



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

Print Post Publication Number 381667 00258

Vol.40, No.24

June 25th, 2004

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"The Bush administration has proved itself to be an insular group of inept, dishonest and dangerous CEOs of the corporation known as America. They have become very bad for business and the Board of Directors is now taking action. Make no mistake, the CIA works for 'The Board' – Wall Street and big money. The long-term (very corrupt and unethical) agenda of the Board, in the face of multiple worsening global crises, was intended to proceed far beyond the initially destructive war in Iraq, toward an effective reconstruction and a strategic response to Peak Oil. But the Neocons have stalled at the ugly stage: killing hundreds of thousands of people; destroying Iraq's industrial and cultural infrastructure as their own bombs and other people's RPGs blow everything up; getting caught running torture camps; and making the whole world intensely dislike America. These jerks are doing real damage to their masters' interests..."*

– Michael Ruppert in *Coup D'etat*, From the Wilderness Publications, 2004

IS THERE A CIA 'COUP' IN PROGRESS? Claims in Michael Ruppert's recent article "Coup D'Etat" (www.fromthewilderness.com) leave one quite startled. Could it be true? Has he correctly deduced what others have failed to grasp – or are reluctant to report?

Michael Ruppert is claiming that contrary to the saturation spin churned out by the major news outlets, the real reasons why the CIA's George Tenet and James Pavitt recently resigned have nothing to do with the alleged 9/11 and Iraqi intelligence failures, but everything to do with the "imminent and extremely messy demise of George Bush and his Neocon administration in a coup d'etat being executed by the Central Intelligence Agency".

The CIA coup, he claims, has become an urgent priority as a number of deepening global crises "threaten their master's interests".

The resignations of these two men is the key to understanding the threat of "a deteriorating world scene" and the fact that America is on the "precipice of a presidential and constitutional crisis that will ultimately dwarf the removal of Richard Nixon in 1974".

What makes him think so? The following is the substance of his claims:

White House leak exposes undercover agent: Shortly after the 'surprise' CIA Tenet-Pavitt resignations, Wayne Madsen, a former Naval intelligence officer, said the resignations were directly connected to the criminal investigation of a 2003 White House leak that openly exposed Valerie Plame as an undercover CIA officer. (Reported in *On Target-Bulletin*, "Heads Start to Roll", June 11th, 2004)

Immense damage to US strategic interests: The leak also destroyed a long-term CIA proprietary intelligence gathering operation which was of immense importance to US strategic interests at a critical moment.

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Leak vindictive retaliation: The leak was a vindictive retaliation for statements, reports and actions taken by Plame's husband, former Ambassador Joseph Wilson, which had deeply embarrassed the Bush administration and exposed it to possible charges for impeachable offences, including lying to the American people about an alleged (and totally unfounded) nuclear threat posed by Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

Columnist privy to leak publishes details: Robert Novak, beneficiary of the leak, immediately published it on July 14th, 2003, and Valerie Plame's career (at least the covert part) instantly ended. The actual damage caused by that leak has never been fully appreciated.

Husband of agent embarrasses Bush junta: Joseph Wilson deeply embarrassed almost every senior member of the Bush junta by proving to the world that they were consciously lying about one of their most important justifications for invading Iraq: namely, their claim to have had certain knowledge, based on "good and reliable" intelligence, that Hussein was on the brink of deploying a nuclear weapon, possibly inside the United States.

"Intelligence" proves to be forgery: It was eventually disclosed that the "intelligence" possessed by the administration was a set of poorly forged documents on a letterhead from the government of Niger, which described attempts by Iraq to purchase yellowcake uranium for a nuclear weapons program.

Bush junta 'took the bait': George Bush made the charge and actually cited the documents in his 2003 State-of-the-Union address, even after he had been cautioned by George Tenet not to rely on them. In a major speech at the United Nations, Colin Powell charged that Iraq was on the verge of deploying a nuke and had been trying to acquire uranium. Dick Cheney charged in several speeches that Saddam was capable of nuclear terror. And shortly before the invasion, when asked in a television interview whether there was sufficient proof and advance warning of the Iraqi nuclear threat, a smug and confident Condoleezza Rice quipped, "If we wait for a smoking gun, that smoking gun may be a mushroom cloud over an American city." Rice was lying through her teeth.

Corroborative evidence of criminal behaviour: The mention of Wilson's report came in July though his name was not disclosed. It suggested corroborative evidence of criminal, rather than stupid, behaviour by the administration. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported:

'A senior CIA official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the intelligence agency informed the White House on March 9th, 2002 – 10 months before Bush's nationally televised speech – that an agency source who had travelled to Niger could not confirm European intelligence reports that Iraq was attempting to buy uranium from the West African country.'

In an editorial in *New York Times*, July 6th, 2002, Wilson wrote on: 'What I didn't find in Africa'.

On July 14th, 2002, Novak published the column 'outing' Wilson's wife Valerie Plame the CIA agent. As a result, any criminal investigation of the Plame leak will also go into the Niger documents and any crimes committed which are materially related to Plame's exposure.

Wilson went public September 2002: Writing editorials and granting interviews which thoroughly exposed the Bush administration's criminal use of the documents, Cheney's lies about the mission, and all the other lies used to deceive the American people into the war Valerie Plame's husband, Joseph Wilson had gone public.

The moment Wilson went on the record, he became a legally admissible, corroborative evidentiary source. In other words, he became a witness available for subpoena and deposition, ready to give testimony to the high crimes and misdemeanours he has witnessed.

• **First clue:** James Pavitt was Valerie Plame's boss. So was George Tenet.

The trail leads on: The trail of the forged Niger documents leads through a number of countries

with the earliest press report of the documents appearing in *The Financial Times*, March 7th, 2003. On that day, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohammed El Baradei, reported to the UN Security Council that the documents were forgeries. A number of articles on the Niger documents appeared in various newspapers around the nation and the question is finally asked: "**What if it wasn't a foreign intelligence service?**"

Ruppert writes he was suspicious that a Watergate-like coup was forming after reading the first few stories about the forged documents and when the AP reported March 14th, 2003, just days before the invasion of Iraq, "that the ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee" had called for an FBI investigation of the document's origin", his suspicions were firming.

When, two days later, the *Boston Globe* reported that the Senator who was specifically seeking to determine whether administrative officials had forged the documents themselves to marshal support for the invasion, was none other than Jay Rockefeller of the Standard Oil Rockefellers, he was convinced.

Here was an oil dynasty man "calling for an investigation of a bunch of oil men".

"Somebody," he says, "was screwing up big time," and "the CIA was fighting back. This was a well orchestrated, long-term covert operation – exactly what the CIA does all over the world."

• **Second clue:** Plame leak was investigated after a September 2003 formal request from the CIA, approved by George Tenet.

Readers need to keep in mind when reading this drastically condensed article: "Somebody was screwing up big time, and the CIA was fighting back. For whom were they fighting back? Make no mistake, the CIA works for 'The Board' – Wall Street and big money."

Pending issuance of criminal indictments: Press reports citing sources close to the investigation have directly and indirectly pointed fingers at Dick Cheney and his Chief of Staff, Lewis 'Scooter' Libby, as suspects.

Plame's company, Brewster, Jennings & Associates cover also blown: *The Washington Post* and the *Wall Street Journal* tied Brewster, Jennings & Associates to energy, oil and the Saudi-owned Arabian American Oil Company, or ARAMCO. Brewster Jennings had been a founder of Mobil Oil Company, one of Aramco's principal founders. Brewster Jennings was a well-established CIA proprietary company, linked for many years to ARAMCO. The demise of Brewster Jennings was also guaranteed the moment Plame was outed.

If the claims prove correct, Valerie Plame 'got done in' by her own President.

ARAMCO – Let's look at just how valuable Valerie Plame was: According to an April 29th, 2002, report in Britain's *Guardian*, ARAMCO constitutes 12% of the world's total oil production; a figure which has certainly increased as other countries have progressed deeper into irreversible decline.

ARAMCO is the largest oil group in the world, a state-owned Saudi company in partnership with four major US oil companies. One of them is ExxonMobil which gave up one of its board members, Condoleezza Rice to the Bush junta. All of ARAMCO's key decisions are made by the Saudi royal family while US oil expertise, personnel and technology keeps the cash coming in and the oil going out. ARAMCO operates, manages, and maintains virtually all Saudi oil fields – 25% of all the oil on the planet.

It gets better: According to a *New York Times* report on March 8th of this year, ARAMCO is planning to make a 25% investment in a new and badly needed refinery to produce gasoline. The remaining 75% ownership of the refinery will go to the only nation that is quickly becoming America's major world competitor for ever-diminishing supplies of oil: China.

Almost entire Bush administration has interest in ARAMCO.

The *Boston Globe* reported that in 2001 ARAMCO had signed a US\$140 million multi-year contract with Halliburton, then chaired by Dick Cheney, to develop a new oil field. Halliburton does a lot of business in Saudi Arabia. Current estimates of Halliburton contracts or joint ventures in the country run into the tens of billions of dollars.

As recently as 1991 ARAMCO had Khalid bin Mahfouz sitting on its Supreme Council or board of directors. As Saudi Arabia's largest banker he handles the accounts of the royal family and – no doubt – ARAMCO. Both BCCI and Mahfouz have historical connections to the Bush family dating back to the 1980s.

Why should the CIA be so upset? From the CIA's point of view, at a time when Saudi Arabia is one of the three or four countries of highest interest to the US, the Plame operation was irreplaceable.

• **Third clue:** Tenet's resignation, which occurred at night, was the first 'evening resignation' of a Cabinet-level official since October 1973 when Attorney General Elliott Richardson and his deputy, William Ruckelshaus, resigned in protest of Richard Nixon's firing of Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox.

One of the most important intelligence prizes today – especially after recent stories in major outlets like the *New York Times* reporting that Saudi oil production has peaked and gone into irreversible decline – would be to know whether those reports are correct. The Saudis are denying it vehemently but they are being strongly refuted by an increasing amount of hard data. The truth remains unproven. But the mere possibility has set the world's financial markets on edge. If anybody has the real data on Saudi fields it is either ARAMCO or the highest levels of the Saudi royal family.

The answer to the Saudi peak question will determine whether Saudi Arabia really can increase production quickly, as promised. If they can't, then the US economy is going to suffer bitterly, and it is certain that the Saudi monarchy will collapse into chaos. Then the nearby US military will occupy the oilfields and the US will ultimately Balkanise the country by carving off the oil fields – which occupy only a small area near the East coast. That US enclave would then provide sanctuary to the leading members of the royal family who will have agreed to keep their trillions invested in Wall Street so the US economy doesn't collapse.

• **Fourth clue:** Bush and Cheney have both hired or consulted private criminal defence attorneys in anticipation of possible indictments of them and/or their top assistants in the Plame investigation.

• **Last and final clue:** Under Executive Privilege, a principle intended to protect the constitutional separation of powers, officials in the Executive Branch cannot give testimony in a legal case against a sitting President. The Bush administration has invoked or threatened to invoke the privilege several times.

The Swarm: There are a multitude of signs that the Bush administration is being 'swarmed' in what is becoming a feeding frenzy as opposition is surfacing from many places inside the government, including the military. The signs are not hard to find.

Finally: Washington journalist Wayne Madsen indicates "the Neocons have few remaining friends anywhere. All this is consistent with a CIA-led coup."

Will John Howard come to regret the day he decided to join the 'Coalition of the Willing' – it may turn out to have been one COW of a decision! Notice how many accusations are now being levelled at the Howard camp's 'hasty' decision to go to war? The dogs are 'snapping at their heels'.

• For those who want a photocopy of the full text, please request it from South Australia's League Book Services. Send \$3.00 to cover costs please.

"ON TARGET" is printed and published by The Australian League of Rights, 145 Russell St., Melbourne.

Postal Address: GPO Box 1052, Melbourne, 3001. Telephone: (03) 9650 9749, Fax: (03) 9650 9368.

Subscription \$40.00 p.a.