

# DIPLOMATIC CABLES

06/26/20

## ARE U.S. ROGUE PENTAGON AGENTS OPERATING ILLEGALLY AND WITH IMPUNITY ABROAD?

### Task Force 121 Under FBI Investigation



**Pentagon Intelligence Chief Stephen Cambone. Is he running a vigilante team from Pentagon that's masquerading as FBI and CIA agents?**

Washington, DC -- **Jun 26, 2005** -- There is increasing evidence that units of the Pentagon, operating under the authority of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Undersecretary for Intelligence Stephen Cambone, and Deputy Undersecretary of Intelligence Lt. Gen. William G. Boykin, are operating outside U.S. domestic law and routinely violating international treaties and laws ratified by the United States. The covert Pentagon units, operating under an "above top secret" carve out program called Task Force 121 (TF 121) (at last report), and drawing from special operations personnel in the Army's Delta Force, Green Berets, the Navy SEALs, British Special Air Service (SAS) and Special Boat Service (SBS), and various ex-U.S. and foreign intelligence and Special Operations (including British SAS, Israeli Sayaret Mat'kal, and South African Recce Commandos) personnel hired from shadowy private contractors, are now being linked to illegal kidnappings, posing as U.S. law enforcement agents (including FBI agents) and journalists, and assassinations of foreign political leaders.

Informed sources report that FBI Special Agent M. Chris Briese of the FBI's Counter-Terrorism Division (CTD) and Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the Pittsburgh office is now investigating TF 121 on behalf of Director Robert Mueller. The investigation is focusing on whether TF 121 members, using false FBI credentials, have negotiated with informants and counter-terrorism targets on behalf of the bureau and have sexually accosted individuals, including American women in Florida bars, with the claim that they are FBI agents. In addition, some TF 121 personnel have used press credentials to masquerade as foreign correspondents. In one case, a TF 121



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member obtained credentials from a U.S. news wire service to conduct a special operations scouting mission inside Iran. The TF 121 member used the credentials to apply for a tourist visa from the Iranian Interests Section of the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington. In other cases, press credentials were used by TF 121 members to visit Pakistan, Afghanistan, U.S.-occupied Iraq, and Sudan. The TF 121 personnel reportedly chiefly operate out of the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Fort Drum, New York.

In an Iran-contra scandal redux, some TF 121 units operating in Latin America, particularly in Colombia, have been linked to the smuggling of cocaine to finance off-the-books operations being carried out by the covert Pentagon commandos. In April, five U.S. troops were arrested by Colombian authorities for attempting to smuggle cocaine on a military flight to Texas. A month later, two more U.S. troops were arrested in Colombia for attempting to smuggle 32,000 rounds of ammunition destined for the Colombian counter-narcotics units to the right-wing paramilitary terrorist and narcotics smuggling group, the United Self Defense Forces of Colombia. U.S. ambassador to Bogota William Wood refused to extradite the Army personnel back to Colombia invoking a U.S.-Colombian treaty that grants U.S. military personnel diplomatic immunity.

The CIA may be getting blamed for the early 2003 kidnaping in Italy of an Egyptian imam named Hasan Osama Nasr (also known as Abu Omar). Nasr was kidnaped off a Milan street and flown to Egypt on board a "rendition" flight and was subsequently tortured. There has been no news of Nasr since his kidnaping. Milan judge Chiara Nobili has issued an arrest warrant for 13 Americans he has identified as CIA agents for the kidnaping. But the kidnaping operation was sloppy and involved U.S. military personnel at the U.S. Aviano airbase, indicating the possible involvement of TF 121 and "Grey Fox" rendition flights operating out of Fort Belvoir, Virginia's Davison Army Airfield. (The "Grey Fox"

code name was changed to "Capacity Gear" in the 1990s and reportedly is now known by another code name. "Grey Eyes" has been mentioned as one possibility.) According to the June 26 *Los Angeles Times*, the U.S. "covert" operators left a neon light trail of their activities, including checking into Milan's most expensive hotels, dining at the best restaurants, and renting cars and cellphones. In their high visibility transactions, the Americans used their frequent flier numbers, passports, U.S. driver's licenses, and VISA and Diner's Club cards, although some of their names and addresses used were aliases. The kidnapers also routinely checked in with Lt. Col. Joseph Romano, who was assigned to the Aviano base. Romano has since left Italy. Armando Spataro, the chief Italian prosecutor in the case involving the kidnapers, has issued EUROPOL and INTERPOL red notices for the arrest of the Americans, including a 51-year old Honduran-American said to have been the CIA station chief in Milan. However, some TF 121 agents may have misrepresented themselves as CIA agents in the same way they have falsely claimed to be FBI agents.

The FBI is also investigating TF 121 for making false promises to a Yemeni informant named Mohammed Alanssi who set himself on fire in front of the White House on November 15, 2004 while trying to present a letter to President Bush. The Yemeni man, who lived in Falls Church, Virginia, suffered severe burns over thirty percent of his body. Alanssi said he was promised \$5 million and asylum in the United States for himself and his family if he agreed to become an informant against Islamic terrorists. Alanssi later testified under oath that the FBI made the promises but the FBI said it had no record of any such promises to Alanssi, although it did pay the Yemeni \$100,000. However, it appears that agents of the shadowy TF 121, masquerading as FBI agents, made the bogus promises to Alanssi and then reneged on the deal. In Iraq, TF 121 was a lead element in a \$25 million State Department reward program for the capture of Jordanian terrorist Abu Mussab al Zaraqawi, so the \$5 million amount claimed by Alanssi is not a great deal of money by TF 121 standards. After Alanssi became

upset with the renegeing on promises reportedly made by the TF 121 agents and the U.S. government's confiscation of his Yemeni passport, he began to back out of a deal with the government to be a key prosecution witness in an important case against Sheikh Mohammed Ali Hassan Moayad, a Yemeni cleric in Germany said to be tied to Al Qaeda, and his aide Mohammed Mohsen Yahya Zayed. Moayad was charged with personally giving \$20 million in cash to Osama bin Laden. Immediately, the Justice Department and FBI went into "no comment" mode on the Alanssi case. That is until recently, when leaks indicated that TF 121 had improperly involved itself with Alanssi and severely harmed the federal government's case against Moayad and Zayed.

TF 121 is also at the center of the scandals at the Abu Ghraib, Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba detention centers. It has been accused of hiding Iraqi war prisoners at both centers under aliases, a violation of the Geneva Conventions, and committing acts of torture against internees. TF 121 is credited with the capture of Saddam Hussein and is said to be the lead element in the search for Osama bin Laden.

### **STATE DEPARTMENT WEB SITE CRITICIZES U.S. JOURNALISTS (INCLUDING THIS EDITOR)**

**June 23, 2005** -- On June 21, the former head of the Lebanese Communist Party, George Hawi, was killed in yet another car bombing in Lebanon. Like Elie Hobeika and Rafik Hariri, this had all the hallmarks of the same group this author reported on before, reports that gained the ire of a pro-Israeli cell within the U.S. State Department's International Information Programs Bureau headed by George W. Bush's Gal Friday Karen Hughes. Bush officials, most notably Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice bemoaned the assassination of Hawi, probably the first time Rice, whose academic and political career was nurtured by Cold War mentors and funders, expressed sorrow over the death of a Communist. If this sounds bizarre, it is. The neo cons are engineering assassinations in Lebanon in order to

bring about similar unrest in Syria, a situation that will allow the neo cons to topple Bashar Assad and his Baath Party officials and replace them with the Syrian "Ahmad Chalabi," Dr. Farid Ghadry, whose Reform Party of Syria is based in wealthy Potomac, Maryland. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has blood on his hands from Israeli interventionism in Lebanon during that nation's fratricidal 1980s civil war. He knows that template will destroy civil society in Syria and bring about open warfare between the groups that make up Syria's societal mosaic: Alawis (Assad's group - a minority in Syria), Christians, Kurds, Turkomans, Druze, Circassians, and Palestinian refugees). The game plan is to turn Syria into another Iraq and return Lebanon to a weak vassal state of the United States and Israel.

**Voice of America report:**

<http://www.voanews.com/english/NewsAnalysis/2005-06-17-voa36.cfm>

(What was not quoted in the above interview was that I said that my sources were eminently more qualified than the drunken "Curveball" used to support the Bush administration's false contentions that Saddam Hussein had mobile biological weapons labs and who, was, in fact, a drunk and a confirmed liar).

**Bush administration's "Ministry of Truth" attacks American journalists who fail to adhere to the official line**

By Wayne Madsen

**April 18, 2005**—After revelations that the Bush White House cleared a gay male prostitute as a daily credentialed member of the White House press corps and that the administration was paying journalistic skills like Armstrong Williams, Maggie Gallagher, Michael McManus, and Karen Ryan to pump out pro-Bush propaganda to the media, nothing should come as any surprise when it comes to the Fourth Estate's buckling under to political pressure from the right-

wing regime that rules America.

What is surprising is that, in addition to using the media to concoct favorable propaganda, the Bush administration maintains an office in the State Department that keeps an eye on American and other journalists and does not hesitate to attack them for straying from the party line.

To show how much censorship exists in America today, this journalist would have likely never known about the existence of a one-man office in the State Department that acts to debunk and attack anything the Bush administration deems is false. Thanks to a recent report by veteran America watcher and journalist Jyri Raivio in Finland's Helsingin Sanomat newspaper, it can now be reported in the United States that the State Department uses taxpayers' money to attack American journalists who refuse to parrot the Bush administration's disinformation and propaganda.

The head of the State Department's "Counter Mis-Information "Team"" is Todd Leventhal, a long-time neoconservative propaganda operative who once worked for the U.S. Information Agency's (USIA) Bureau of Information to counter Soviet and other disinformation with his own Brand X of American disinformation. Raivio reports that Leventhal was part of the Bush administration's effort to convince the world that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Leventhal also contends in the Helsingin Sanomat report that any suggestion that false WMD intelligence was cooked up by the Bush administration is merely a conspiracy theory and that the faulty intelligence on Iraqi WMD was merely a huge "mistake."

It should not have come as any surprise that I was singled out by Leventhal for an attack over a story written for Online Journal about the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and the involvement in the assassination's planning of two neoconservative Bush administration officials—namely, Deputy National Security Advisor Elliot

Abrams and White House Deputy Chief of Staff Karl C. Rove—with whom Leventhal is ideologically aligned. Leventhal's operation is part of the State Department's International Information Programs Bureau, now headed by former Bush White House Communications Director and long time gal pal Karen Hughes.

Leventhal's barb appears at <http://usinfo.state.gov/media/Archive/2005/Apr/01-220547.html> and states, "self-described investigative journalist Wayne Madsen claimed that the Hariri assassination was 'authorized' by the United States because Mr. Hariri was known to adamantly oppose the construction of a major U.S. air base in the north of Lebanon."

Leventhal continues, "These claims are false. U.S. policy has expressly forbidden assassination since 1976, when President Ford signed Executive Order 11905. The prohibition against assassination was reaffirmed by President Carter and President Reagan, the latter in Executive Order 12333, which remains in force. Executive Order 12333 states, 'No person employed by or acting on behalf of the United States Government shall engage in, or conspire to engage in, assassination' . . . Moreover, the U.S. military has confirmed that it has no plans for an air base in Lebanon.

"Mr. Madsen has made unreliable claims in the past. On October 20, 2004, he claimed that, in order to win reelection, the Bush administration 'has initiated plans to launch a military strike on Iran's top Islamic leadership, its nuclear reactor at Bushehr on the Persian Gulf, and key nuclear targets throughout the country.' Needless to say, no such events occurred."

Leventhal is obviously concerned that on numerous occasions this journalist's articles are picked up by media outlets around the world, including papers in Pakistan, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, and Egypt and serve to debunk the cacophony of propaganda emanating from Washington and its

embassies abroad. Leventhal citing two Executive Orders that prohibit assassinations is laughable in light of recent well-documented disclosures that U.S. interrogators killed at least one Iraqi general in custody. Since September 11, 2001, and adoption of George Tenet's Worldwide Attack Matrix—a carte blanche for political assassinations around the world—both Executive Orders cited by Leventhal are not worth the paper they are printed on.

As to the ["October Surprise" story about a pre-election attack on Iran](#), I stand by my sources—which, since the original article's appearance—have multiplied in number. In fact, I will stand my sources—including crew aboard the USS John F. Kennedy, then on station in the Persian Gulf—against Leventhal's trite disinformation machine. (*Note: since the October Surprise story was written, I have received separate confirmation from sources inside the Danish government, that the Danish Defense Minister was, in fact, at the meeting on board the USS John F. Kennedy*). Similarly, the sources on the Hariri assassination and the plans for the U.S. air base are well connected and trusted. The firm promised the air base construction contract by the Pentagon, Jacobs Engineering, is a major player in U.S. military and intelligence projects. The company was started by the late Dr. Joseph Jacobs, a Lebanese-American who served on the advisory board of the Rand Corporation's Center for Middle East Public Policy. The co-chair of that group during Jacobs's tenure was none other than Frank Carlucci, the chairman emeritus of The Carlyle Group—an organization that has criminal conspiracy written all over it.

Perhaps, if Leventhal and his neocon friends used such trusted sources as the many I have developed over some twenty years, rather than using deluded and alcoholic disinformation scoundrels like Iraq's "Curveball," this country would not be in the mess it is in today in Iraq and the entire Middle East. As a matter of fact, foreign ministries around the world could use their own Ministries of Truth for the sole purpose of wading through all the disinformation pumped out by

the Bush administration: Iraq's WMD, Saddam's links to al Qaeda, Iraq's shopping for yellowcake uranium in Niger, and the many other lies and distortions.

First of all, some housekeeping is in order. Leventhal refers to this journalist as "self described." True, I use the term "investigative journalist" in tag lines. However, it is not "self described" that my articles have been cited by Project Censored, famed author Gore Vidal, keen investigative journalist Greg Palast, and newspapers from Austria to Zimbabwe. In addition, it was not self-aggrandizement that resulted in my investigative book on genocide in Africa being cited in a French government counter-terrorism judicial investigation, a UN War Crimes Tribunal, U.S. House of Representatives testimony, and respected periodicals in Africa and Europe.

Although he is basically a one-man show (he does have a full-time assistant and one part-timer), Leventhal does not seem to produce much for his work at the State Department. Leventhal was actually laid off by the State Department in 1996 after his Cold War-era counter-disinformation office was disestablished, but he was rehired in October 2003 after the White House decided to resurrect its propaganda effort under the rubric of "strategic influence operations." Leventhal's attacks are narrowly focused on particular stories, sources, and journalists. His web site has an explanation of how to spot disinformation—Leventhal contends that most conspiracy theories are rarely true and that they are spread by ideological extremists, that is liberals, because right-wingers like Leventhal would never be willing to address right-wing extremism (such as Fox News, the National Review, and The Wall Street Journal editorial page) in the media. Leventhal's dismissing conspiracies as often untrue will, nevertheless, come as a great shock to the Criminal Division of the Justice Department, which has put away many a criminal based on violation of criminal conspiracy laws.

Another one of Leventhal's government-funded attack



**A number of US military-contractor incidents have taken place in and around Baghdad International Airport.**

pieces flays ex-U.S. soldier Nadim Abou Rabeh, an Iraqi war veteran who had taken part in Saddam Hussein's capture. Leventhal pillories Rabeh for suggesting Saddam's capture in a "spider hole" was faked. Leventhal also calls fanciful reports that the United States used mustard gas in the siege of Fallujah, contends that the use of depleted uranium weapons by U.S. forces in Iraq is safe, and derides it as a "conspiracy theory" that the United States helped create Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda via its support of the Afghan mujaheddin through Saudi and Pakistani facilitators.

In addition, Leventhal criticizes reports that the United States could have done more to warn Indian Ocean nations of the tsunami event last December.

Astonishingly, Leventhal claims that the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii did not possess the capability to figure out that the 9.0 magnitude earthquake would produce a devastating tsunami. Leventhal also criticized by name Canadian journalist Michel Chossudovsky, who first reported on the failure of America to adequately warn Asian and African nations of the impending disaster.

Having never heard of Mr. Leventhal, I decided to do a bit of checking on him as only a "self described investigative journalist" can do.

First, there is Leventhal's association with apartheid South Africa's infamous "Project Babushka." According to a July 16, 1995 story in Newsday, during the 1980s, South Africa's military established a dummy front called the International Freedom Foundation (IFF). The IFF was an influence-peddling organization used to counter critics of the apartheid regime and buy off right-wing American politicians to campaign against economic and military sanctions against the apartheid regime.

According to former South African top spy Craig Williamson, IFF and Project Babushka enrolled such right-wing Republicans as North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms, Henry Kissinger, California Republican

Representative Robert Dornan, Indiana Republican Representative Dan Burton, Illinois Republican Representative Phil Crane, and right-wing GOP kook Alan Keyes. Helms even served as chairman of the editorial advisory board for the IFF's publication branch—a group that pumped out all sorts of propaganda claiming that the African National Congress and Nelson Mandela were Communists.

Helping to run the IFF's Washington, DC, office at 200 G Street, SE (and next door to the right-wing Free Congress Foundation) was none other than Jack Abramoff, who is now embroiled in a series of kickback and payola allegations involving House Majority Leader Tom DeLay.

Abramoff, a former Hollywood movie producer, helped the IFF to produce the movie "Red Scorpion," a film about an anti-Communist African guerrilla leader battling Marxist forces with the assistance of South African military advisers. Of course, the film was a propaganda piece aimed at extolling Angolan anti-Communist UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi, who was fighting Angola's Marxist government with the overt assistance of South Africa and the covert (and illegal) assistance of the Reagan-Bush administration. As late as 1990 and after Mandela's release from prison, the IFF was running anti-ANC and Mandela ads in American newspapers.

Abramoff's involvement in Reagan era propaganda coincided with the appointment of longtime Reagan chum, Charles Z. Wick, as the head of the USIA. Wick, also a former movie producer, was most remembered for his famous Hollywood epic, "Snow White and The Three Stooges."

One of the senior South African intelligence agents who used IFF cover was Wim Boooyse. When Boooyse visited Washington in 1987 to attend IFF seminars, which were no more than covers for South African intelligence operations, he said he received specialized disinformation training from an expert at the U.S. Information Agency. And who was this expert on

official government lying and distortion of the truth? Well, according to Booyse, it was none other than Todd Leventhal.

In a 1996 letter to The Washington Post, representing himself as an official of the USIA, Leventhal attacked former USIA official Alvin Snyder, who exposed U.S. government propaganda and lies in his excellent book on Reagan administration information warfare, *Warriors of Disinformation*. Leventhal dismisses Snyder's claims in a previous Post op-ed piece that the Reagan administration faked results of Star Wars tests, that the Soviets actually did mistake the downed Korean Air Lines 007 for a U.S. espionage aircraft, and that the U.S. engaged in blatant propaganda in Chile to support the Augusto Pinochet dictatorship.

In 1995, Leventhal attacked documentary producer Allan Francovich for his film, *The Maltese Double Cross*, which provided evidence that Iran and Syria, rather than Libya, were behind the downing of PanAm Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Francovich, who later died while being questioned by U.S. customs and immigration agents at Houston's international airport, determined that the PanAm bombing was the result of a botched U.S. intelligence operation involving drugs and hostages in Lebanon. Leventhal's smears against Francovich resulted in the latter's May 12, 1995 letter to Britain's Guardian newspaper in which Leventhal's job as Program Officer for Countering Disinformation and Misinformation for the USIA is described as "Orwellian."

In 1994, Leventhal took on the Los Angeles Times over its story about the kidnapping of poor children from poverty-ravished Latin American barrios for the purpose of organ harvesting.

Leventhal's small propaganda operation at the State Department is remarkably similar to an aggressive media operation that scans newspapers, television, and radio for stories critical of Israel. CAMERA, or the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, identifies and targets Israeli, American, and

other journalists who question or provide alternatives to Israeli government propaganda.

In what is frightening and amusing at the same time, Leventhal makes an offer to those who have questions about the news stories they are reading: "If you wish, ask us. We can't respond to all requests for information, but if a request is reasonable and we have the time, we will do our best to provide accurate, authoritative information." The State Department's website provides Leventhal's phone number for those who wish to have him interpret the news for them: 202-203-7492. Just another friendly service from your taxpayer-funded Ministry of Truth!

### **UNFRIENDLY FIRE: HOSTILE INCIDENTS INCREASING BETWEEN US MILITARY AND PRIVATE MILITARY CONTRACTORS IN IRAQ**

Baghdad, IRAQ – **JUNE 13, 2005** – Reports about armed confrontations between active duty U.S. and coalition military forces and coalition armed private military contractors in Iraq have gone from a trickle to a steady flow. While fragging incidents between U.S. enlisted and officers were more commonplace in Vietnam than ever admitted by the Pentagon, the violence between active military and quasi-mercenaries in Iraq is a fairly new phenomenon, according to U.S. military experts. What is occurring in Iraq is not friendly fire but willful fighting between occupation forces. In late May fighting broke out between in Fallujah between armed contractors working for Zapata Engineering, a North Carolina firm, and U.S. Marines. The Zapata employees reportedly fired on Marine security positions. *The Los Angeles Times* reported that the Marines witnessed the Zapata employees firing on civilians and in a letter to 16 Zapata employees banning them from Iraq the Marine Corps stated, "Your convoy was speeding through [Fallujah] and firing shots indiscriminately, some of which impacted positions manned by U.S. Marines. Your actions endangered the lives of innocent Iraqis and U.S. service members in the area."

In addition, last year there were a number of incidents between US Army personnel (including officers) and armed employees of the Rhode Island-based and GOP-connected firm Custer Battles. The firm, which was accused of over billing the government, was later suspended from doing work in Iraq, although it has recently resurfaced under different corporate identities and off shore corporate shells. A number of Custer Battles's Iraq employees are non-vetted veterans of U.S. and foreign (British SAS, South African and Australian Special Forces, and Colombian and Salvadorean death squad veterans, e.g.) paramilitary and special operations campaigns. Many lack the cultural awareness training and obligations required of active duty US forces in Iraq. Many private military contractors have committed atrocities against Iraqi civilians that are often blamed on the US military. The involvement of two contractors, CACI and Titan, in the Abu Ghraib torture scandal, has added to the enmity between the military and contractors.

This military-contractor schism has resulted in overall bad blood between the military and the privateers throughout Iraq and has resulted in armed confrontations between active duty military and Custer Battles personnel, especially in and around Baghdad International Airport, where Custer Battles has been involved in security operations. Last November, there were a number of shooting incidents and other physical altercations between US Army troops and Custer Battles personnel at Baghdad airport. Some contractors have sought to downplay and obfuscate the fratricidal combat. They have insinuated in security alerts that Iraqi insurgents have masqueraded as contractor personnel in attacking Iraqi civilians and US military personnel. The US military scoff at this notion.

There are also reports that US military intelligence personnel look the other way when they receive word of an Iraqi insurgent (secular ex-Republican Guard, not Zarqawi or affiliated) attack on private military contractors. A recent For Official Use Only ("FOUO") US Army PowerPoint briefing provided to this

reporter states that the Iraqi insurgency is split into three independent groups – the “Islamic Ultra-Conservative;” the Sunni, former regime, anti-Sh’ia, anti-Kurd supported by the Baathists in Syria and “anti-West sympathizers; and the Sh’ia who “seek government control, used to taking position as underdog” and “draws support from sympathizers in Iran.”

Many US military personnel, especially National Guardsmen and Reservists, are jealous of the large salaries paid to the private contractors. For every ten US military personnel in Iraq, there is now one private military support contractor. In Operation Desert Storm, the ratio was one in 60. There may be as many as 35,000 private military contractors now in Iraq.

The conflicts between the US military and contractors stem from disparity in pay and benefits between the military and contractors; the contractors’ lack of discipline and cultural awareness (“cowboy” and racist attitudes); illegal activities by the contractors; and a belief by contractors that the US military is not doing enough to protect them.

## **OPPONENT OF U.S. INVASION OF IRAQ DIES IN CAR "ACCIDENT"**

Mexico City, MEXICO **June 7, 2005** -- Adolfo Aguilar Zinser, the Mexican ambassador to the United Nations who took on the Bush administration during its pressuring of the UN Security Council prior to the invasion of Iraq, was killed in an automobile crash in the state of Morelos on June 5. Police reported that Zinser's SUV hit a bus. Zinser lost his job as UN ambassador after the Bush administration pressured President Vicente Fox to fire him after Zinser accused the Bush administration of trying to subordinate Mexico and treating it like its "back yard." In 2003, Mexico opposed the resolution granting the US the right to invade Iraq. Zinser was outraged after it was reported that the Bush administration ordered NSA and GCHQ to bug the telephones of UN Security Council members opposed to or neutral on the US

resolution. Zinser called for a UN investigation of the US for violating the host country agreement between the UN and US and he confirmed that his telephone, cell phone, and e-mail was bugged. The bugging of Zinser's and other delegates' communications was confirmed when GCHQ analyst Katharine Gun leaked the NSA memo authorizing a "surge" operation against Security Council members. Zinser was a potential witness against US National Intelligence Director and former UN ambassador John Negroponte, his deputy and former NSA Director General Michael Hayden, and UN ambassador-designate John Bolton in their coordinated operation to eavesdrop on ambassadors and staff of UN Security Council members. At the time of his death, Zinser was an outspoken TV commentator and writer.