

The View from the Bridge

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Thanks to Nick Must (in particular) and Garrick Alder for editorial and proof-reading assistance with this issue.

* new *

The higher bullshit

There has been more well-intentioned nonsense written by academics about the assassination of JFK than any other subject I have looked at. A classic of the genre is Nicholas R. Nalli's recent 'Gunshot-wound dynamics model for John F. Kennedy assassination'.¹

Mr Nalli is an advocate of the thesis that JFK's head went back and to the left when a bullet, fired from the rear of the motorcade, struck *the back of his head*. As he states in his abstract:

'It is therefore found that the observed motions of President Kennedy in the film are physically consistent with a high-speed projectile impact from the rear of the motorcade, these resulting from an instantaneous forward impulse force, followed by delayed rearward recoil and neuromuscular forces.'

Something like this is required by the Oswald-lone-gunman scenario and, in support of his thesis, the author presents 42 screens-worth of maths and physics calculations (which I can't understand).

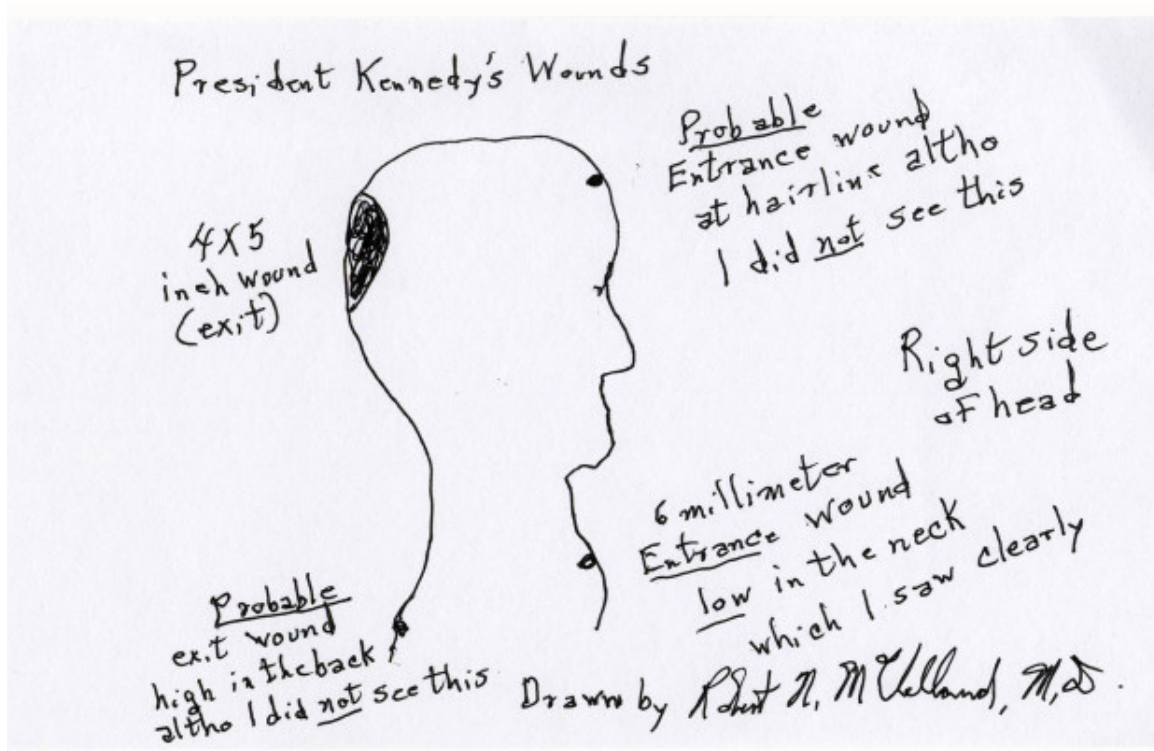
In the main body of his text he dismisses the considerably less implausible idea that Kennedy was hit by almost simultaneous shots from the rear and front: the shot from the rear producing the tiny forward movement visible just before the shot from the front, which sent his head back and to his left. Why does he reject this?

¹ <<https://www.heliyon.com/article/e00603>> Anthony Frewin spotted that the *Daily Mail* website had reported on this article. See <<https://tinyurl.com/yapboydf>> or <<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-5657007/JFK-NOT-killed-grassy-knoll-gunman.html>>.

' . . . because there was no cratered exit wound on the left and/or rear side of the President's skull. . . . '

At one level this is just weird because the author's citation at that point does not support this.² In any case, as Garrick Alder pointed out to me, Pierre Finck, one of the doctor's at JFK's autopsy, testified that there was a cratered hole in the back of JFK's head.³

But at another level, my reaction is, really? Come on, *really*? The author evidently didn't do anything as banal as check the testimony of the doctors and nurses at Parkland Hospital, who all reported a very large hole in the back of his head which was an obvious exit wound.



This drawing showing JFK's rear head wound, made by Dr Robert McClelland, who was at Parkland, was echoed by all the other attending staff, as shown in the photographs of some of them below.⁴

² The material he cites is at <<https://tinyurl.com/y8zf39jr>> or <<https://www.maryferrell.org/showDoc.html?docId=82#relPageId=184&tab=page>> p. 174.

³ See Clay Shaw Trial Transcript, 24 Feb 1969, testimony of Dr. Finck on the wounds at <tinyurl.com/y8upax4m> and <tinyurl.com/ycmlzj6y>. Finck refers to 'a crater' and 'bevelling'.

⁴ The montage of Parkland staff is taken from <<http://www.artearthmann.com/conspiracyFolder/Conspiracy.html>>. The photographs appeared originally in Robert J. Groden, *The Killing of a President* (NY, Viking Penguin, 1993) pp. 88/89.



And, working in Texas, they had seen many gunshot wounds.

Their testimony is the only reliable data on the wounds. As has been repeatedly demonstrated, the autopsy was monkeyed with, to fit the politically determined 'lone assassin' verdict.⁵

Nick Must commented:

a) It would seem that Mr Nalli is relying on the Zapruder film to provide timings during the assassination but is unable to provide precise timings from the camera, stating that a single Zapruder frame is roughly 0.055 per second. He can not be more exact because the camera Abraham Zapruder used was a Bell & Howell 8mm intended for home movies, and not manufactured to run within anything like professional tolerances. It would have been very unlikely to have been running at precisely the manufacturers expected speed throughout the entire filming, even for the relatively short 26 seconds of footage.

b) He claims to have discovered that 'an outward impulse is observed on the jacket lapel of Texas Governor John Connally' at the time that the bullet was entering his body from the rear. How this can be discerned at 1:1 magnification

⁵ Just to start: was it one autopsy or two? See <http://jfk.deeppoliticsforum.com/JFKSecondAutopsy.pdf>.

If you want to embark on the great autopsy mystery, try <https://tinyurl.com/y7aqmtbq> or https://www.history-matters.com/essays/jfkmed/How5Investigations/How5InvestigationsGotItWrong_2.htm.

is unclear. I assume that he had magnified the frames for this examination. In doing so he will have also magnified any inherent errors in the frames themselves – as I have said above, it was film for making a basic home movie. There seems to be no discussion of this aspect of working with amateur footage/analogue film.

* new *

How the line changed on Wallace

The late Hugh Mooney was an IRD officer who was in Northern Ireland while Colin Wallace was there in the 1970s. I have written about him elsewhere in this issue.⁶ When Mooney learned that Wallace was being expelled from Northern Ireland (and possibly faced disciplinary action for 'leaking') he wrote to a 'Mr Joy' in a letter headed 'Secret and personal'. This is part of what he said:

' . . . like the Brigadier, I considered Wallace the most valuable member of Army Information Services, who throughout the time I was there launched many very damaging stories against the IRA and other extremists.'

Here, in contrast, is Mooney in a 1992 letter to the Information Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office – IRD's successor organisation:

' . . . a classic Wallace operation involving planted information; deception of the British and authorised personnel; attacks on individuals which do nothing to advance the fight against terrorism.'⁷

* new *

Mind control

Muckrock is a website devoted to FOIA requests in the USA. It recently had a story headed:

'Washington State Fusion Centre accidentally releases records on remote control. As part of a request for records on Antifa and white supremacist groups, WSFC inadvertently bundles in "EM effects on human body.zip".'⁸

The Washington State Fusion Centre is essentially the post-9/11 Washington State internal security police. Its mission statement is this:

⁶ <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/free/lobster75/lob75-hugh-who.pdf>>

⁷ Letters in possession of Colin Wallace.

⁸ <<https://www.muckrock.com/news/archives/2018/apr/18/fusion-center-em/>>

'The mission of the Washington State Fusion Center (WSFC) is to support the public safety and homeland security missions of state, local, tribal agencies and private sector entities.'⁹

The file accidentally – or deliberately¹⁰ – sent to Muckrock from WSFC contained a number of illustrations – not 'records' as per Muckrock – of alleged effects of electromagnetic (em) radiation on the human body. The file is available for downloading at Muckrock.

One of the documents has in the right-hand bottom corner 'www.raven1.net'. The tiniest bit of searching would have shown Muckrock (and the *Daily Mail*, which republished the material on its website)¹¹ that raven1.net is Eleanor White. She is a well known name within mind control/TI (targeted individuals) circles. Just Google 'Eleanor White + Raven 1'. The images in the file sent to Muchrock are familiar to me from at least a decade ago.

The website Wired.com carried an article by Laura Yan about a recent conference of TIs.¹² While sympathetic to their evident misery, Yan didn't take their claims of being TIs seriously, and assumed they were all deluded. Some may not be. There is what looks like decent filmed evidence of gang-stalking on Youtube and some individuals *have* been targeted. The Stasi secret police in East Germany even had a term for the stalking and harassing of individuals, *zersetzen*.¹³ This story has been running in *Lobster* since issue 56 when I first noticed that Roderick Russell used the term.

* new *

Chomsky's blind spot

Noam Chomsky is a great man with a striking blind spot about JFK. Presumably because he has not read the material, he simply does not recognise that JFK

⁹ <www.wsfc.wa.gov/>

¹⁰ My guess would be deliberately, hoping that Muckrock would make fools of themselves, claiming the files proved government mind control activities or some such.

¹¹ <<https://tinyurl.com/yb5w5c6s>> or <<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-5638069/Government-accidentally-sends-strange-conspiracy-theory-file-describing-remote-mind-control.html>>

¹² <<https://tinyurl.com/ycdemyne>> or <https://www.wired.com/story/mind-games-the-tortured-lives-of-targeted-individuals/?mbid=synd_digg>

¹³ Roderick Russell introduced us to this. See his <<http://zersetzen.wikispaces.com>> and his essay 'Canada's spy agency gone rogue: Prime Minister Harper couldn't care less' at <<http://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/free/lobster65/lob65-canadian-spy-agency.pdf>>.

was anything but another identikit US imperialist president. Here he is recently in an interview.

‘. . .if you look at the United States and the kinds of actions that John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson could carry out in Vietnam, they were possible because of almost complete lack of public attention.’¹⁴

Chomsky merges LBJ and JFK as if they had the same intentions and policies. When I read this I thought, ‘I’ll bet Jim DiEugenio has a go at this.’ And he has; oh boy, has he ever. His ‘Noam Chomsky Needs an Intervention’ begins:

‘Does Noam Chomsky have permanent foot-in-mouth disease? It looks like that. In his latest, he almost outdoes himself. Yet his acolytes still print his nonsensical meanderings.’¹⁵

And yes, he does stand that up, and in spades.

* new *

The anti-semitism furore

And so Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn duly met with the reps of the major Jewish bodies in the UK and one of the aims of their campaign was made explicit: they want the Labour Party to adopt the IHRA working definition of anti-semitism ‘in full together with all its examples’.¹⁶ Those ‘examples’¹⁷ are designed to make much of the criticism of Israel anti-semitism *by definition*. For the history of the long march of this new definition of anti-semitism through the world’s institutions, see the essay by Alison Weir.¹⁸

* new *

All our yesterdays

A reader asked me if I knew why the NNC had allowed a former employee, Paul

¹⁴ Lynn Parramore, ‘Noam Chomsky on the Populist Groundswell, U.S. Elections, the Future of Humanity, and More’ at <<https://tinyurl.com/ybpn82zw>> or <<https://www.ineteconomics.org/perspectives/blog/noam-chomsky-on-the-populist-groundswell-u-s-elections-the-future-of-humanity-and-more>>

¹⁵ At <<https://tinyurl.com/yddagnqu>> or <<https://kennedysandking.com/john-f-kennedy-articles/noam-chomsky-needs-an-intervention>>.

¹⁶ See <<https://tinyurl.com/y8x5bq4d>> or <<https://skwawkbox.org/2018/04/26/exclusive-full-plp-briefing-document-on-bod-jlc-meeting/>>.

¹⁷ Listed at <<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism>>.

¹⁸ <<http://ifamericaknew.org/history/antisemitism.html>>

Reynolds, to see some of the files generated by the once secret MI5 vetting of BBC staff.¹⁹ I have no idea, I replied. The story on the BBC News website is worth reading – if only for the strong whiff of ‘the world gone by’ which emanates from it. Imagine a world in which the CPGB and its Trotskyist opponents, SWP, WRP and IMG, were regarded as a serious threat to the existence of the British state. Imagine a world in which, because you had a friend at university who was in the CPGB, the BBC would not employ you. (Paul Reynolds quotes one such example in his report.)

The same smell also comes from Charlotte Bingham’s *MI5 and Me: A Coronet Among the Spooks* (Bloomsbury 2018). Bingham’s father was John Bingham (Lord Clanmorris),²⁰ a big cheese in the post-WW2 MI5 (with a revolver and a swordstick – to defend himself against those violent CPGB types, no doubt). Bingham got his daughter a job clerking in the organisation. Charlotte Bingham, a novelist, gives us a striking portrait of the organisation ambling through the 1950s with only the CPGB as a domestic target. At one point, she tells us, MI5 decided it would be quite a wheeze to create its own left-wing party to help splinter the CPGB. This got as far as one founding meeting before it collapsed. Reading this I wondered again if MI5 didn’t have a hand in the creation and/or funding of the SWP, WRP and IMG – organisations which attacked the CPGB. The only evidence – if you can call it that – on this we have is the comment by former BOSS agent, Gordon Winter. Interviewed by Tom Mangold, for the Panorama programme in 1981 that was the first BBC TV documentary about the British security and intelligence services, Gordon Winter said: :

‘British intelligence has a saying that if there is a left-wing movement in Britain bigger than a football team our man is the captain or the vice captain, and if not, he is the referee and he can send any man off the field and call our man on at any time he likes.’²¹

Winter’s comment was the only piece of the programme which the spooks insisted be cut before transmission.

IRD and Indonesia

A glimpse of one of the UK’s grubbier activities as junior partner of the United

¹⁹ ‘The vetting files: How the BBC kept out “subversives”’
<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-43754737>>

²⁰ <[http://powerbase.info/index.php/John_Bingham_\(Lord_Clanmorris\)](http://powerbase.info/index.php/John_Bingham_(Lord_Clanmorris))>

²¹ This was quoted in *Leveller* 51, March 1981.

States in the cold war era was offered in the *Guardian* Review of 17 March 2018. In her piece on two recent books about Indonesia, Julia Lovell noted that before the killing of half a million or so people in 1965-6 by the Indonesian Army:

‘ . . . the US and British governments waged a devious campaign of psychological warfare before, during and after the massacres, in the hope of giving the [Indonesian] army a pretext to act against the communists, and to suppress accurate reports of the murders.’²²

Credit where credit is due: the British contribution to this atrocity was first exposed by Lashmar and Oliver in their book about IRD,²³ an extract from which, detailing the UK role in the Indonesian massacres, was published in the *Independent*.²⁴ In the same year as the Lashmar/Oliver account, a memoir of sorts by the former Labour Minister, Christopher Mayhew, who helped set up IRD in the 1940s, acknowledged IRD’s role:

‘ . . . it played a key role, under [Peter] Reddaway’s guidance, in a publicity campaign that resulted in the removal of Achmed Sukarno as president of Indonesia, in 1965. . . . ’ (p. 46)²⁵

Memories.

That faint clicking sound you can hear is keyboards being worked as people compose articles, books and TV scripts about ‘the Troubles’ whose fiftieth anniversary is approaching. Publishers and commissioning editors do love anniversaries on which to hang their products. Half a century is long enough, apparently, for British academics to take an interest in the security and intelligence issues that were involved there. One such academic is Dr. Tony Craig,²⁶ who has a very interesting sounding essay, ‘From countersubversion to counter-insurgency – comparing MI5’s role in British Guiana, Aden and the Northern Ireland civil rights crisis’, on the Net. Sadly – and stupidly – access to

²² <<https://tinyurl.com/ybsr4v7b>> or <<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/mar/15/killing-season-geoffrey-robinson-army-indonesian-genocide-jess-melvinreviews>>

²³ Paul Lashmar and James Oliver, *Britain’s Secret Propaganda War 1948-1977* (Stroud: Sutton Publishing, 1998)

²⁴ <<https://tinyurl.com/ybs6cr3w>> or <<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/how-we-destroyed-sukarno-1188448.html>>

²⁵ Christopher Mayhew, *War of Words: a Cold War Witness* (London: I. B. Tauris, 1998) p. 46.

²⁶ His essays are listed at <<http://www.staffs.ac.uk/staff/profiles/tc22.jsp>>.

it is £30.²⁷ However its thesis can be seen from the abstract:

'As the imperial security service, MI5 operated throughout the British Empire and in virtually every instance of decolonisation after the Second World War. Using both secondments inside the Colonial Office (Security Intelligence Advisors or SIAs) and representatives within the colonies, dependencies and protectorates (Security Liaison Officers or SLOs), MI5 arguably operated in a more diverse range of political situations than any part of Britain's armed forces. This article suggests that two main modes of conduct were deployed in the empire's trouble spots by MI5 – counter-subversion and counter-insurgency – and that investigation of these instances can be used to shed light on MI5's less documented role in the early years of the Northern Ireland Troubles. The article demonstrates that, unlike in Aden, the Security Service managed to maintain their liaison and supervision role in Northern Ireland without being absorbed within the local Special Branch in the first decade of the Troubles.'

This theme, the politics of British intelligence and security, is also central to an essay of Craig's which *is* available to hoi polloi without payment: 'Intelligence Management and the security stovepipe in Northern Ireland, 1968-1974'.²⁸ The author lays out his thesis at the beginning:

'Right from the beginning of the Northern Ireland Troubles, two different strands of British intelligence were developed in Northern Ireland that failed to effectively cooperate or coordinate their efforts with each other. Though the JIC, the Office of the UK Representative and later the Northern Ireland Office were all aware of (and opposed) the lack of singular control over intelligence in the province, they were unable for much of the 1970s to wrest control of security intelligence from the hands of the Army and Special Branch. This problem, which emerged as a result of both the developing nature of the deployment in the early 1970s and from the fear of alienating RUC Special Branch meant that a Security-Forces-controlled intelligence "stovepipe"²⁹ emerged that exclusively served the purpose of enforcing law and order rather than aiding in the UK government's wider

²⁷ <<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/16161262.2014.970365?needAccess=true>>

²⁸ <<https://tinyurl.com/y9u8bnqc>> or <<http://eprints.staffs.ac.uk/3023/1/Stovepiping%20and%20Intelligence%20Management%20CAMBRIDGE%20TALK.pdf>>

²⁹ An intelligence 'stovepipe' is shorthand for raw intelligence being delivered direct to those making decisions without going through the usual assessment procedures.

Seymour Hersh discussed the 'stovepipe' through which pro-war intelligence was fed in the run-up to the US/UK invasion of Iraq at

<<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2003/10/27/the-stovepipe>>.

political strategies. Records from the National Archives show that at times this stovepipe operated without reference (and at times in opposition) to the political initiatives also being tried by the UK government in the province.'

'The UK government's wider political strategies' is a euphemism for 'trying to find a peace deal to end the violence'. What this meant in practice was that MI6 and the London-based politicians sought a negotiated peace, while the Army, MI5 and the RUC wanted first to 'defeat the terrorists'. Craig identifies the first key MI6 officer as being Alan Rowley,³⁰ who took over as Director of Intelligence in 1972, after the failure of the Army's strategy of treating Northern Ireland as if it was another colonial insurgency and the ensuing problems that were caused by the Military Reaction Force and its associated operations.³¹

I e-mailed the paper to Colin Wallace, who was there at the time, and he replied:

'The first Director and Co-ordinator in Northern Ireland was known as Allan Rowley, albeit his first name was "Frederick", and he was a member of MI6. He took up his appointment in October 1972 and was replaced by Denis Payne from MI5 in October 1973 – that was when 'Clockwork Orange' was set up. I believe Alan Rowley went on to become Deputy Chief of MI6 in 1976. Denis Payne's appointment also coincided with [IRD's] Hugh Mooney's departure from Northern Ireland in December that year.³² I feel that MI5 thereafter attempted to take over the IRD disinformation role. Allan Rowley, was highly regarded by the Army. Unfortunately in the years after his departure, many of the Intelligence malpractices that have surfaced in recent years occurred and that is why Mrs Thatcher took Maurice Oldfield out of retirement to bring the Northern Ireland Intelligence community under control. I have no doubt the latter is correct because Tony Cavendish, Sir Maurice Oldfield's closest friend, told me.

In 1974, Craig Smellie MI6, who was the "Assistant Secretary Political"

³⁰ Tom Griffin has him as Fred Rowley. <<https://tinyurl.com/yd8273zg>> or <http://www.tomgriffin.org/the_green_ribbon/2018/03/war-stories-of-willie-whitelaws-intelligence-chief.html>.

³¹ A introduction to the Military Reaction Force (aka MRF) – a brainchild of Brigadier Frank Kitson, the counter-insurgency guru at the time – and operations that the MRF ran (such as the Four Square Laundry and the the Gemini Health Studio 'massage parlour') is at <<https://tinyurl.com/yaju9plh>> or <<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/much-of-the-truth-about-the-british-army-s-dirty-war-in-the-north-in-the-1970s-is-likely-to-remain-buried-1.190628>>.

³² On Mooney see 'Hugh who?' In this issue at <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/free/lobster75/lob75-hugh-who.pdf>>.

at HQ NI and who was also highly regarded by the Army, was replaced by Ian Cameron of MI5, who accused me of "leaking" information to the press about William McGrath and Kincora, despite the fact that my Army superiors instructed me to do so. As the HIA Inquiry³³ discovered, the MI5 Director and Co-ordinator of Intelligence in 1982 when the Terry Inquiry into Kincora was set up, decreed that no members of MI5 were to be interviewed by the police. So much for the claim that "no one is above the law"!

The way we were

Thanks to a reader who pointed me towards an article in *Counterpunch* about the late L. Fletcher Prouty and the fate of his 1973 book *The Secret Team*.³⁴ This very important book, about the role of the CIA in the cold war 1950s and 60s, was almost entirely suppressed by the Agency: copies were bought up and destroyed all over the world and the book disappeared from libraries in America, including the Library of Congress. The CIA missed copies in the UK, however, and I got it via the inter-library loan system. That was the world then. Today it's available on-line.³⁵

It was Prouty's book which introduced me to the concept of 'detailees', CIA officers who were sent into other areas of the US military-intelligence complex. This may be currently happening in American politics. The World Socialist Website has published three articles showing the striking extent to which ex-CIA and ex-military personnel are becoming Democratic Party candidates in upcoming elections in the US.³⁶ This could just be a result of the Republican Party choosing to be the stupid party and the Democrats having shown themselves to more reliable managers of the American military-intelligence complex. On the other hand, it might be military and spooks contemplating the possibility that, perhaps sooner than electorally scheduled, the next President might be a Democrat who is not enamoured of the American 'empire'. In which case the tide of ex-service personnel into politics might be operations rather than happenstance and individual careerism.³⁷

³³ Historical institutional Abuse Inquiry at <<https://www.hiainquiry.org/>>.

³⁴ <<https://tinyurl.com/ydycs5lj>> or <<https://www.counterpunch.org/2018/03/30/steal-this-book-the-publishing-misadventures-of-a-cia-whistleblower/>>

³⁵ At <<https://ratical.org/ratville/JFK/ST/>>.

³⁶ Start at <<http://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2018/03/13/pers-m13.html>>.

³⁷ See p. 53 at <https://www.intelligence.senate.gov/sites/default/files/94755_VI.pdf> for an early example of the use of 'detailees' in the armed forces.

MLK

Some small kudos to the *Washington Post* for doing a piece on the anniversary of Martin Luther King's death which not only foregrounds the doubts about James Earl Ray's role but actually discusses the alternative scenario, and features the lawyer William Pepper who has done much of the work showing that Ray was just another patsy.³⁸ It's only taken 50 years for one of the leading 'liberal' newspapers in the US to get to this point.

William Pepper discusses his latest research and who-did-what in a conversation to be found on Global Research.³⁹ The most startling claim there is this about James Earl Ray's escape from prison a year or so before King's murder.

William Pepper: 'Yes, that was arranged. J Edgar Hoover sent \$25,000 into Memphis with Clyde Tolson, his number 2. Tolson was always an intermediary. . .intermediary with the Dixie Mafia people, and government and police people who were involved in the assassination. . . .The head of the Dixie Mafia, Russell Adkins, took the \$25,000 to the prison and gave it to the warden to pay him for arranging the escape.

James knew nothing about it, but they had profiled him as a candidate, an ideal patsy candidate and then they arranged for this escape and then they kept him on a leash and knew where he was, and kept him under control, moved him around to have him where he needed to be as a patsy. I learned this because the 16-year-old son of the Dixie Mafia leader went along with his father to give the money to the warden, so he was able to confirm that.'

The anti-semitism furore

Two things: first, we should acknowledge that the Israeli lobby in this country has run a clever campaign. Second, Jeremy Corbyn is essentially being accused of guilt by association with the wrong people. But he is being accused of this by people who associate with Israel, which is engaged in the slow-motion ethnic cleansing of the original residents of the country. The scale of denial involved in being pro-Israel today is positively heroic.

³⁸ <<https://tinyurl.com/yaz4hwd5>> or <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/retropolis/wp/2018/03/30/who-killed-martin-luther-king-jr-his-family-believes-james-earl-ray-was-framed/?utm_term=.db6c52b9bcb2>

³⁹ <<https://tinyurl.com/yd5w596t>> or <<https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-plot-to-kill-martin-luther-king-a-conversation-with-william-pepper-on-grnh/5635046>>

Trust us, it's safe

The title and subhead of the piece summarise the story: 'How Big Wireless Made Us Think That Cell Phones Are Safe: A Special Investigation *The disinformation campaign—and massive radiation increase—behind the 5G rollout.*'

The final paragraph of the piece is this:

'No scientist can say with certainty how many wireless-technology users are likely to contract cancer, but that is precisely the point: We simply don't know. Nevertheless, we are proceeding as if we do know the risk, and that the risk is vanishingly small. Meanwhile, more and more people around the world, including countless children and adolescents, are getting addicted to cell phones every day, and the shift to radiation-heavy 5G technology is regarded as a *fait accompli*. Which is just how Big Wireless likes it.'

And this isn't on some wacky website. This is in *The Nation*, which has been going since 1865.⁴⁰

The same river twice

There was a joke in the 1980s:

Q. What's the definition of a radical magazine?

A. One that doesn't last very long.

Which means *Lobster* isn't very radical, I guess.

In the 35 years of its existence I have only appealed once to *Lobster* readers for money – around the time of *Lobster* 11, the Wilson-MI5 issue. By far the biggest contribution I received was from novelist G. F. Newman, who sent me £80 – which bailed me out of the little financial hole I was in. So I am happy to use this column to inform you that Newman's ground-breaking novel *Law and Order*, first published in the 1970s, is being republished as an ebook by No Exit Press (www.noexit.co.uk), to coincide with the rebroadcasting on BBC4 of the four-part drama series written by Newman based on his novel.⁴¹

⁴⁰ <<https://tinyurl.com/y9lly65c>> or <<https://www.thenation.com/article/how-big-wireless-made-us-think-that-cell-phones-are-safe-a-special-investigation/>>

Related to which, see the *Daily Mail* story about the apparent physical effects of 5G street-lights at <<https://tinyurl.com/yapw9bft>> or <<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-5409921/Residents-enduring-stillbirths-street-lamps.html>>.

⁴¹ <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_%26_Order_\(UK_TV_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_%26_Order_(UK_TV_series))> N.B. that, as the Wikipedia page states, GF Newman's 'Law & Order' was created in the late 1970s and the more recent drama of the same name (which is, itself, a UK version of a US tv show) has no connection.

The known universe of belief

In February Jeffrey S. Kaye published an article about, and accompanied by the text of, the 1952 report of an international committee of inquiry into the alleged use of biological weapons in the Korean War by the United States.⁴² A quick Google showed that this story had been rumbling away ever since the 1999 publication of Stephen Endicott and Edward Hagerman's *The United States and Biological Warfare: Secrets of the Early Cold War and Korea*.⁴³

The reappearance of this topic has coincided with Netflix releasing the series *Wormwood*, directed by Errol Morris. *Wormwood* is about the death of Frank Olsen, the biochemist working for the US military who was murdered by the CIA in 1953.⁴⁴ Michael Ignatieff – Canadian intellectual and leader of the Liberal Party of Canada – wrote about *Wormwood* in the *New York Review of Books*:⁴⁵

' . . . the facts, as [Eric] Olsen's research has established, are that Allen Dulles, Richard Helms and other unnamed persons at the highest levels of the American government ordered the death of [Frank Olsen] because they feared he knew too much about US biological warfare during the Korean War and about the torture and execution of Soviet agents and ex-Nazi "expendables" in black sites in Europe during the early 1950s.'⁴⁶

Ignatieff wrote of Frank Olsen's son, Eric, who has been pursuing this case for decades:

⁴² At <<https://tinyurl.com/y9fwjwln>> or <<https://medium.com/insurge-intelligence/the-long-suppressed-korean-war-report-on-u-s-use-of-biological-weapons-released-at-last-20d83f5cee54>>. That original report, incidentally, is 764 pages long.

⁴³ In *Lobster's* archive I found this in issue 44.

Korean germ warfare

In issue 40 I reported: 'Issue 11 of the *Bulletin of Cold War International History Project* contained what appears to be evidence that the allegations by North Korea and the Chinese that the US were using biological warfare during the Korean War were false – were in fact disinformation.'

This has now been challenged. In a paper, 'Twelve Newly Released Soviet-era Documents and allegations of U.S. germ warfare during the Korean War' at <<http://www.kimsoft.com/1997/us-germy.htm>> Stephen Endicott and Edward Hagerman of the Department of History at York University in Canada dispute the claims made in the *Bulletin of Cold War International History* (though not very convincingly in my view).

⁴⁴ Olsen's murder is the subject of H. P. Albarelli Jr.'s *A Terrible Mistake: The Murder of Frank Olson and the CIA's Secret Cold War Experiments*, reviewed by Anthony Frewin in *Lobster* 59.

⁴⁵ <<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2018/02/22/who-killed-frank-olson/>>

⁴⁶ See also <<https://tinyurl.com/yatqhn6o>> or <<https://www.counterpunch.org/2018/01/12/wormwood-and-a-shocking-secret-of-war-how-errol-morris-vindicated-my-father-wilfred-burchett/>>.

'Eric remains the only friend I have who has entirely left the known universe of belief that the American state remains a government of laws rather than a regime of covert violence.'

'The known universe of belief' is a nice phrase but Mr Ignatieff ought to widen his reading. He means the known universe of respectable, career-compatible belief. But this is not an either/or situation. The American state is both a government of laws *and* a regime of covert violence.

Back to the future (again)

It was not surprising to see Guido Fawkes, <www.order-order.com>, involved in both the generation and recycling of the anti-Corbyn smears in February. The main man there is Paul Staines, who was one of the radical right, Federation of Conservative Students, Liberation Alliance kids in the early 1980s, who got their jollies trying to shock the British liberal-left by being aggressively anti-PC.⁴⁷ Staines worked for David Hart as editor of his smear sheet *British Briefing* sometime in the 1980s.⁴⁸ *British Briefing* carried on the work that used to be done by IRD – trying to smear the Labour Party with links to Soviet intelligence. The Corbyn nonsense continues that tradition.

Former Labour MP, *Tribune* editor and political diarist Chris Mullin added his voice to the Corbyn smear story.⁴⁹ He wrote:

'Long before he succeeded [Michael] Foot as leader of the Labour Party, the US Embassy spotted that Neil Kinnock was a rising star and a succession of political officers made it their business to get to know him and others on the Labour left.'

It's better (or worse) than that. As I noted in this column in *Lobster* 67, Carl Dillery, political officer at the US Embassy in London 1973-76, said in an interview:

' . . . Neil Kinnock, was a junior MP when I was there. Our Labor (sic) Party reporting officer, Jack Binns, was a real friend of his. He was a great party guy and would come to all of our parties and talk to all of us. He and Jack

⁴⁷ Staines wrote a pretty crappy book about Nicaragua, *In the grip of the Sandinistas*, which I once owned but have long since ditched.
<<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Grip-Sandinistas-Rights-Nicaragua-1979-89/dp/1872304001>>

⁴⁸ On *British Briefing* see <http://powerbase.info/index.php/British_Briefing>.

⁴⁹ 'Coffee with Corbyn' in the *London Review of Books*, 8 March 2018. See 'Short Cuts' at <<https://www.lrb.co.uk/v40/n05/chris-mullin/short-cuts>>.

were on a first name basis. So Jack became the political counselor when Kinnock got to be the leader of the Labor Party. Literally, Binns could call up and have access to him at any time.⁵⁰

Kinnock's formula for becoming leader of the Labour Party? Sound like a lefty to members and become an informant for the American embassy.

Russiagate

'Two years ago. . . [f]rom Trump to Bernie Sanders to Brexit to Catalonia, voter repudiation of the status quo was the story of the day. The sense of panic among political elites was palpable. The possibility that voters might decide to break up the EU, or put a Trump, Corbyn, or Sanders into power, led to a spate of "Do we have too much democracy?" essays by prominent think tankers and national press figures.

Two years later, the narrative has completely shifted. By an extraordinary coincidence, virtually all the "anti-system" movements and candidates that so terrified the political establishment two years ago have since been identified as covert or overt Russian destabilization initiatives, puppeteered from afar by the diabolical anti-Western dictator, Vladimir von Putin-Evil.⁵¹

This is from a piece by the excellent Matt Taibbi, 'The New Blacklist'; and what is happening now is indeed reminiscent of that period in the early 1950s.

Consortiumnews.com

Good news and bad news about consortiumnews.com. The good news is that it has republished Garrick Alder's essay about Kissinger, the *Washington Post* and Watergate which is in this issue of *Lobster*. The bad news is that Robert Parry, founder of consortiumnews.com, has died. Parry was about as good as it got and was one of the few major American journalists who were prepared to step outside Ignatieff's 'known universe of belief'.⁵²

⁵⁰ Carl Edward Dillery interview at <<http://www.adst.org/Readers/United%20Kingdom.pdf>>.

⁵¹ <<https://tinyurl.com/ycf4jkju>> or <<https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/taibbi-russiagate-trump-putin-mueller-and-targeting-dissent-w517486>>

⁵² For the CIA's collection of Parry's articles see <<https://tinyurl.com/y9g6jglw>> or <<https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/search/site/Robert%20Parry>>. Jefferson Morley on Parry: <<https://www.alternet.org/bob-parry-rip-reporter-who-broke-iran-contra-story>>.

Just like old times

On the smears running through the *Sun*, the *Mail*, the *Telegraph* and <order-order.com> about Jeremy Corbyn in February, there's little to be said that hasn't been said already. It is entirely possible the the Czech spooks were sniffing around the Labour left in the 1980s; entirely possible that the Labour left talked to them without grasping that the 'diplomats' were intelligence officers (the Labour left wasn't very spook-wise in those days); and entirely possible, too, that the Czech officer concerned grossly exaggerated what he had achieved (he had to account for all those lunches; padding expense accounts is universal). The rest of it, the stories of money changing hands, is an invention in my opinion. But I might be wrong. The timing of the story suggests that someone, somewhere, believes a general election might be imminent.

Of more interest to me was the piece in the *Telegraph* which said:

'Ron Hayward, Labour's general secretary from 1972 to 1982, had secret meetings in the Soviet Embassy with KGB officers to discuss the takeover of the Labour Party by pro-Soviet elements. In one of these, to the background noise of a jamming machine switched on to prevent their conversation from being bugged, Hayward confided his intention of eclipsing the Parliamentary Labour Party and vesting power instead in the National Executive Committee (which he chaired), so that he could become "the first Labour leader in history who is not afraid to come out alongside communists with the same agenda".'⁵³

The author of this piece – more on him below – has, apparently, had access to the product of British intelligence bugging of the Soviet embassy in London.

I googled 'Hayward KGB' and got Sue Reid's 'How the Kremlin hijacked Labour: Diary of a Kremlin insider reveals the hold Soviets had over Labour politicians' from the *Mail on Sunday* in 2009.⁵⁴ This article referred to

'... an extraordinary diary by Anatoly Chernyaev, the Soviet Union's contact man with the West at the icy height of the Cold War. Meticulously detailed and written by hand on lined notepaper, the diary has come to light in the U.S. National Security Archive.'

Some of Chernyaev's diary is indeed there. The following long quotation is from an account by Chernyaev of meeting Ron Hayward who was at the time General Secretary of the Labour Party.

⁵³ <<https://tinyurl.com/ya7mm7pq>> or <<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/men/thinking-man/labour-remains-haunted-ghosts-soviet-past/>>

⁵⁴ <<https://tinyurl.com/yismolv>> or <<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1225637/How-Kremlin-hijacked-Labour-Diary-Kremlin-insider-reveals-hold-Soviets-Labour-politicians.html>>

'Right away he started talking about the conference and their success in pressuring the right and the government. Once again, same as in Moscow, he repeated his credo: as he sees it, the goal of his time as General Secretary is to finally give Great Britain "a real socialist government." To do this, it is necessary to break the tradition of the Labour government and Parliamentary faction allowing themselves to ignore the decisions of the Labour conference and not recognizing the authority of the Executive Committee. He has already done a great deal to raise the role and authority of the Executive Committee by using the surge on the left in the Labour party, which this time was unusually long-lasting. On these grounds, his conflict with Wilson is growing, though they have been friends since their youth. (During the first session Wilson left the room as soon as Hayward started speaking, and came back as soon as he was finished.)

He made a stake to develop relations with the CPSU for the same reason. I don't think he has any ideological affinity for us. But he is unprejudiced and operates from positions of "common sense." The Soviet Union is not only a real and lasting factor in world politics, it is a superpower and a clear guarantor of peace. He does not see any threat to England from the Soviet Union, just as he does not see a communist threat in his country in general. In the meantime, good relations with such a country (i.e. if the Soviet Union views him, Hayward, as a major political figure) can provide big dividends in terms of popularity and domestic perspectives. Plus, he is a plebeian by nature and sincerely hates the British aristocratic style and capitalism. And even though he knows the worth of our "plebeians," it seems he likes us as a people. With us one can be "candid" and behave naturally.

We talked about their relationship with the communists [Communist Party of Great Britain]. He got a little agitated: "I am the first person in the history of the Labour Party who does not hesitate to speak on the same platform with the Communists. There are some activists among them whom I consider to be the best fighters for socialism and the interests of the working class. I would gladly welcome them to the Labour Party." He named McGehee (member of CPGB Politburo, Vice President of the Union of Mineworkers). "Twice I even spoke at meetings with John Gollan. And at the meeting dedicated to the 50th anniversary of Anglo-Soviet diplomatic relations I gave a better speech than he did!" He pointed to Kubeykin and Misha and added, "Isn't that true?! But in politics and elections they are our opponents." Then he criticized them for their behavior at the last elections: they put their candidates in the places where every vote

mattered for the Labour Party, and as a result Tories and Liberals won some of the seats.’⁵⁵

Hayward says here, more or less, what he apparently said in the Soviet embassy in London.

The author of the *Telegraph* piece quoted above, the man with access to the product of the bugging of the Soviet embassy, is Giles Udy. His publisher’s blurb on him includes this:

‘Giles Udy is a historian who has spent the past fifteen years studying Soviet Communism, with a particular focus on the repression of its citizens and its sponsorship of revolution and subversion abroad. . . .

He is a member of the council of the Keston Institute, Oxford’⁵⁶

Keston may ring a bell. It’s self-description includes this:

‘Founded originally by the Revd Canon Dr Michael Bourdeaux and Sir John Lawrence with the help of the distinguished academics Professor Leonard Schapiro and Professor Peter Reddaway, Keston Institute has always had an academic emphasis in addition to its public education role. The creation and development of an archive to support the study of religion in Communist and formerly Communist countries has always been a core aim of Keston Institute, whose reputation for reliability was based on careful research and verification of information through primary sources. The archive was composed originally of samizdat and research materials collected by the founder, Canon Michael Bourdeaux, but over the years it has grown extensively and now represents a unique collection. The archive contains information nowhere else available on an important aspect of 20th century history, namely the history of religion during the Communist period. Furthermore, the archive is complemented by a library of over 8,000 books and 200 periodicals, which have also been built up since Keston Institute’s foundation.’⁵⁷

Schapiro wrote books for, and Reddaway was a member of, the Information Research Department (IRD) the Foreign Office’s anti-subversion, anti-Soviet organisation about which a great deal has been written, not least in these

⁵⁵ The 1974 diary <<https://tinyurl.com/ya2hlcxp>> or <<https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB471/Diary%20of%20Anatoly%20Chernyaev,%201974.pdf>>.

⁵⁶ <<https://www.bitebackpublishing.com/authors/giles-udy>>

⁵⁷ <<http://www.keston.org.uk/aboutkeston.php>>

columns. Schapiro was also a member, and briefly chair of, Brian Crozier's Institute for the Study of Conflict (ISC).⁵⁸

In other words, the Keston Institute is a product of the Anglo-American anti-Soviet and anti-communist apparatus created during the Cold War. This explains why Mr Udy was given access to surveillance tapes of the Soviet embassy in London. If it isn't funded by them, Keston liaises with the British security and intelligence services.

With the arrival of Jeremy Corby and a left-leaning Labour Party membership, the dust is being blown off a lot of old files all over Whitehall

All the news that fits

I went to see *The Post*, Spielberg's film about the Pentagon Papers and the *Washington Post*. It was mildly entertaining, even though it told only a very small part of the story.⁵⁹ I came out of the cinema thinking how striking it is that the major liberal media in the US – *The Post* and *The Times* – responded with enthusiasm to some big political scandals but not to the assassinations of the Kennedys and King. They remain the big no-no.⁶⁰ Can it simply be politics, that they're only interested if a scandal embarrasses the Republican Party?

The lift stops here

On 19 January 2017, the Plasco tower, a 17-storey, steel-framed building in Tehran, built in the 1960s, caught fire, burned and then collapsed in its own footprint. Twenty? Thirty? – reports vary – firefighters who were in the building in the belief that the fire was under control were killed. The 9/11 researchers at AE911Truth, the architects and engineers who are sceptical of the 9/11 official verdict, watched the footage of the Plasco building and saw what looked like explosions on some of the floors just before it collapsed. Nothing if not

⁵⁸ On Schapiro and Reddaway see, for example, <<https://tinyurl.com/yampo6u2>> or <<https://pinkindustry.wordpress.com/the-institute-for-european-defence-and-strategic-studies/leonard-schapiro/>>. Crozier's memoir, *Free Agent*, was reviewed in *Lobster* 26.

⁵⁹ On which see James DiEugenio's fine essay at <<https://consortiumnews.com/2018/01/22/the-post-and-the-pentagon-papers/>> and the *New Yorker* piece about the role played by historian Gar Alperovitz at <<https://tinyurl.com/y95gol66>> or <<https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-untold-story-of-the-pentagon-papers-co-conspirators>>.

⁶⁰ Since I wrote that the *Washington Post* has done something half decent on King. See above under subhead MLK.

consistent, they put out a press release urging the Tehran authorities to look for evidence of explosives when they inquired into the Plasco collapse.⁶¹ This provoked ridicule in some quarters.⁶² But before joining in the guffaws, have a look at the footage of the collapse⁶³ and read the detailed report by AE9/11Truth on the incident, which includes quotes from firefighters at the scene who reported explosions just before the collapse.⁶⁴ To this technically ignorant eye there does appear to have been explosions. It does look like a demolition.⁶⁵

It became obvious quite soon after 9/11 that the event was going to be the Kennedy assassination for this era. This meant that there would be a fake inquiry, like the Warren Commission, which would try to bury the subject. And so it proved: the 9/11 Commission report was received with the same chorus of cat-calls as was Warren. The only difference was the time gap: it took three years for the first Warren doubters to assemble the evidence and decades before it became known that some of the Warren Commission's own members didn't believe the Commission's report. The 9/11 Commission report was being attacked within weeks of its publication and was disowned by its co-chairs within five years.⁶⁶

⁶¹ <<https://tinyurl.com/y9zrb8pl>> or <<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/tehran-building-collapse-investigators-must-consider-explosives-says-architects--engineers-for-911-truth-300394148.html>>

⁶² <<https://tinyurl.com/y92qxvx3>> or <<https://gizmodo.com/why-9-11-truthers-are-obsessed-with-the-plasco-high-ris-1822203542>>

⁶³ <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BI5-MeFu1jo>> or <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4enzRooqVk>>

⁶⁴ The AE911Truth report on the incident is at <http://www.ae911truth.org/images/PDFs/Plasco_Building_Report_2.20.17.pdf>.

The opposing view, attacking AE911Truth's press release, can be seen at <<https://tinyurl.com/yctbvuv7>> or <<https://www.metabunk.org/ae911-truth-forced-to-claim-plasco-collapse-is-an-inside-job.t8339/>>.

⁶⁵ The last sentence of the Wikipedia entry on the event when I accessed it on 30 January 2018 was 'It collapsed due to a controlled demolition.' <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plasco_Building>. This has since been removed.

⁶⁶ The co-chairs of the Commission wrote a book detailing their criticisms of the inquiry five years after the Report was published. See T. H. Kean, and L. H. Hamilton, with B. Rhodes, *Without Precedent: The Inside Story of the 9/11 Commission* (Knopf: New York, 2006) at <<https://www.amazon.com/Without-Precedent-Inside-Story-Commission/dp/0307263770>>.

One of those co-chairs, Lee Hamilton, described the problems the Commission faced in an interview promoting the book. See <<https://tinyurl.com/ydfhwchd>> or <<https://web.archive.org/web/20070108233707/http://www.cbc.ca/sunday/911hamilton.html>>..

But many of the 9/11 sceptics failed to grasp one of the key lessons eventually learned by their JFK equivalents: the cover-up and the conspiracy may not be related. After a political event of the size of JFK's assassination or 9/11, everybody runs for cover and prepares their exculpatory narrative. 'The truth' doesn't make it onto the political agenda. This is normal bureaucratic behaviour.

The critical demarcation line in the 9/11 event should be between the planes hitting the towers and the buildings' collapse. The evidence that al Qaeda did indeed hijack the planes which hit the Twin Towers is undeniable, in my view. But they also look as though they were demolished: the evidence at AE911Truth on this is substantial. But if it is a demolition, the same questions arise with the Plasco tower as it does with the Twin Towers: who put the explosives in and when? Wiring a skyscraper with explosives takes weeks. And was the demolition deliberate or accidental?

In 2004 Robert L. Parish Sr. wrote an article in which he said that years before 9/11 he had been told by a senior Otis Elevator engineer that some skyscrapers were constructed with explosives in them, precisely so they could be brought down vertically in an emergency and keep damage to surrounding buildings to a minimum.⁶⁷ Since the Plasco building had no political, military or intelligence significance that I can discover, and there was no reason for there to be explosives in it, it might be worth considering the thesis of Mr Parish Sr..

As safe as milk

Lobster's archive is big and I have little idea of what's there. Recently I did a search of it for 'microwaves' and discovered all the articles and little snippets on that subject I published after meeting the late Harlan Girard in 1989. Girard claimed to be a mind control victim⁶⁸ and he gave me a collection of articles showing that microwave technology was dangerous. I was prompted to go back to this by the appearance of another scientific study showing the effects of the

⁶⁷ This is at <<http://www.rense.com/general48/chargesplacedinWTC.htm>>. More recently, this idea has been floated in Veterans Today at <<https://www.veteranstoday.com/2013/11/04/skyscrapers-pre-wired-to-come-down/>>. But Veterans Today is by no means a reliable source (as well as being anti-semitic).

⁶⁸ He was discussed in the *Washington Post*. See <<https://tinyurl.com/yapqn379>> or <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/magazine/2007/01/14/mind-games-span-classbankheadnew-on-the-internet-a-community-of-people-who-believe-the-government-is-beaming-voices-into-their-minds-they-may-be-crazy-but-the-pentagon-has-pursued-a-weapon-that-can-do-just-that-span/a0d09db6-d7aa-4fcd-a829-2a3ebc56df9d/?utm_term=.f9bd4b537162>.

radiation from the ubiquitous mobile phone networks.⁶⁹ The authors' conclusion is:

'In this study, we found an almost three-fold increased risk of miscarriage if a pregnant woman was exposed to higher MF [magnetic field] levels compared to women with lower MF exposure.'

This report appeared in the same week that the State of California published guidelines on how to use mobile phones with the minimum of risk to health.⁷⁰ We now have guidelines for using something that has been officially declared safe?

If this is new to you, the places to start with this are the interview with epidemiologist and Clinton era White House advisor Devra Davis⁷¹ and the internal memo from Motorola in 1995 which discusses 'wargaming' the research one of their own scientists who had shown microwaves to be dangerous.⁷²

American friends

Prompted by reading the second volume of Jeffrey Bale's book (reviewed in this issue) which is largely about Islam and jihadi terrorism, I googled 'US support for jihadis'. Top of the suggested reading list was 'How America Armed Terrorists in Syria' by Gareth Porter in that well known extreme left forum The American Conservative.⁷³

As well as the suggested reading, Google offered as related searches:

us support al nusra

us support al qaeda syria

us funding al qaeda in syria

⁶⁹ De-Kun Li, Hong Chen, Jeannette R. Ferber, Roxana Odouli & Charles Quesenberry , 'Exposure to Magnetic Field Non-Ionizing Radiation and the Risk of Miscarriage: A Prospective Cohort Study', Scientific Reports 7, Article number: 17541 (2017).
<<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-16623-8>>

⁷⁰ <<https://gizmodo.com/california-warns-people-to-limit-exposure-to-cellphones-1821342200>>

⁷¹ <<https://www.alternet.org/personal-health/radiation-concerns-about-cellphones?page=0,0>>

⁷² <<https://tinyurl.com/y97kbz6x>> or <<https://www.rfsafe.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/cell-phone-radiation-war-gaming-memo.pdf>>.

⁷³ <<http://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/how-america-armed-terrorists-in-syria/>>

See also Daniel Lazare, 'When Washington Cheered the Jihadists' at <<https://consortiumnews.com/2017/12/08/when-washington-cheered-the-jihadists/>>.

us support of al Qaeda in Afghanistan

So you ask: 'How can the Americans be so dumb – and so often?' But maybe that's the wrong question. Things make more sense if we stop assuming the US military and intelligence agencies have any serious interest in geopolitical outcomes. Instead we should assume that they're interested, firstly, in getting taxes to expand their bureaucratic empires and pay for the salaries of their personnel. Secondly they want the continued flow of contracts to the weapons companies and their Washington lobbyists to which senior US military and intelligence personnel gravitate after leaving their services. Recent history has taught them that so long as the targets are politically and militarily insignificant, it matters little on whom they are dropping bombs or at whom their drones are launching missiles, just so long as there is something to be called 'a threat' which can be used to keep those contracts coming.⁷⁴ It used to be the 'red menace' and then, as the Cold War petered out, it became terrorism.⁷⁵ So since 2000 we have had Iraq, al Qaeda and ISIS – all of which were armed and supported at various points by the USA – and now we have North Korea.

Because the US military is so powerful, US foreign policy isn't conducted *seriously* (though it is often catastrophic in its consequences for the people on the receiving end). For example, at the height of the war in Vietnam, the US embassy in Saigon had not a single American who could speak the language and the senior military conducting that war routinely faked the casualty figures. Today the best evidence is the privatisation of much of their intelligence-gathering effort. The cold warriors of the CIA in the 50s and 60s may have been misguided – there was no global Soviet threat – but they were working for relatively small salaries, motivated by something other than money.

⁷⁴ A number of new 'threats' are currently being generated in Africa. See, for example, 'Where in the World Is the U.S. Military? Everywhere' at <<https://tinyurl.com/ycdpzeto>> or <<https://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2018-01-12/us-counterterrorism-forces-are-active-in-many-more-places-than-you-know>>.

⁷⁵ Former NSA technical director, William Binney, said of the NSA circa 1989:

'They were basically fat, dumb and happy thinking the Soviet Union would continue and that would be their major threat all along so they could justify the existence of a large organization like NSA. . . .' <<https://whowhatwhy.org/2017/12/08/whistleblower-prevented-9-11/>>

In another interview Binney quotes Maureen Baginsky, the NSA's head of Signals Intelligence, as saying: 'We can milk this cow for 15 years. 9/11 is a gift to the NSA. We're going to get all the money we need and then some.' <<https://tinyurl.com/y96a296t>> or <<http://www.computerweekly.com/feature/Computer-Weekly-at-the-movies-Surveillance-9-11-and-the-NSA>>.

Binney is the subject of a very interesting film, *A Good American*, which I saw last year and which is now on YouTube at <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=666wsDcoNrU>>.

With at least 70% of US intelligence-gathering in the hands of a few private companies, the security risks are enormously increased⁷⁶ – Edward Snowden comes to mind. Not only that, intelligence agencies have traditionally talked about their intel as ‘the product’. With privatisation, intelligence literally becomes ‘a product’ and its reliability is devalued by the commercial relationships now at its heart. But reliable intelligence is unimportant in the generation of the necessary ‘threats’, as was exemplified by the Iraq affair and the non-existent ‘weapons of mass destruction’.

The best fictional account of American foreign policy is the film *Wag the Dog*,⁷⁷ in which a ‘threat’ from Albania is manufactured. North Korea is hardly much more of a threat to the United States than Albania used to be. Nonetheless we have people around the White House arguing, with straight faces, that the USA might have to attack North Korea to nullify its ‘threat’.⁷⁸ We can assume that the US now has plans to attack North Korean nuclear facilities. Question is: how do you attack the nuclear facilities of a country which has nuclear weapons of its own? If the North Korean claims about their nuclear and missile capabilities are true, they may be able to deter US attacks – which is the point of their going nuclear in the first place.

Russia and the USA

Another salvo against the Trump regime by the Democratic Party is the report written by Democratic congressional staffers, PUTIN’S ASYMMETRIC ASSAULT ON DEMOCRACY IN RUSSIA AND EUROPE: IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY (caps in the original).⁷⁹ Using public sources,⁸⁰ this is a prosecutor’s brief on the failings of the current Russian regime: corruption, aggression, suppression of dissent, influence and disinformation operations.⁸¹ The point of the exercise is to further implicate Trump and his circle in Russian manipulation

⁷⁶ <<https://tinyurl.com/yd63hx9n>> or <https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2017/03/16/the-reason-wikileaks-receives-so-many-u-s-state-secrets-private-contractors/?utm_term=.fea21ae324f9>

⁷⁷ See <<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0120885/>>.

⁷⁸ <<https://tinyurl.com/y76a6m2z>> or <<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/12/20/exclusive-us-making-plans-bloody-nose-military-attack-north/>>

⁷⁹ <<https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/FinalRR.pdf>>

⁸⁰ The main text has 860 footnotes for its 150 pages.

⁸¹ Coming from representatives of the world’s most aggressive, destructive, militaristic and imperialistic nation, this is comic.

of the US political system.⁸² Though much of this picture of Russia will be familiar to anyone who has been paying attention to the Anglosphere's media in the last decade or two, pulled together like this it is quite an indictment. Yet its authors cannot resist over-egging the pudding they are making.

The opening chapter claims:

'Putin's regime appears intent on using almost any means possible to undermine the democratic institutions and transatlantic alliances that have underwritten peace and prosperity in Europe for the past 70-plus years.'⁸³

'...almost any means possible'? Lots of wiggle room in that use of 'almost'. And there is sleight of hand in the phrase '70-plus years', for much of what is described by the authors has taken place in the countries bordering Russia – the *cordon sanitaire* created by the USSR after WW2 – which only joined the 'democratic institutions and transatlantic alliances' since the fall of the Soviet bloc in 1989/90.

On page 13 the authors present the Russian viewpoint on all this:

'... Putin's regime and most of the Russian people view the history of the late 20th century and early 21st century in a starkly different light than most of the West does. The historical narrative popular in Russia paints this period as one of repeated attempts by the West to undermine and humiliate Russia. In reality, the perceived aggression of the United States and the West against Russia allows Putin to ignore his domestic failures and present himself as the leader of a wartime nation: a "Fortress Russia." This narrative repeatedly flogs core themes like enemy encirclement, conspiracy, and struggle, and portrays the United States, NATO, and Europe as conspiring to encircle Russia and make it subservient to the West.

As part of this supposed conspiracy, the EU goes after former Soviet lands like Ukraine, and Western spies use civil society groups to meddle in and interfere with Russian affairs.'

For a group of staffers in the current Democratic Party this Russian view is nonsensical. But mid-way between Washington and Moscow as I am, it doesn't look that way.⁸⁴ Using similar published sources, those staffers could stand up

⁸² There are also hints that the Russians influenced the referendum here about EU.

⁸³ <<https://tinyurl.com/ybxmj4b4>> or <<https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Section%20by%20Sections%20of%20RR%201-8.pdf>>

⁸⁴ Nor does it look that way to US analysts who are not part of Washington's group think on this issue, most notably those writing at <<https://consortiumnews.com>>.

much of the Russian view of the situation. At one or two places in the report they even show the doors which, if opened, would lead into this other conceptual landscape. On pp. 18/19 they write:

'The hostile environment for domestic NGOs also fuelled a blowback against foreign entities who sought to support them. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which for two decades had supported democracy and rule of law promotion in Russia, as well as health and education, announced in October 2012 that it would shut down its mission amidst pressure from the Kremlin. USAID was not alone: by December of that year, the International Republican Institute (IRI) announced it was closing its office on orders from the Russian government, and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) closed its office in Russia and moved its staff out of the country. In January 2015, the Chicago-based MacArthur Foundation announced it was closing its Moscow office after the Duma asked the Justice Ministry to investigate whether a select group of organizations, including MacArthur as well as the U.S.-based Open Society Foundations (OSF) and Freedom House, should be declared "undesirable" and banned from the country.'

The report does not mention that the IRI and NDI are funded by the National Endowment for Democracy, which essentially took over the CIA's propaganda operations, or that USAID has often been used as cover by the CIA. It may be that, in this instance, these organisations in Russia were simply what they purported to be, but the Russians' suspicion is not so irrational.

Michael Morell, formerly CIA's deputy director, almost recognised the validity of the Russian perspective recently. In an interview with politico.com⁸⁵ he said this:

'Putin's view of us is that we want to undermine him, and that we are actively working to do so. Right? He really believes that. And he points to things that are absolutely true. The State Department pushing for democracy in Russia openly. And then he points to things that aren't true, like the CIA was behind the street protests in Kiev that led to all the problems in Ukraine. Right?

That's his worldview, is that we are trying to undermine him, and that we want him to go away, right? And so, when you think about it in those terms, what he's doing against us – right? It's kind of interesting, right? It

⁸⁵ <<https://tinyurl.com/y92gpl2s>> or <<http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/12/11/the-full-transcript-michael-morell-216061>>

doesn't justify what he's doing, but it certainly puts it in perspective.'⁸⁶

What neither Morell nor the Democratic staffers mention is the fact that the hostility towards the USA from Russian leaders began with the lies told to the Russians by America and its allies about their intentions after German reunification. The National Security Archive headlines its article on some recently declassified documents from this period:

'NATO Expansion: What Gorbachev Heard

Declassified documents show security assurances against NATO expansion to Soviet leaders from Baker, Bush, Genscher, Kohl, Gates, Mitterrand, Thatcher, Hurd, Major, and Woerner'⁸⁷

Despite the promises of the great and the good in 1990, former Soviet bloc members joined NATO and the Russians now have American weapons on their border. Little wonder that the Russian political class believes that it is America's aim to overthrow their regime and steal the resources that are there.

Huh?

On 26 December the *Daily Telegraph* ran a piece by Kate McCann, its senior political correspondent, which was headed: 'Project fear was wrong about Brexit, a major new economic report has concluded today, as it revealed the UK will bounce back to overtake the French economy in 2020.' Four days later the same paper ran a piece by Tim Wallace headed: 'Is Britain at risk of becoming the sick man of Europe?'. This was headed: 'A soft patch of economic growth has left Britain's performance looking weak relative to the eurozone's for the first time in years.'

The paranoid's paranoid

James Angleton still looms large in the study of the Anglo-American intelligence services. His fantasies about the Soviet threat were fed into this country's red-hunting apparatus to the extent that a section of MI5 (and other sections of the ruling elites at the time, following them) believed that Harold Wilson was a Soviet agent. Thus the 'Wilson plots' of the 1970s and, to some extent, the rise

⁸⁶ I cannot find Putin saying this. He may have done so. Nic Must pointed out that *Forbes* has reported he said something very similar (although they don't detail when or where). See <<https://tinyurl.com/y99bnsov>> or <<https://www.forbes.com/sites/stratfor/2014/01/28/perspectives-on-the-ukrainian-protests/#15ea731bd14e>>.

⁸⁷ <<https://tinyurl.com/yav5qprb>> or <<https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/briefing-book/russia-programs/2017-12-12/nato-expansion-what-gorbachev-heard-western-leaders-early>>

of Mrs Thatcher, who believed the thesis.⁸⁸ This fantasy about Wilson was based on the claim of the KGB defector Anatoly Golitsyn that the KGB had assassinated an (unnamed) Western politician, plus the fact that Wilson's predecessor as leader of the Labour Party, Hugh Gaitskell, died of lupus, which was then a very rare disease.⁸⁹

The American intelligence community has looked at Golitsyn's role in all this, and some of this material is available.⁹⁰ But to my knowledge that community has still to come to a (public) conclusion as to Golitsyn's motives. Since he was inventing much of what he said, was he merely busking it, feeding back into Angleton's paranoia? Or had he been sent precisely to do this, to cause chaos within the US (and to a much lesser extent UK) intelligence services? To my knowledge this latter delicious thesis has not been seriously considered. Perhaps the new biography of Angleton by Jefferson Morley explores this.⁹¹

Who's zooming who?

In this column in *Lobster* 74 I mentioned a long list of false flag attacks.⁹² An even longer and more thoroughly documented list has subsequently appeared on the website Washington's Blog: 'There Are Now So Many Admissions by Government Officials of False Flag Terror that Only the Wilfully Ignorant Still Doubt the Reality of the Concept'.⁹³

⁸⁸ Her acceptance of the Wilson-KGB thesis was discussed in my 'View from the Bridge' in *Lobster* 51. As leader of the Opposition she tried to get the civil service to investigate Wilson. This is not to be found in Charles Moore's much lauded 'authorized biography', *Margaret Thatcher* (Allen Lane, 2013).

⁸⁹ Lupus is no longer so rare. I know of three people within walking distance of me with lupus. Is there more of it about or is it being better diagnosed?

⁹⁰ See the partially redacted account at <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB431/docs/intell_ebb_019.PDF>. Related to this is the analysis by the CIA of the Angleton-Golitsyn thesis of massive KGB manipulation of Western perceptions, the so-called 'monster plot', at <<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/jfk/releases/104-10534-10205.pdf>>; and the collection of material on Angleton at <<https://tinyurl.com/yhj5p9g>> or <<https://theintercept.com/2018/01/01/the-complex-legacy-of-cia-counterintelligence-chief-james-angleton/>>.

⁹¹ There is much about this new book at Morley's site <<http://jfkfacts.org>>.

⁹² At <<https://www.lobster-magazine.co.uk/free/lobster74/lob74-view-from-the-bridge.pdf>>.

⁹³ <<http://www.washingtonsblog.com/2017/12/70416.html>>

Brexit

On his state visit to Britain in January, French President Macron spelled it out:

'The choice is up to Britain: it's not my choice – but they can have no differentiated access to financial services,' he said. 'If you want access for financial services, be my guest – but it means you have to contribute to the budget, and accept European jurisdiction. It's a situation that exists for Norway.'⁹⁴

Since the Conservative Party has always looked to the interests of the City first, and our prime minister is married to a hedge fund manager⁹⁵ and must understand precisely what the 'hedgies' want,⁹⁶ the shape of the eventual deal looks reasonably clear: it will be something akin to the Norway option.⁹⁷ The UK will remain in the single market and the customs union but this will be glossed in some fashion to be sold as obeying the result of the referendum.

It is worth reminding ourselves of the scale of the mess that David Cameron has created. In 2016, when he was prime minister, the British state got a guarantee from the EU that the City of London would be safe from EU regulation.⁹⁸ The relevant paragraph in the formal deal said:

'The implementation of measures, including the supervision or resolution of financial institutions and markets, and macro-prudential responsibilities, to be taken in view of preserving the financial stability of Member States

⁹⁴ <<https://tinyurl.com/y9clsvcm>> or <<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/jan/18/macron-rebuffs-city-deal-after-brexit-unless-uk-pays-into-eu-budget>>

⁹⁵ The interesting question is: was Mr May's company of 'hedgies' among those who were gambling on Carillion's future and shorting its shares in the run-up to its failure?

⁹⁶ On whom the Tories depend for about a fifth of their income. See <<https://tinyurl.com/y7p4ea5u>> or <<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/tory-donations-money-raised-hedge-funds-bankers-analysis-general-election-2017-a7771346.html>>.

⁹⁷ The EU negotiator, M. Barnier, said the same thing just before Christmas. <<https://tinyurl.com/ybyy8kr3>> or <<https://www.politico.eu/article/michel-barnier-financial-services-excluded-from-brexit-trade-deal/>>.

In September 2017 allies of Boris Johnson told the media that the 'Norway option' was Mrs May's preference. See <<http://tinyurl.com/y92btjer>> or <<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/sep/23/johnson-forced-mays-hand-on-eu-claim-tories-as-cabinet-truce-unravels>>.

⁹⁸ <<https://tinyurl.com/ybo7fhxt>> or <<http://www.cityam.com/234994/eu-referendum-prime-minister-david-cameron-says-he-will-do-everything-he-can-while-energy-secretary-amber-rudd-says-a-reform-deal-is-out-of-reach>>. This article was sub-headed: 'The City of London will be safeguarded under a new deal agreed between European leaders, after European Commission president Donald Tusk said there is "unanimous support" for a new settlement over the UK's position in the EU.'

whose currency is not the euro is, subject to the requirements of group and consolidated supervision and resolution, a matter for their own authorities and own budgetary responsibility, unless such Member States wish to join common mechanisms.’⁹⁹ It was the threat of such regulation which was fuelling City support for leaving the EU. But for party management reasons, just as Harold Wilson did in 1974, Cameron had already pledged a referendum and his triumph in Brussels was for nought.

⁹⁹ See this in section A paragraph 4 at <<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2016/02/18-19/>>.