget director) who announced his resignation on May 6th (after *The Washington Post* had received the ad copy); and,
- Christie Todd Whitman (EPA Administrator) who announced her departure on May 21.

While it would be unreasonable to assume that our ad was solely responsible for their departures, we do know that the ad addressed issues that touched all four of them directly. In the case of Daniels it was announced that he had been subpoenaed in a stock fraud investigation right after his resignation. That had been in the works for some time. The point is that our ad highlighted either the personal liabilities each person carried with them, or the risks inherent in the position itself. It made a difference! These departures going in to an election cycle are the administration's way of shedding liabilities and possibly (in Whitman's case) someone saying, "I just can't do this anymore!"

That's part of what ads like this can do.

THE GAME

Ken at our ad agency has put together an amazing ad buy, the Top 12 newspapers (readership wise) in the United States:

Atlanta Journal Constitution
Boston Globe
Chicago Tribune
Dallas Morning News
Los Angeles Times
Miami Herald
New York Times
Philadelphia Inquirer
San Francisco Chronicle
Seattle Times
Minneapolis Tribune
Arizona Republic

Together, the readership of these newspapers is between 25-40 Million people!

If someone purchased these full-page ads individually in these newspapers it would cost well over \$500,000. We got a price of just \$100,000 for all 12 cities!

LET'S DO THE MATH

FTW has a little over 9,000 subscribers. If everyone put in JUST \$10.00 (ten) dollars we would have \$90,000 to run the ads! That's it. That simple.

9,000 **FTW** subscribers could affect the thinking of 40 MILLION AMERICANS! Now that's saying something! That is voting with your money!

WHAT SPIRIT!

A gentleman in Seattle phoned to say he and his wife discussed foregoing their summer vacation plans and putting their \$4,000 towards running the **FTW** ad in the *Seattle Times*. Another long time subscriber has pledged several thousand more to see the ad run in more places. A kid in Florida is putting on a benefit concert with his band to raise money to see the ad run in Florida.

REALITY

This is our time. This is our chance to reach and influence many, many millions of Americans (and readers world-wide)...and to wake them up!

We know that not all of you will send in \$10 to make this happen.

We also know that many of you will and can gladly offer several hundred or several thousand dollars to make this happen. Please do. This may be our last chance at free speech. NEVER in the history of America has such a message had the opportunity to reach this many people in print!

A separate account has been set up through our advertising agency to handle all of the donations. The money will be used EXCLUSIVELY to buy ad space.

We have 30 days to raise \$100,000 to buy the ad space. This is completely possible! The Mouse That Roared...will make a difference. Be part of this.

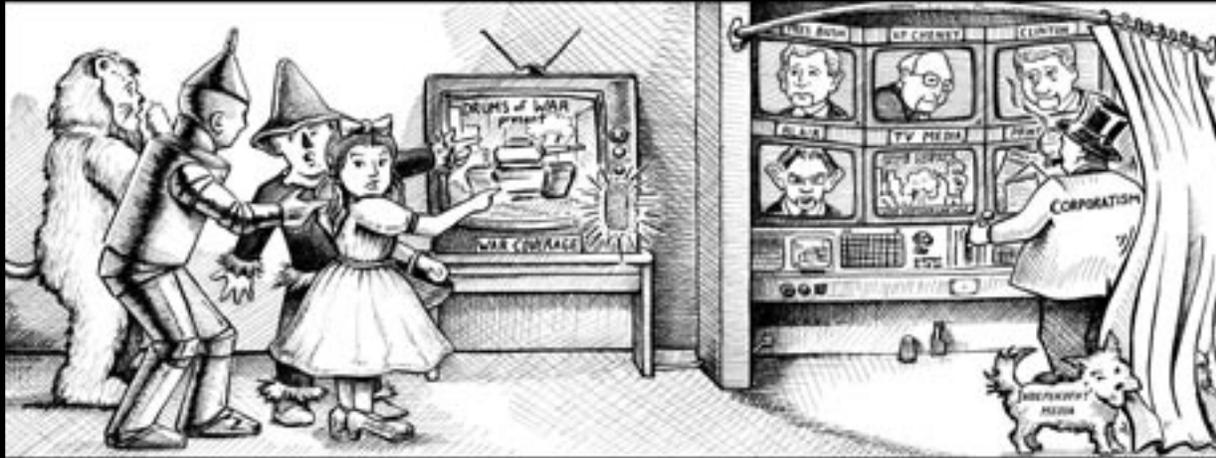
Make checks payable to: More Than News Productions - memo: FTW AD

Send to: From The Wilderness
Ad Donation
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Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

You can also donate online at: http://www.fromthewilderness.com/FTW_Ad.html

Note: Credit cards can be used to make donations but once the ad buys are placed, no refunds can be given.

“Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain...”



If you were a subscriber to *From The Wilderness*, here is what you would already know...

PEAK OIL – The war which “will not end in our lifetimes” is being waged because the world is beginning to run out of oil and gas. The gap between demand and production will increase forever. This is called Peak Oil. There is only enough conventional oil to last at present consumption rates for 35 years. Yet demand is increasing every year. There are no more large reserves to find. The Caspian Sea “bonanza” which was estimated at 250 billion barrels (Gb) in 1995-6, has turned out to be less than 40 Gb after two years of drilling. The world consumes a billion barrels of oil every 12 days.

On average, every barrel will now be more expensive to pump. Oil fields are dead when it takes more energy to pump oil than one gets from burning it. The only sources of cheap oil, in quantity, are the OPEC nations of the Middle East until they also peak in about 8 years. Iran has already passed its peak of production and will begin to import gasoline next year. The U.S. passed its peak of production in 1970. Within 20 years we will be importing 70% of our oil. So will China. About 60% of all recoverable oil is in the Middle East.

Hydrogen is too far away. It takes more than 3,000 gallons of gaseous hydrogen to equal one gallon of gasoline. Fuel cells do not create energy - they only store it. Producing commercial hydrogen requires both electricity and natural gas. It takes more energy to produce hydrogen than burning it yields. It is too late to change the infrastructure before economic and social crises begin.

The war which will not end in our lifetimes will include: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Colombia, Venezuela, West Africa, and the Southwest Pacific; anywhere there are significant reserves of oil and gas. These conflicts are being created now through *The National Security Strategy of the U.S.* Afghanistan and Iraq were only the beginning.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES – This ad is gratefully placed while Americans still have the right to speak publicly. Since 9/11 five amendments of our cherished Bill of Rights (the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 8th) have either been completely or partially nullified by provisions of the Patriot Act, The Homeland Security Bill and administration policy. A law secretly drafted by the administration and pending introduction, Patriot Act II, seeks further major revocations of our liberties. Some 112 major cities and the states of Hawaii and Alaska have passed resolutions opposing the Patriot Act.

The government may now forcibly vaccinate Americans with vaccines that have not been tested for efficacy, incarcerate them for refusal, and seize their property. Yet it has granted immunity to preposterously wealthy vaccine makers when people become seriously ill or die as a result. Already, three have died from smallpox vaccines and scores have become ill.

THE ECONOMY – Two million have lost jobs since 2001. Corporate fraud still destroys America’s pension plans. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation is insolvent. Deficits are soaring. Social Security is being looted. State and local governments are severely troubled. Individual and national debt is at unsustainable levels and personal bankruptcies have hit an all-time high. Financial and gold markets are rigged and the U.S. economy is at least partially sustained by laundering almost a trillion dollars of criminal money through Wall Street each year—most of it from those who control the global drug trade.

DRUGS – There were no opium poppies in Afghanistan on 9/11. According to the New York Times, ABC, and the DEA, the Taliban wiped out opium production before 9/11. Yet since the U.S. occupation, from areas controlled by the CIA and U.S. military, Afghanistan is again the world’s leading opium producer. This has restored an estimated \$200 billion in cash to the world banking system.

TAXPAYER MONEY STOLEN – Last year Senator Fritz Hollings asked the White House to submit an audited federal budget. It refused. CBS News and *INSIGHT* Magazine have told us that the Pentagon has “lost” more than \$3.3 trillion of taxpayer money between 1999 and 2001. That money—your money—is gone. Corporations like Lockheed-Martin and DynCorp—which has been connected to a child prostitution ring in the Balkans—have contracts to do the data processing for these agencies. For FY1999 HUD made an adjustment to their checkbook after “misplacing” \$59 billion. There are many connections with Enron. Herbert “Pug” Winokur sat on DynCorp’s Board until recently and was also the chair of the Enron finance committee.

HIGH CRIMES – The Bush Administration, like the Clinton Administration, is committing crimes. It has illegally refused to release Reagan-Bush presidential papers. It has hidden the records of the Vice President’s Energy Task Force behind an illegal appellate court ruling. It has concealed possible criminal conflicts of interest involving John Ashcroft who received 2000 campaign donations from Exxon-Mobil, now identified as a target of multiple three-year grand jury investigations, which have just produced New York felony indictments. As known targets of those grand juries, Mobil and BP were allowed closed-door access to the secret formation of US energy policy. Dick Cheney has been sued by Halliburton stockholders for book-cooking while he was the CEO.

Recently, Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and Powell presented documents, now acknowledged to be forgeries, to argue for the invasion of Iraq.

9/11 – There is overwhelming evidence from public and congressional records that the Bush Administration had full foreknowledge of the 9/11 attacks and did nothing to prevent them. Reported billions in 9/11 insider trading have resulted in official silence rather than asset forfeiture. Standard FAA and NORAD procedures requiring fighters to be scrambled were contravened during the attacks. One supervisory FBI agent, who actively and forcefully interfered with five separate investigations that might have prevented the attacks, as acknowledged by other FBI personnel themselves, was actually promoted afterwards.

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE HAVE PAID THEIR DUES AND PERSISTED IN TRYING TO DISCUSS THESE ISSUES—THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO BE HEARD.

The Pentagon has consistently refused to produce audited financial statements and has "undocumentable adjustments" of over \$3.3 trillion in recent years. Despite significant budget increases, the Army indicates that they cannot produce audited financials for FY2001 as a result of "the loss of financial management personnel sustained during the September 11 terrorist attack." Secretary Rumsfeld can, however, issue billions in new mission-critical contracts to private contractors running the information and accounting systems that are mysteriously missing \$3.3 trillion. The more money that goes missing at the Pentagon, the more those responsible appear to profit from failure. Our national security is controlled by political appointees who cannot protect their own bank accounts and office building, but can move resources out of the hands of experienced military leadership to Lockheed Martin, CSC DynCorp and other corporations to wage war. To add insult to injury, the Army has issued no-bid sole-source contracts to Halliburton to manage Iraqi oil. The State Dept USAID has awarded a no-bid, sole-source contract of up to \$500 million to CSC DynCorp to run police, prisons and judiciary in Iraq. This, despite CSC DynCorp's problems related to employee sex slave trafficking and mafia associations in Eastern Europe. This is not a military run by experienced government employees loyal to the American people. This is a stock market play that is all dirty laundry and no accountability.

-- **Catherine Austin Fitts**, Solari, Inc. – www.solari.com;
Assistant Secretary of Housing—First Bush Administration, Former Managing Director—Dillon Read

U.S. Army Field Manual 27-10, The Law of Land Warfare, binds President Bush in his constitutional capacity as Commander in Chief of U.S. Armed Forces. Paragraphs 498 and 500 of the Manual expressly incorporate the Nuremberg concept of Crimes Against Peace, and apply them to U.S. Government Officials, whether civilian or military. The 1945 Nuremberg Charter defines Crimes against Peace as: "planning, preparation, initiation or waging of a war of aggression, or a war in violation of international treaties, agreements or assurances, or participation in a common plan or conspiracy for the accomplishment of any of the foregoing." The United States government prosecuted and executed Nazi Leaders at Nuremberg for the commission of Crimes against Peace, among other international crimes. I oppose the imposition of the death penalty upon any person for any reason. But because he has committed a Nuremberg Crime against Peace by waging a war of aggression against Iraq in violation of the United Nations Charter and the Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact, President Bush should be impeached, convicted and removed from Office for also committing "high crimes and misdemeanors" in accordance with Article II, Section 4 of the United States Constitution.

-- **Francis A. Boyle, Professor of Law, University of Illinois College of Law in Champaign**;
Founder—National Campaign to Impeach Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld & Ashcroft.

Beware the Land of Oz. For it is only in the Land of Oz that a handful of vainglorious men could send hundreds of thousands of young soldiers off to fight in an illegal war. And only in the Land of Oz can The Grand Wizard erode basic civil rights and call it enhanced security. And, where but in Oz could a felon, convicted of lying in public, be put in charge of Total Information Awareness? In America, 160,000 veterans suffer chronic illnesses from the first Gulf War and tonight thousands of them will sleep on the street. 75 million Americans had no health insurance in 2001 or 2002. Unemployment is at an 8-year high. Meanwhile, at the Wizard's court, men of dubious reputation, gorge themselves at the people's expense. Expose the Grand Wizard; this is our America, not Oz.

-- **Five-term Congresswoman, Cynthia McKinney**

(McKinney was unseated last year after openly questioning war profiteering by corporations like the Carlyle Group and ignored 9/11 warnings. A massive and illegally orchestrated crossover Republican vote in her 2003 primary ensured her opponent's victory. She has since been vindicated by both congressional hearings and by a March 16 story by Greg Schneider in *The Washington Post*.)

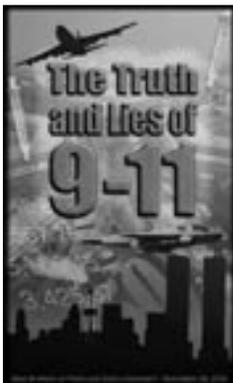
[Thank you to the elected representatives who have challenged the new Empire, including: Ron Paul, John Conyers, Dennis Kucinich, Russ Feingold, Barbara Lee, James Sensenbrenner, Dan Burton, Bob Barr, Henry Waxman, Pat Leahy, Ron Wyden, and Paul Wellstone.]

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"Fascism should more properly be called corporatism, since it is the merger of state and corporate power."

– Benito Mussolini



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Saudi Arabia, West Africa -- Next Stops in the Infinite War for Oil

by Michael C. Ruppert

[Sometimes pointing out that one was right is not about ego. Sometimes it's about saying that if others had listened, a lot of lives might have been saved because things would have been handled differently. It is about saying that there are things that can be changed now to prevent that kind of damage from being carried forward... one more time.

On May 14, I watched Amy Goodman, producer and anchor of Pacifica Radio's "Democracy Now," appear on *CNN* discussing the bombings in Saudi Arabia, and recent well-publicized statements by Senator Bob Graham -- former chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee -- suggesting that the Bush administration was engaging in a cover-up of 9/11. It was a pyrrhic vindication for me. Make no mistake, Graham is doing nothing more than damage control as he describes what happened as "intelligence failures." He should not be trusted under any circumstances. But Goodman's repeated focus on the inconsistencies, deceptions and lies of 9/11 -- on *CNN* no less -- was a bittersweet and ironic validation of positions I took on three Pacifica stations (WBAI, KPFA and KPFK) more than 18 months ago. I was labeled as: a money grubbing, conspiracy theorist; libelously as a fired ex-cop; and as an unstable mental case who did sloppy research by the likes of David Corn of *The Nation*, Norman Solomon, Larry Bensky, Sonali Kolhatkar and Marc Cooper.

Goodman has merely ignored my work. Yet, according to someone who gave it to her, she has had my tape, "The Truth and Lies of 9-11," for many months. And she knows that what I was saying eighteen months ago is exactly what Graham is trying to spin now. I know this because many people who emailed her asking her to have me as a guest sent me copies. Gore Vidal has had the tape for quite a while too. Vidal used every one of the quotes from Zbigniew Brzezinski's book, "The Grand Chessboard," which I brought to public light in the fall of 2001 in his own lengthy 9/11 article and conveniently forgot to mention the person who did the work or what he was trying to say. Now, a day late and a dollar short, the Lilly Livered Left has arrived on the scene with the brilliant observation, "Wait, we have to look at 9/11! We have to look at 9/11!"

This is so much more than "I told you so." The danger and power of a fascist empire in warp drive to control global oil reserves and crush opposition grows every day. This is all about the fact that the consequences arising from the peak and inevitable decline of world oil production are going to be the most cataclysmic events in human history. That realization is all too slowly dawning upon people who might be in a position to change the way this bloody game is being played. Richard Heinberg's new book "The Party's Over" and the diligent work of world-class oil experts like Colin Campbell of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil- www.peakoil.net - are finally making inroads into the collective consciousness of governments, business and activists.

But the herd always seems to be ten paces behind the Empire.

Having been vindicated so many times I point again to Saudi Arabia and also now to West Africa. Nine months ago **FTW** wrote that Saudi Arabia would likely be the next stop on the Empire's world tour after Iraq. Little noticed details of the recent bombings in Riyadh confirm it. And recent developments in Africa, especially Nigeria - the world's sixth largest oil producer - are sounding alarms that al Qaeda may be about to reveal an African face, including that of Osama bin Laden.

Every time my analysis is vindicated, every time an **FTW** prediction comes true, it is more affirmation that Peak Oil is real. And if Peak Oil is real, the consequences of it are going to devastate human civilization within our lifetimes. They are doing exactly that right now, today. It started on 9/11. It doesn't take a genius to read a map, just someone who is willing to look at it and choose the right road - the road less traveled. September 11th is the place where the empire remains vulnerable; there and with the criminal handling of taxpayer money and the continued looting of the Treasury. - MCR]

"On the eve of a U.S. invasion of Iraq the deployment of U.S. military personnel in the region is also a convenient placement of resources for what may be a one-two punch to take over a tottering kingdom that owns 25 percent of all the oil on the planet at the same time that Saddam Hussein is removed from power in a country that controls another 11 percent. Together, the two countries -- which have not yet peaked in production capacity -- and which are the only two nations capable of an... increase in output possess 36 percent of the world's known oil...

And still the American people try to ignore the fact that the administration knew about, and could have prevented, the attacks of September 11th."

Saudi Arabia: The Sarajevo of the 21st Century, Michael C. Ruppert From The Wilderness, Aug. 21, 2002

May 15, 2003, 2100 PDT (FTW) - The three bombings of expatriate compounds which took place in the Saudi Capital on Monday, May 12, signal more than a "resurgent" al Qaeda. That the CIA, the Bush family and Osama bin Laden have been cooperating and doing business for decades is now extremely well documented and part of the "9/11 cover-up" being alluded to by Bob Graham, the former chair of the Senate intelligence committee, in his public remarks. As *The Financial Times* reported in separate stories on May 13, the attacks signal the possible start of a campaign to overthrow the feeble Saudi monarchy and represent a serious challenge to the royal family. Quoting a senior western diplomat in the Saudi capital the *FT* reported, "This is a serious challenge to the al-Sauds. It is on the scale of the 1979 takeover of the Grand Mosque in Mecca." As *FTW* reported last August, Saudi King Fahd remains on life support on a private island off the coast of Spain while Crown Prince Abdullah and Prince Sultan jockey for position and are ready to fight for the throne the instant the King takes his last breath. Abdullah controls the Saudi National Guard and Sultan controls the army. Both are prepared to cater to elements of the population which largely sympathize with al Qaeda, which is highly fragmented, and which do not like either of the billionaire princes.

FTW's previous reporting from last August indicated that the US was likely developing plans to destabilize Saudi Arabia, partition it, and occupy the world's largest oil fields shortly after it had successfully occupied Iraq. To read the full story please visit: http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/082102_saudi_arabia_1.html

Meanwhile, in Nigeria, the world's sixth largest oil producer, and throughout western and equatorial Africa, continuing rebel violence is laying the groundwork for NATO and US military intervention. Both developments are in keeping with Dick Cheney's "war which will not end in our lifetimes," a war to control the last remaining oil reserves on the planet.

Saudi Arabia 2003

Al Qaeda has never been known to issue warnings about pending attacks. Yet according to an *AP* story on May 13, just twenty-four hours before the attacks occurred, an al Qaeda operative calling himself Abu Mohammed al-Ablaj sent an email to the London-based Arab magazine *Al-Majalla* stating that suicide attacks targeting the Saudi regime and American interests were pending. This made it certain that al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden would be identified as the perpetrators.

As the number of deaths from the highly coordinated and synchronized machine gun and car bomb suicide attacks of May 12 varied, few noticed that one of the targets was a compound occupied by the Vinnell Corporation - now a subsidiary of Northrop Grumman. Vinnell has an interesting history about which *FTW* has written before. Previously owned by the now-notorious Carlyle Group, Vinnell is perhaps the most elite paramilitary training company in the world and it has long been reported to have heavy ties to the CIA, even to the point of providing non-official cover (NOC) for CIA officers and agents. As we reported in October of 2000, Vinnell, along with DynCorp and MPRI, are the three largest and best-connected private mercenary operations in the world.

A *Times of London* story on May 14, headlined "Firm 'Was Cover for CIA'" discussed Vinnell's spooky past, its longstanding military presence in the region and noted that the current attack was the second bombing Vinnell had suffered in eight years. It was actually the third bombing of Vinnell operations since 1991. The *Times* did not mention the fact that a Vinnell joint venture with Halliburton's Brown and Root (Vinnell, Brown and Root) had its Ankara office bombed shortly after the Gulf War by a Kurdish separatist group. Brown and Root and the Kurds have been repeatedly connected to heroin smuggling controlled by the CIA from as far back as 1977. (To learn more about the Vinnell Corp. please visit: <http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ciadrugs/bush-cheney-drugs.html>.)

Motives for these bombings might have varied as in the case of the 1991 bombing where Kurdish separatists - feeling betrayed (again) by the CIA - were seeking revenge after being left exposed and vulnerable at the end of the Gulf War.

What is interesting about the bombings is that they targeted the compound occupied by Vinnell employees at a time when most of them weren't there. An *AP* story on May 13, 2003, stated, "The seven Americans killed lived in a four-story building that was heavily damaged. Seventy Americans employed by the Vinnell Corp., a Virginia company with a contract to train Saudi military and civilian officials, lived in the building. By chance, 50 were away on a training exercise."

Recent dishonesties of the Bush administration including the use of forged documents about Iraqi uranium purchases, the failure to produce Saddam's weapons of mass destruction, and a host of 9/11 inconsistencies make carte blanche acceptance of official statements a bit difficult. Only one Vinnell victim, an African American, has been publicly identified as of this writing.

It would have been more accurate, however, to say that Vinnell was training the Saudi National Guard rather than the "military," which implies the Army. As we reported last August, the US is said to be favoring Prince Sultan who controls the Army. Conveniently, this attack undermines US ability to support the National Guard which belongs to 69-year-old Crown Prince Abdullah.

To state that these attacks are al Qaeda sponsored discloses the US's real intent. Al Qaeda is Osama bin Laden. And bin Laden, who has never been estranged from his family, which operates a multi-billion dollar corporation, does not and has never acted contrary to US interests. The Saudi Binladin Group owns a telecommunications company and operates more than 50 satellites used for cell and satellite phone transmissions. The Binladin Group has also engaged in joint construction ventures with both Halliburton and Enron. And the family maintains extremely close financial ties with the Saudi Royal banker Khaled bin Mahfouz, a player in the drug bank BCCI, and known to have provided heavy financial support to al Qaeda prior to 9/11.

Saudi Arabia is another classic example of how trickle-down economics doesn't work. The chances are good that the US would conveniently respond to a collapse of the Saudi monarchy in an operation which would see many of the al-Saud and

Bin Laden family gratefully take their billions and watch as their country, which has only existed since the 1930s, be partitioned into several emirates or sultanates. They might safely and gratefully move into the eastern part of the country - where the oil is - under US protection and neatly dodge the wreckage they themselves have created in the rest of the country. Or they might move to Switzerland or Beverly Hills as the family of the Shah of Iran did in 1979. In recent years Saudi Arabia has become a debtor nation, borrowing money to finance social programs which remain under-funded due to declining oil revenues and corruption. The general population is violently anti-American and only tolerates the monarchy because they are afraid of it.

If bin Laden has signaled the time to attack the regime, and if we see one more serious attack in the coming weeks, the smart money says that the monarchy is finished and that the US will conveniently find it necessary to protect the oil fields. The recent move to take US military personnel out of the country was not to mollify Saudi public opinion. It was to take the fighter jets, bombers, tankers and sensitive communications gear to nearby bases in Qatar and Kuwait where a popular uprising couldn't reach them but where they could still quickly reach Saudi targets. And with the eventual partitioning of Saudi Arabia, the Muslim Holy cities of Mecca and Medina, far off in the west, would be safely separated from the oil, further weakening the linkage between the two in world opinion.

As a result of the bombing, *Reuters* reported on May 15 that as many as 60 FBI and CIA agents had arrived in-country to commence operations and assist Saudi security services with admitted shortcomings. Given the history of what happens in countries where CIA presence has rapidly grown as a result of crises, like Vietnam and Iran, it's time to start an office pool about how long the monarchy has to stay in power.

The war without end continues...

Nigeria and Africa

Before discussing developments in equatorial Africa it is essential to understand the oil picture there. There are no oil reserves anywhere which rival those of Saudi Arabia with approximately 250 billion barrels (Gb), or Iraq which has approximately 112 Gb. Current world consumption is approximately 1 Gb every twelve days and demand is increasing rapidly. The two critical factors are the accessibility of oil (both geologically and geographically) and how long it takes to get it to market. It takes about six weeks for oil from the Persian Gulf to reach an American gas tank yet it takes only about two weeks for oil from West Africa to make the same journey. Equally important, oil installations in West Africa are in direct and immediate reach of US naval forces from the Atlantic Ocean. There are no political or international coalitions which need to be massaged if intervention becomes necessary.

Nigeria, the world's sixth largest oil producer, passed its peak of production in 1979 and has estimated reserves of approximately 24 Gb. What makes Nigeria critical is the fact that it can function, with minimal investment, as a so-called "swing" producer. In the event of oil shortages there are wells, pipelines and refineries already in place and easily accessible which could accommodate a short-term increase in production to control prices or offset shortages. Shell, ChevronTexaco, and TotalFinaElf have heavy investments in the country and until recently, maintained sizeable workforces there.

Recently the US has been exerting tremendous pressure on Nigeria to withdraw from OPEC and its strict production quotas by dangling the prospect of Imperially-funded prosperity in front of it. The appeal of African oil has drawn serious US government attention, even to the point of it sponsoring a January, 2002, Washington conference titled, "African Oil - A Priority for U.S. National Security and African Development." This was reported in *The Petroleum Supply Monthly* in December of 2002 and on the World Socialist Web Site in August of the same year.

Aside from Nigeria, the five biggest oil producers in Africa - in descending order are Algeria, Libya, Egypt and Angola. Angola alone is the ninth largest oil supplier to the U.S. The U.S. currently imports more oil from these six countries than it does from Saudi Arabia. Recent projections by the U.S. National Intelligence Council as reported in *The Petroleum Supply Monthly* estimate that the proportion of U.S. oil imports from sub-Saharan Africa will reach 25% by 2015.

I have not been surprised, therefore, as I have seen stories that revolts are brewing in the Central African Republic or that Al Qaeda has been linked to weapons shipments in West Africa where it has been reportedly seeking to relocate training bases. One report issued by the Voice of America (VOA), a CIA-connected international radio network, in November, 2002, has indicated that al Qaeda is quietly supporting nationalist and tribal insurgencies throughout West Africa.

I have previously reported that a reliable CIA source has been insisting that Osama bin Laden is comfortably living in Freetown, the capital of nearby Sierra Leone, for more than a year.

Elsewhere in the region there are signs of small to mid-sized discoveries which, while not affecting Peak Oil, are certainly keys to how Peak oil politics and economics will be played out. As reported by Wayne Madsen in the *Online Journal* on January 16, 2003, Western Sahara -- illegally occupied by Morocco in 1975 -- is now reporting significant finds, and U.S. oil companies like Kerr-McGhee, fronted by former Bush I Secretary of State and consummate oil man James Baker, are signing offshore exploration agreements with the Moroccan government. Baker and his law firm Baker-Potts turn up in every major oil development from Kazakhstan to the Balkans to Africa.

Clearly West Africa is vital to the Empire. The *Times of London* acknowledged this in a July 29, 2002, story headlined, "U.S. Presses Africa to turn on the tap of crude oil." Quoting Walter Kansteiner, U.S. Under Secretary of State for African Affairs, the *Times* reported, "African oil is of national strategic interest to us, and it will increase and become more important as we go forward."

A Timeline of Increasing Turmoil

- Nov. 13, 2002 - *Stratfor*, a private global intelligence service reports, "U.S. intelligence sources have floated a report that al Qaeda now might represent a threat to U.S. interests in West Africa. The report could indicate growing concern in Washington that sparsely populated and obscure countries in the region could be a serious weakness in the global fight against Islamic militancy."
- Dec. 13, 2002 - *Stratfor* reports that unrest in the nearby Central African Republic may spark a civil war, "in which countries throughout the continent will participate."
- Jan, 2003 - A confidential *FTW* source reports that US Special Forces troops have just returned to Ft. Hood from Africa where they have been training rebels.
- Jan. 21, 2003 - All Africa.com reports that the Niger delta may secede from Nigeria if inequities in oil revenue spending are not addressed.
- Jan. 22, 2003 - Nigerian President Obasanjo requests an increase in Nigeria's production quota from OPEC.
- Feb. 15, 2003 - *VOA* reports that Nigerian oil rig workers have started a strike over wages.
- Feb. 16, 2003 - The *Gulf Daily News* reports that the strike is hurting oil exports.
- Feb. 20, 2003 - *Agence France Presse (AFP)* reports that China has announced it will invest \$300 million in Nigerian natural gas exports.
- Feb. 21, 2003 - *The Independent* reports that the strike has been called off.
- Feb 25, 2003 - The *Miami Herald* reports that Nigeria is having to tap its strategic reserves and import gasoline because of combined shortages due to tensions in Iraq and Venezuela.
- March 20, 2003 - One day after the start of the US invasion of Iraq, *BBC* reports that ten people died as a result of rebel clashes in the oil-rich Delta and that ChevronTexaco and Shell have begun evacuations.
- March 24, 2003 - *AFP* reports that Nigerian production has been cut by one third due to the continuing revolt.
- April 3, 2003 - *AFP* reports that the US has given seven 160-foot warships to the Nigerian Navy to protect coastal oil facilities.
- April 6, 2003 - *AFP* reports that rebels have blown up a section of the main pipeline servicing coastal oil facilities.
- April 7, 2003 - The *AP* reports that Nigerian production has been cut by more than 40% as a result of the insurgency.
- April 16, 2003 - All Africa.com reports that the major oil companies have imposed new conditions on the Nigerian government for release of leased oil fields to indigenous companies.
- April 24, 2003 - *AFP* reports that Nigeria has dispatched two of its new warship to protect oil facilities in the Delta.
- April 25, 2003 - *AFP* reports that the US company, Murphy Oil, has just signed an oil production sharing agreement for offshore Atlantic leases with the Republic of Congo where the French firm Elf already has heavy investments.
- April 28, 2003 - *AFP* reports that Shell has beefed up security and is expecting attacks on its loading/refinery platforms. Reuters reports that Shell has taken out newspaper ads warning of the attacks.
- April 29, 2003 - The *AP* reports that 97 oil workers, including 21 Americans have been taken hostage as rebels seize offshore oil platforms.
- April 30, 2003 - Britain's *ITN* reports that the Nigerian warships are in the vicinity of the captured rigs and that the stand-off has actually been in progress for 11 days.
- May 1, 2003 - *Reuters* reports that US Justice Department officials have charged former Enron and Merrill Lynch employees with a fraud scheme to boost income using Nigerian "power barges" to store natural gas for electrical production.
- May 1, 2003 - *VOA* reports that NATO and its allies, according to its commander, General James Jones, will likely be focusing its attention on West African instability.
- May 2, 2003 - The *Christian Science Monitor* analyzes the effects on world oil supplies caused by the continuing hostage drama. On the same day *VOA* reports that negotiations for the release of the hostages have been successful.
- May 3, 2003 - *The Guardian* reports that British mercenaries are en route to Nigeria to free the hostages.
- May 3, 2003 - The *AP* reports that the hostages have been released.
- May 8, 2003 - A *Reuters* story reports that Halliburton has acknowledged giving \$2.4 million in bribes to Nigerian officials to obtain oil service contracts.
- May 8, 2003 - Africa's *This Day Online* reports, "Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) has warned that an economic, human and environmental carnage of unimaginable scale looms in the Niger Delta following an alleged threat by criminal elements to blow up a sophisticated float, production, storage and offloading (FPSO) vessel."
- May 8, 2003 - *CNN* reports that seven new nations have joined NATO. They are: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. All are or will soon be dependent upon energy imports to sustain their economies.
- May 12, 2003 - *AFP* reports a new rebel attack on the Shell pipeline triggering an oil spill.
- May 12, 2003 - *AFP* reports that the UN has decided to send a force of 76 peacekeepers to nearby Ivory Coast to help resolve a nine-month old civil war.
- May 15, 2003 - The *AP* reports that top al Qaeda leader, Fazul Abdullah Mohammed, wanted for the 1998 embassy bombings, may have returned to Kenya in a plan to target British commercial air traffic. Britain suspends commercial air traffic to the country.

In the meantime, strong support for al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden remains unaffected and generally unnoticed throughout the northern half of the African continent. And although there have been no press reports (other than *Stratfor*) describing the Nigerian rebels as being al Qaeda connected, I wouldn't want to bet that such a "discovery" will not be conveniently made when it comes time for the empire to take the oil.

It won't be long; maybe two years, maybe less. Saudi Arabia could go at any time. The map of Peak Oil doesn't always tell us when the empire will make its moves. But since 9/11 it has certainly told us where.

Post Script: At almost exactly the same time that *FTW* released this story a string of as many as six suicide bombings rocked the Moroccan city of Casablanca. The attacks were quickly attributed to al Qaeda.

[The following photograph, taken in March, 2002, in the Sierra Leone capital of Freetown, was published in the report, "For a Few Dollars More: How al Qaeda moved into the diamond trade" by Global Witness, April, 2003.]



The "Osama" T-Shirt
Sierra Leone, West Africa.



(continued from page 1, Subscriber Buys FTW Full Page Ad)

Ruppert continued, "We knew that if **FTW** were to try to book the ad alone we would likely be turned down. Because the ad and its cartoon, conceived by **FTW's** General Manager, Mike Leon, and drawn for us by Canadian artist Blaine Machan, was critical of the major media and the US economy's corruption and reliance on drug money, we needed an edge. So we turned to the L.A.-based More Than News agency and its owner Ken Levine for assistance. We had worked with Ken -- a former L.A. area TV news director -- and we trusted him."

Levine, working in concert with the **FTW** subscriber purchased the ad space through a major New York ad brokerage firm, with which Levine has had good relations. That firm actually books most of the *Post's* ad space and that provided the necessary clout to get the ad to the next stage.

The text of the ad was submitted to New York on April 15, well before White's firing. According to Levine, there was quite a reaction. "They had never seen anything like this. They liked it but they thought the *Post* would never approve it even though the *Post* has a decent history of running political ads."

In two places the ad featured statements highly critical of now-former Secretary White. In her statement, Fitts criticized White for his inability to balance the Army's books at a time when the Department of Defense has admittedly "misplaced" more than \$3 trillion of taxpayer money. Ruppert observed, "White's claim that residual damage from the attacks of September 11th was the cause for unbalanced books in the Army was ludicrous. The attack of 9/11 hit the Navy Wing of the Pentagon. How could that affect the Army?"

In the text of the ad itself White was also criticized for his role as an Enron executive which provided him with millions of dollars in income while stockholders were being defrauded. White was subsequently investigated for insider trading of Enron stock.

Boyle, a professor of international law has been the leader in a growing movement to impeach President George W. Bush for high crimes and misdemeanors related to his prosecution of the Iraqi invasion. Recently, articles of impeachment drafted by Boyle were reviewed by several members of congress. McKinney, widely criticized in the press for asking important questions about Bush administration foreknowledge of the 9/11 attacks, and the possibility of excessive profiteering by corporations allied with the Bush administration, has since been vindicated by congressional intelligence hearings and recent major media stories concerning the Carlyle Group. She lost her 2002 primary election to a newcomer in what is now being labeled in a Georgia lawsuit as a demonstrably-illegal Republican crossover vote.

"I asked these three heroes to participate in the ad because they have all shown great courage in acting as responsible public servants and citizens and they have all suffered punishment as a result. Yet they are still standing, still in the ring and they deserve recognition for their perseverance," said Ruppert.

But there was to be more drama before the ad was printed.

The *Washington Post* advertising department approved the text of the first ad just a day after White's firing. According to Ruppert and Levine it was not possible after that to change the text of the ad without reopening the entire approval process and risking a rejection after the ad had apparently been leaked to government circles in Washington.

"And all we had was a window of about two weeks when the ad was supposed to run under the contract. We had no control over the exact day. So we decided to let the first ad run without trying to update it in the wake of White's firing," Ruppert observed. "It was just too risky otherwise. The only thing that could have blocked the ad -- which was purchased at a discount rate through the ad brokerage -- would have been if there was a sudden flurry of late advertisers who suddenly decided to purchase full-price ads."

"We were told that this was highly unlikely but, as it turns out, that's exactly what happened," said Ruppert with a chuckle. "One of our subscribers in the Washington area told us that he had never seen so many full-page ads in his life."

When the two week contract period was not met by the *Post*, **FTW** then had the opportunity to change the text to what ran today without risking a rejection. On Levine's advice the ad was rebooked for another week and the second version was published today.

From the start Ruppert was skeptical that the ad would be allowed to run under any circumstances. He views it's publication today as something of a much needed miracle.

"When people see the kind of reaction this ad produces and the power that they have to stir the public and get real responses out of government, I think we're going to see a lot more efforts like this. It's one thing when one individual in a position to do it pays for an ad like this. But twenty thousand dollars isn't an unreachable amount for a hundred or a thousand people. Pretty soon you might see people forming coalitions to purchase commercials on television or blocks of ads in major newspapers. That's how you reach the people and keep good and accurate information from being marginalized.

"It was also extremely important that we recognized and gave energy to a number of independent media sources that have made great contributions since 9/11. While much of America may not know how much these organizations have influenced events, they should. Independent media is filling a huge vacuum left by the needlessly obedient mainstream press.

"It's called taking full advantage of those aspects of free speech that the government hasn't taken away yet. It's learning how the money works and using it to your advantage. As Fitts always says, 'Vote with your money.'"



**Do you want to run the ad in YOUR local newspaper?
Contact us at: media@copvcia.com**