THE FAR WEST DRUG METAGROUP DRUGS, MANAGED VIOLENCE AND

THE RUSSIAN 9/11

The group accused of staging the Russian 9/11 has links with organised criminal societies, foreign private military companies, Islamist jihadists, Central Asian narcobarons and the CIA.

Part 2 of 2

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Allegations of Drug-Trafficking and Far West Ltd

asenev [in his essay "An Orange Revolution is in Store for Russia", December 17, 2004, at http://www.ru.compromat] links Saidov, Surikov and others to their former service in a drug-interception group in Afghanistan under a Leonid Kosyakov, who in 2004 headed a company called Far West Ltd:

Leonid Leonidovich Kosyakov, b. 1955, Ukrainian citizen. Until 2005 resided in Arab Emirates and Switzerland. Citizen of Ukraine. Retired from the service in May 1993. Presently the president of Far West Ltd.

In 1983–85 Kosyakov was in command of a special group in Shindand (Afghanistan), assigned to intercept caravans with drugs. In different times under his direct command served Filin, Lunev, Likhvintsev, Surikov, Petrov, as well as Saidov.⁵⁶

Yasenev also presents testimony that this group developed into what the Russians call an "OPS" (organised criminal society), responsible for massive drug-trafficking:

These accusations were made by the former officer of the Main Intelligence Directorate of Ukraine Sergei Petrov (alias Serge Rodin, French citizen).

According to his testimony:

"The OPS...was involved in drug trafficking since the beginning of 1990s:

- from 1995 the OPS transports heroin (produced in Afghanistan) from Tajikistan to European countries via Russia with the assistance of the Russian Defense Ministry.

- from 2000 the OPS is involved in smuggling Colombian cocaine to Russia through the seaports of Novorossiysk and St Petersburg under the disguise of import shipments from Latin America.

"Among the OPS contacts in Novorossiysk is Saidov; in St Petersburg it used to be Roman Tsepov.

"Received profits are used for personal enrichment of the OPS leaders, the officials at the Ministry of Defense who provide them with "the roof" [protection], and for financing extremist activities"

In November of 2003, Rodin contacted the law enforcement agencies of Germany and France. Their investigation did not result in any actions against Filin, Likhvintsev, and their partners.

In January 2004, Rodin was blown up in his car in South Africa...

Yasenev's charge of a military organised crime group under Filin had been reported a year earlier by Russian journalist Nikita Kaledin [Stringer-news, November 4, 2003]:

There is a powerful military organised crime community which from 1992 through to the present has controlled substantial drug flows from Afghanistan to Russia and Europe and is also involved in laundering "dirty" money and is actively involved in Russia's political life. The community is controlled by former intelligence officers, Afghan war veterans, and now drug barons Vova Filin and Lesha Pribalt. The former lives in Switzerland, the latter in London. Both make quite frequent trips to Moscow, Dushanbe, Nazran, and Khankala...

Filin and Pribalt literally flooded Russia with heroin. The Kremlin could not tolerate this abomination any longer and ordered a mighty "Chekist raid" [i.e., ordered the FSB to shut down the operation] against the narcobarons. However, it is rumoured that the raid has ended up with the agreement that the latter would (1) share their profits; (2) help in facilitating the peaceful referendum on the constitution in Chechnya; (3) bring some order to the drug market by liquidating the leaders of ethnic criminal groups.⁵⁷

As if in fulfilment of the third point, Surikov in 2001 denounced the leaders of an influential Tajik heroin cartel, including the mayor of the Tajik capital, Dushanbe.⁵⁸ (Tajiks until then had been one of the ethnic mafias who most dominated the trafficking of Afghan heroin through Russia.)

Far West Ltd, Halliburton, Diligence LLC, New Bridge and Neil Bush

The connection to Far West Ltd of Filin, Likhvinsky, Surikov and Saidov (along with Alfonso Davidovich) has since been stunningly corroborated by a news story on the Pravda-info website [May 3, 2005] about Far West Ltd and Kosyakov's resignation from it.

At a meeting of its stockholders on May 2 in the Hotel Ritz Carlton in Dubai, Far West Ltd accepted the retirement of the president...Leonid Kosyakov, who moved to government service in Ukraine. Vladimir Filin, member of the Editorial Board of

Pravda-info, was elected the new president, at the same time retaining his previous position as executive director. The meeting of stockholders, in accordance with its charter, selected new members of the board of directors of Far West Ltd, which will now contain nine members. Besides Vladimir Filin, Anatolii Baranov and Anton Surikov, it will include four more members of the Editorial Board of Pravda-info: Audrius Butkevicius, Aleksei Likhvintsev, Natal'ia Roeva, and Ruslan Saidov, and also Valerii Lunev, [59] a veteran of the Armed Forces, and Alfonso Davidovich, a political scientist from Venezuela.

Yasenev claims that some of Far West's work with Halliburton is apparently

approved by the CIA for

geopolitical purposes.

Tajikistan. Therefore last year we completely withdrew from all shipping through Tajikistan and closed our office in that country. [Pravda-info:] Who are your partners?

Who our partners are is a commercial secret. I can say that they are four private firms from three countries—Turkey, Russia and the USA—which engage among other things in shipping. One of these firms is a sub-division of a well-known American corporation. This firm is a co-founder of our agency.⁶¹

We can assume that Pravda-info is an inside source for information about Far West, for the two organisations seem in fact to be two different manifestations of the same group. Among the directors of Far West on the masthead of Pravda-info we find first of all Anton Surikov, followed by Anatolii Baranov, Aleksei Likhvintsev, Ruslan Saidov, Vladimir Filin, Natal'ia Roeva and Audrius Butkevicius. 62

Also on the Pravda-info masthead is Boris Kagarlitsky, who, as

we saw in the first part of this essay, is a main source for the Western accounts of the meeting in southern France, written by Patrick Cockburn, Nafeez Ahmed and John Dunlop. 63 Many of the Far West directors, notably Anton Surikov, are or have been associated with Kagarlitsky at the Moscow Institute of Globalization Studies (IPROG). 64

Although Filin and Pravda-info did not identify the foreign private military companies with which Far West worked, Yasenev did:

Filin and Likhvintsev do business with foreign private military

Far West, the story said,

...specialises in consulting work on questions of security in conducting business in regions of the world with unstable environments and hiring personnel for foreign private military companies [last three words in English]. Its head office is located in Switzerland. In addition, the Agency [Far West Ltd] has a network of representatives in the OAE [United Arab Emirates], Afghanistan, Colombia, the autonomous region of Kosovo, the autonomous republic of Crimea, Georgia, and the Volga Federal District of the RF [Russian Federation].60

In 2005, Filin gave Pravda-info [September 2] some details about Far West's work, and revealed that the firm had been cofounded by "a sub-division of a well-known American corporation". He said that the company's new contract is:

shipments from Afghanistan, where we have an office, to ports on the Black Sea. In Afghanistan there is a well-known US air base in Bagram. It is connected by an aerial bridge with a number of other US air bases. For example, with the largest base in Frankfurt-on-Main, that's in Germany, with an intermediary landing in Chkalovsk, in the Moscow area. But the most commercially attractive route seems to be that from Bagram to the US air base in Magas, in Kyrgyzstan. By the way, it is quite near the Russian air base in Kant. A significant flow of shipments passes through Magas; there is a niche there for commercial shipments, too. This is very profitable. It is much more profitable than routing commercial shipments from Afghanistan through

companies (PMCs):

- Meteoric Tactical Solutions (South Africa)—in Angola;
- Kellogg, Brown & Root (KBR Halliburton)—in Colombia, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Georgia, and Iraq.
- Diligence Iraq LLC (controlled by the Kuwaiti Mohammed al-Sagar)—in Iraq.

Their cooperation with these companies began in the end of 1994 in Angola on the initiative of Victor Bout, who was involved in the shipments of Soviet-made arms to the antigovernment group UNITA in exchange for raw diamonds. [65] Apparently, Bout became interested in Likhvintsev's contacts (L. worked in Angola in 1986–87). Later, in October of 1998, Filin, Likhvintsev's wife Liudmila Rozkina (b. 1966) and Anton Surikov (at that time he worked in the Russian government) established the company Far West Ltd, with the office in Lausanne, which officially does security consulting for business ventures in countries with unstable regimes. De facto, this is a legalized form of recruiting mercenaries for PMCs. [66]

Furthermore, Yasenev claims that some of Far West's work with Halliburton is apparently approved by the CIA for geopolitical purposes:

In 2003–2004, Filin and Likhvintsev worked on the Georgian project, financed by KBR Halliburton, apparently, with the approval of the CIA. The project had the goal of weakening the competitors of Halliburton in [the] oil business and, in a broader context, of facilitating the geopolitical objectives of the United States in the Caucasus. The OPS man in Georgia is Audrius Butkevicius, former Lithuanian minister of defense, presently advisor to Badri Patarkatsishvili.⁶⁷

Some of Yasenev's information about Diligence Iraq is corroborated by a press release dated December 8, 2003, from Diligence itself. ⁶⁸ Diligence LLC, a private military company (PMC), could be described as a CIA spin-off [see David Isenberg, "Myths and mystery", *Asia Times*, May 20, 2004]:

Diligence was founded by William Webster, the only man to head both the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mike Baker, its chief executive officer, spent 14 years at the CIA as a covert field operations officer specializing in counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency

operations. Whitley Bruner, its chief operating officer in Baghdad, was once the CIA station chief in Iraq.⁶⁹

Its partner in Diligence Middle East (DME) is New Bridge Strategies, whose political clout was described by the *Financial Times* [December 11, 2003]:

New Bridge was established in May [2003] and came to public attention because of the Republican heavyweights on its board—most linked to one or other Bush administration [officials] or to the family

itself. Those include Joe Allbaugh, George W. Bush's presidential campaign manager, and Ed Rogers and Lanny Griffith, former George H. W. Bush aides.⁷⁰

Joe Allbaugh, the co-chairman of the company, was head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on the day of the 9/11 attacks and, indeed, until March 2003, the month that the US-led coalition invaded Iraq.

The *Financial Times* [op. cit.] wrote that the success of New Bridge in securing contracts had to do with their relationship to Neil Bush, the President's younger brother. (A major investor in Neil Bush's educational company, Ignite, is Boris Berezovsky.)

The US Contribution to the Afghan–Kosovo Drug Traffic

Much remains to be learned about Far West Ltd, its personnel and the American firm which co-founded it. Reportedly it was founded in 1998, and Surikov and Saidov were already directors of the company when they attended the meeting in Khashoggi's villa in July 1999.

I believe that the group at the meeting was more concerned with facilitating drug-trafficking than with strengthening the Kremlin. I believe that the attendees also discussed the Russian presence in Kosovo and the imminent increase in the flow of Afghan drugs through Kosovo.

That this flow is huge has been attested to by many observers. Russian sources estimate that from 1991 to 2003 the same group shipped to Western Europe up to 300 tons of heroin and sold it to wholesale buyers of Kosovo Albanian nationality. In the same period they sold up to 60 tons of heroin to Azeri and Roma (gypsy) wholesalers in the Volga and the Urals Federal Districts

of Russia. The group's total receipts for heroin in the period 1991 to 2003 are estimated to be US\$5 billion.⁷²

The chief narcobaron of the group is said to be Vladimir Filin, who is also the head of Far West. Like Surikov, Filin has been known to share his knowledge of drug-trafficking with the public.⁷³ And grounds have been alleged to suspect that his contacts with the CIA through drug-trafficking date back to Afghanistan in the 1980s.

It is clear that the Blair and Bush administrations did have drugs in mind when, in 2001, they developed a strategy for

ousting the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Their plans focused chiefly on Ahmad Shah Massoud, overcoming the long-time resistance in Washington to supporting this known drug-trafficker.⁷⁴ Massoud, of course, was also the most successful guerrilla opponent of the Taliban.

A more naked example of a US drug ally was Haji Zaman in Jalalabad [as explained by Philip Smucker in *Al Qaeda's Great Escape*, 2004]:

When the Taliban claimed Jalalabad...Zaman had fled Afghanistan for a leisurely life in

Dijon, France. Just a few years at the top of the heroin trade in Jalalabad had given "Mr Ten Percent" a ticket to just about any destination he could have chosen. In late September 2001, British and American officials, keen to build up an opposition core to take back the country from the Taliban, met with and persuaded Zaman to return to Afghanistan. 75

According to Asian sources, such as the informed Indian observer B. Raman, Zaman's long-time Pakistani drug-trafficking partner, Haji Ayub Afridi, was also released from a Pakistani jail at this time, "reportedly at the request of the CIA" [http://www.saag.org/papers5/paper489.html]. ⁷⁶ Raman was outspoken about the US use of narcobarons to oust the Taliban. In 2002, citing the subsequent failure to curb opium production, he wrote:

There are disturbing reports from reliable sources in Afghanistan that this marked lack of success in the heroin front is due to the fact that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the



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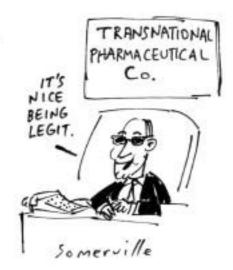
Bush administrations did have

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USA, which encouraged these heroin barons during the Afghan war of the 1980s in order to spread heroin-addiction amongst the Soviet troops, is now using them in its search for bin Laden and other surviving leaders of Al Qaeda, by taking advantage of their local knowledge and contacts. These Pakistani heroin barons and their Afghan lieutenants are reported to have played an important role in facilitating the induction of Hamid Karzai into the Pashtun areas to counter the Taliban in November, 2001. It is alleged that in return for the services rendered by them, the USA has turned a blind eye to their heroin refineries and reserves.⁷⁷

A third major narcobaron selected by the CIA, according to Raman, was Haji Abdul Qadeer:

...Haji Abdul Qadeer was the CIA's choice [in 2001] as the Governor of the Nangarhar province in which Jalalabad is located...

...during the first Afghan war against the Soviet troops in the 1980s, he played an active role under the control of the CIA and

the Directorate-General for External Security (DGES), the French external intelligence agency, in organising the heroin trail to the Soviet troops from the heroin refineries of Pakistan owned by Haji Ayub Afridi, the Pakistani narcotics baron, who was a prized operative of the CIA in the 1980s [emphasis added]. Abdul Qadeer and Afridi became very close associates in running this drug trade with the blessings of the CIA. Amongst others who were associated with this trade were Haji Mohammed Zaman and Hazrat Ali...⁷⁸

It would appear that corruption was being used as a political tool to weaken and subvert the Soviet Union.

If Raman is correct, therefore, the CIA not only blessed but *directed* the flow of drugs from Afridi, Zaman and Abdul Qadeer into the hands of Soviet officers like Vladimir Filin and Aleksei Likhvintsev.⁷⁹ It would appear that corruption was being used as a political tool to weaken and subvert the Soviet Union.

US Geostrategic Goals and Chechnya

In the 1980s, CIA Director William Casey used narcotics to achieve two goals: the immediate goal of weakening the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, and the long-term goal of financing Islamist resistance to break up the Soviet Union. According to the partisan but well-informed observer Yossef Bodansky, director of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, the US still pursues the goal of weakening and destabilising Russia. Writing in *Defense & Foreign Affairs Strategic Policy* (June–July 2000), he stated:

As if reliving the "good ol' days" of Afghanistan of the 1980s, Washington is once again seeking to support and empower the most virulent anti-Western Islamist forces. The US crossed the line in mid-December 1999, when US officials participated in a formal meeting in Azerbaijan in which specific programs for the training and equipping of mujahedin from the Caucasus, Central/South Asia and the Arab world were discussed and agreed upon. This meeting led to Washington's tacit encouragement of both Muslim allies (mainly Turkey, Jordan and Saudi Arabia) and US "private security companies" (of the type which did the Clinton Administration's dirty job in the Balkans while skirting and violating the international embargo the US formally supported) to assist the Chechens and their Islamist

allies to surge in the Spring of 2000 and sustain the ensuing jihad for a long time.

Washington's motivation is oil pipeline politics and the economy. Essentially, Washington is determined to deprive Russia of a viable pipeline route through spiraling violence and terrorism, the political fallout of media accusations of Russian war crimes. In the calculations of the Clinton Administration, a US-assisted escalation and expansion of the war in Chechnya should deliver the desired debilitation of Russia.

The Clinton Administration believes that the spiraling violence in the Caucasus will scare Western investors and oil buyers from making deals with Russia. Meanwhile, with the sudden US attempted rapprochement with Iran, the Clinton Administration is heralding the Azerbaijani southern route (with a little detour in Iran) as seemingly feasible. And so, in the Summer of 2000, the Clinton Administration keeps fanning the flames of the Islamist jihad in the Caucasus through covert assistance, tacit encouragement of allies to actively support the mujahedin, as well

as the orchestrating of an intense media campaign against Russia and its conduct in Chechnya.⁸¹

As the US Department of State noted in 2005:

...the involvement of US firms in the development and export of Azerbaijani oil is key to our objectives of diversifying world oil supplies, providing a solid base for the regional economy, and promoting US energy security.⁸²

The Bush Administration committed

an estimated \$1.5 billion to the Caspian basin area, including an \$11 million program to train a "pipeline protection battalion" for the special Georgian unit created to protect the Georgian section of the BTC (Baku–Tbilisi–Ceyhan) pipeline.⁸³

The MetaGroup's Geostrategic Goal: Maintaining the War of Terror

The fact that the United States will use drug-traffickers as geostrategic assets does not at all mean that Washington and the traffickers will necessarily have the same agendas. In theory at least, the contrary should be true. Although the United States may have used known traffickers like Zaman and Qadir to regain access to Afghanistan, its stated ultimate goal, and the one assumed by the mainstream media, was to reimpose its own kind of order. Whether the country is Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Colombia or Kosovo, America's national interest is said to be to install and then protect pipelines. And pipelines require peace and security.

The prime geostrategic goal of the drug traffic in Afghanistan and elsewhere is precisely to prevent peace and security from happening.⁸⁴ It is true that the international illicit drug industry, like the international oil industry, is polymorphous and flexible, relying on diversified sources and markets for its products in order to maintain its global dominance. But for the global drug traffic to prosper, there must always be key growing areas where violence is ongoing and state order does not prevail.

However, in speaking above of America's stated national interest, I do not assume that a US government will always represent that national interest. Something else has happened in recent decades: the growth of the drug trade to the point that it now represents a significant portion of national and international

wealth. And it has to be said that the American free enterprise system, like every other dominant political system in a current nation with world pretensions, will tend above all to represent the interests of the wealthy.

Thus the Bush Administration's policies cannot be assumed to reflect the national goals of peace and security, as outlined above. On the contrary, its shocking underfunding of Afghanistan's recovery, like its complex and destabilising interventions in Georgia, suggest that it, as much as the drug traffic, hopes to utilise instability—as a pretext for maintaining unstable US bases in countries like Uzbekistan, whose people eventually will object more and more to them.

It is, I think, a matter of national priority to learn more about the American links to Far West Ltd, the group accused of staging the Russian 9/11. It is a matter of more than purely historic interest to learn if that group's Islamist and American connections could have supplied a meeting ground for staging the American

9/11 as well. For at present, America faces in Afghanistan what Russia faces in Chechnya: a war which is favourable to drug-trafficking but increasingly deleterious to national well-being. *5 The Bush Administration continues to use 9/11 to sell its Asian adventures to the American people. Meanwhile, elements profiting from the flow of Afghan drugs continue to grow stronger and more dangerous to the well-being of both countries.

Concluding Question: The MetaGroup and the United States Government

It seems clear that the meta-group, with its influential connections on at least three continents, was powerful enough to effect changes, through the Russian 9/11, in Russian history. The question arises as to whether they could similarly effect changes in American history as well.

As we have seen, Russian sources claim that the US Government has had access to the meta-group for such especially sensitive projects as the assassination of

Abu al-Walid al-Hamadi. They claim the meta-group's involvement in a number of US-sponsored regime changes in Eastern Europe, from the overthrow of Ceausescu in Romania to the recent deposition of Shevardnadze in Georgia. The *Wall Street Journal* [November 24, 2003] attributed the latter to the work of "a raft of non-governmental organizations...supported by American and other Western foundations". 86 One of these was the Albert Einstein Institute (AEI), funded by both the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and the Soros foundations, which helped to create the dissident youth movement Kmara in Georgia. Audrius Butkevicius, the meta-group member now resident in Georgia, is said to be closely connected with the AEI. 87

Returning to a question raised earlier, it also seems possible that the US Government might contemplate using Hizb ut-Tahrir and the meta-group for political changes in Russia itself, even while combating the Islamism of al-Qaeda elsewhere. This would be far from the first time that the US Government had used drugtrafficking proxies as assets, and would do a lot to explain the role of the US in 2001 in restoring major drug traffickers to power in Afghanistan. Dubious figures like Khodorkovsky and Khashoggi have already shown their interest in such initiatives, and Western

business interests have shown their eagerness to work with these allies of the meta-group.

It is fitting to think of most US intelligence assets as chess pieces, moved at the whim of their controllers. That is, however, not an apt metaphor for the meta-group, which clearly has the resources to negotiate and to exert its own influence interactively upon the governments with which it works.

Since first hearing about the meta-group's role in the Russian 9/11, I have pondered the question of whether it could have played a similar role in the American 9/11 as well. At this point, I have to say that I have found no persuasive evidence that would prove the meta-group's involvement. The fact remains that two informed and credible witnesses, Sibell Edmonds and Indira Singh, have spoken independently of the importance of international drug-trafficking in the background of 9/11.

I said earlier that by suppressing awareness of the role of drugtrafficking in our society, we give drug-traffickers a *de facto*

franchise to exert political influence without criticism or opposition. An example of this is the discussion of 9/11 in America, which usually fails to consider the meta-group among the list of possible suspects.

MetaGroups and Transpolitics

History has demonstrated, four or five times over, the dialectics of openness. This process determined the fates of the ancient city-states of Athens and Rome, and since the Renaissance

we have seen it again with the empires of Spain, The Netherlands and Great Britain. An urban civil society that is free and open will generate wealth. As wealth increases, the society will expand its institutions beyond its borders. This is the story richly documented by Kevin Phillips in his book Wealth and Democracy (Broadway Books, 2002), a book that should be read in every American college and school. To the extent that wealth expands, these extrasocietal institutions come to lie outside the transparency of domestic civil society. In effect, they become both powerful and

secret, and new elements of the state develop to interact with them on a secret level.⁸⁸

Within the state, secrecy trumps openness. There is a political sociology of secrecy: those with higher clearances participate in policy-making at a level where those without clearances are denied access. As long as external wealth continues to increase, so will the importance of secret policy-making. The result is the transition of what was once an open society, perhaps even a republic (as in the case of Athens, Rome and The Netherlands), into an empire. Institutions and relationships outside the bounds of civil society will tend to consolidate into what I call "metagroups"—groups outside the state that have the wealth and *de facto* power to influence the policies of the state.

This has been particularly true since the so-called Reagan Revolution and the collapse of the Soviet Union. US bases have now appeared in previously unthinkable outposts like the former Soviet republics of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Georgia, but only after US oil majors had already secured multibillion-dollar contracts for oil exploration in the Transcaspian basin.

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The Port Arthur Massacre: Was Martin Bryant Framed?

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Endnotes

1. The transcript can be read online at http://home.overflow.net.au/ ~nedwood/transcript.html or http://members.fortunecity.com/able_j/ transcript.html.

Note that the extracts used in this article have been slightly modified in the interests of readability.

2. Noel McDonald, A Presentation of the Port Arthur Incident, 2001, p. 173. Admittedly, "an edited version of this interview"—two hours long—was played in court on 19 November 1996. However, this was in the context of a sentencing hearing, not a trial (McDonald, pp. 174, 176).

That day, Bryant's second lawyer, John Avery, told the judge that he was "not troubled" by the decision to play the tape—a statement which raises questions about Avery's view of his obligations to his client.

- **3.** McDonald, pp. 175–76.
- **4.** Since Bryant's intention after he left Nubeena was to visit the Martins at Seascape, there was no reason for him to

go past Seascape as far as the Fortescue Bay turnoff. This means that Bryant must have driven from Nubeena to the Fortescue Bay turnoff via Taranna. But this contradicts Bryant's recollections elsewhere in the same interview of having driven past Port Arthur without stopping. This contradiction is the first clue to the fact that the whole story is imaginary.

- **5.** John Frow, "Recovering Memory", *Australian Humanities Review*, December 1996; article available online at http://www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/AHR/archive/Issue-Dec-1996/frow.html.
- **6.** See http://www.religioustolerance.org/false co.htm.
- 7. The idea that videotapes were used to persuade Bryant to accept responsibility for the Port Arthur massacre and the murders at Seascape is not a far-fetched one. Later in this series, I examine a videotape which seems to have been fabricated months after the massacre for the purpose of convincing Bryant that he had been present at Port Arthur that day.
- **8.** McDonald (pp. 119-27) discusses several other problems with Bryant's account.

About the Author:

Carl Wernerhoff is the pseudonym for a Sydney-based conspiracy researcher with a particular interest in the history of political assassinations and orchestrated tragedies such as the Port Arthur and Columbine massacres. He has a PhD in History and currently works as a teacher.

He recently released an e-book, What's Going On? A Critical Study of the Port Arthur Massacre. It can be downloaded (free of charge) from http://www.ourmedia.org/user/95839.

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Correction:

In the previous article in this series (NEXUS vol. 13, no. 4), I stated that Martin Bryant is left-handed. I have since been informed that in fact he is right-handed, and that confusion has arisen over this issue because of a statement he made to police in which he said that he had taught himself to shoot left-handed.

The Far West Drug MetaGroup

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In so far as this expansion into Central Asia was a matter of geostrategic policy, it was a policy primarily directed by private oil companies and PMCs, not the state. The sense of powerlessness that pervades American civil society, and even Congress, derives from this awareness that the state only mediates in foreign imperial expansion today after crucial decisions have already been made by institutions over which the state has no control.

Since the year 2000, the American state has in effect been captured by these metagroups. Not the American people but the Supreme Court (acting without precedent and, many lawyers claim, without constitutional authority) determined who would be the next president of the United States

Behind the nominal authority of George W. Bush, representatives of the multinational oil and pharmaceutical industries—Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld—moved in to consolidate the superprofits of these industries with a war tailored to meet their needs.

They did so by implementing policies

that had been predetermined—in non-accountable arenas like PNAC (Project for the New American Century) and the AEI—before their dubious assumption of power. And the key to the implementation of these policies was an event still mysterious and barely understood: the homicidal attack on the United States citizenship that we call 9/11.

In studying 9/11, I have come to articulate further the distinction I have made previously between *parapolitics*, the covert actions and policies which can be traced back to secret state agency, and *deep politics*, the entire field of political practices and relationships, deliberate or not, which are usually repressed rather than acknowledged.

I now see a third level, still deeper and even less documented, which I can only think to describe provisionally with the abused term *transpolitics*: actions and policies which are deliberate, but which have been determined by overworld groups and agencies beyond the reach of the domestic state.

The "Pristina dash", if truly an action not initiated by the Kremlin, would constitute an example of transpolitics.

STOP PRESS

Shamil' Basaev (mentioned in part one of this series), the mastermind behind the horrors at Beslan (2004) and Moscow's Dubrovka Theatre (2002), was killed in a Russian special operation on the night of July 9–10, 2006, shortly after he had threatened to take action against the Group of Eight Summit on July 15. In his last year he had allegedly made up for a decline in foreign financing by reliance on bank robberies and drug-trafficking.

Editor's Note:

This article has been abridged for a 2006 colloquium presentation by Dr Scott at the University of Melbourne. A longer form of this essay, together with endnotes, can be found at http://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/articles/global-drug.htm.

About the Author:

Dr Peter Dale Scott, a former Canadian diplomat, has written extensively on US foreign policy and the international drug traffic. He has recently completed a book manuscript, *The Road to 9/11: Wealth, Empire, and the Future of America.* For additional background, see "A Ballad of Drugs and 9/11", *FlashPoint,* Spring 2006, at www. flashpointmag.com/scott2.htm. For more details about Dr Scott and his work, visit his website http://www.peterdalescott.net.