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Parish Notices

I had done all of this issue of *Lobster* but for this page, when the news broke of the Wikileaks data dump of US diplomatic traffic. I was surprised at my lack of reaction. Once upon a time I would have been excited. Now I am merely curious to see what the US embassy in London had to say about our politicians. Am I just getting old and jaded? Yes: but there is something else here. The US State Department counts for little. It was by-passed in the 1950s by the paramilitary (CIA) and the military (Pentagon). The US State Department exists as a kind of cover story for America's military power; indeed its subsidiary status is shown by the cables which show diplomatic staff being asked to gather 'biometric' data, as if they were low level intelligence assets.

Digital security simply isn't possible. In two years Ministry of Defence staff lost 340 laptops.<sup>1</sup> The simple but uncomfortable truth is that to be secure, digital data demands routine levels of attention to detail which human beings are not capable of sustaining. I presume that everything I do by e-mail or on the Net might be public. Our spooks and politicians will have to learn this. Or go back to paper. And that isn't likely, is it?

Robin Ramsay

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1 <[www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/3066047/Ministry-of-Defence-staff-lose-340-laptop-computers-over-two-years.html](http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/3066047/Ministry-of-Defence-staff-lose-340-laptop-computers-over-two-years.html)>