

PEACE RESOURCE CENTER NEWSLETTER

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SPECIAL ANTHRAX ISSUE
SPOTLIGHT ON FORT DETRICK

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WORKING FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE HERE AND EVERYWHERE

Learning the Wrong Lessons

By Richard J. Ochs

U.S. bioweapons funding has decreased our security since anthrax letters were mailed last October. Instead of throwing money at U.S. bioweapons labs, the U.S. should support international inspection and verification of all bioweapons labs in the world, which it still opposes.

U.S. hypocrisy has come full circle now that the Administration is gearing up for a genocidal war against Iraq for imagined secret weapons development. **The U.S. overruled 140 countries to oppose an international inspection treaty that could confirm and confront a biological threat.** The U.S. wants to inspect other countries, but does not want other countries to inspect U.S. labs for compliance.

After a U.S. Army scientist terrorized Capitol Hill and media last fall with anthrax, Congress appropriated \$2.2 billion more for biological weapons defense. Some, like former Fort Detrick commander David Franz, suggested the domestic terrorist did us a favor by revealing our vulnerability and triggering a total of \$6 billion for germ warfare research.

Others, however, feel that Congress overreacted by starting a bioweapons bureaucracy which may result in even more deliberate or accidental releases of even more dangerous germs into the environment. Dr. Barbara Hatch Rosenberg of the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) wrote, **“The proliferation of biological weapons could lead to the escape of deadly genetically engineered germs from laboratories and the permanent establishment of new and uncontrollable diseases in the biosphere.”**

Ironically, the more diseases are handled at more and more places, the greater the likelihood of some of it getting out into the population. Hence, the billions for bioweapons security may make us less secure. People died when anthrax escaped from a lab in Soviet Sverdlovsk. Millions of trees died after Gypsy Moths

escaped from a lab in the U.S. The emergence of HIV/AIDS is a mystery. Can we imagine even more devastating viruses being concocted, some with racial genetic targets, in the name of national defense?

The U.S. anthrax terrorism is the excuse for launching this dangerous military-biological complex. Official or rogue elements within it can be expected to create scares to secure its funding. Protection money for the mob is an accurate analogy. We can all be held hostage to an unnecessary, dangerous and expensive institution. This scary monster will take on a life of its own in perpetuity unless cooler heads stop it before it gets off the ground.

The Dugway Proving Ground claimed in a press release on December 12, 2001, that “the facility is well protected with robust physical and personnel security systems.” But short of conducting body cavity searches every day on thousands of workers, which is impossible, there is no way to guarantee containment of lethal agents.

Dr. Mary Beth Downs, a former Fort Detrick employee, told Susan Watts of the *BBC News* on March 14, 2002, that unscheduled persons worked there on anthrax and were “not monitored in what they did, the amount of agent they were growing, or in what they did with the agent, that is, if they put it in their pocket and took it home.” The *New York Times* (7/19/02) reported, “As recently as April of 2002, anthrax spores were found in a hallway and administrative area of Fort Detrick” in Frederick, Maryland.

Both Dugway and Fort Detrick now claim that all missing anthrax and Ebola specimens have been accounted for after searching for a decade. However, since specimens can be stolen, regrown and replaced, that is little consolation. There is no way to prevent a replay of last year’s anthrax attacks of ever more horrendous proportions as long as the U.S. insists on working to weaponize diseases. Rather, the U.S. should obey the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention and submit to the inspection and verification Protocol.

The Convention says: "Each State party to the Convention undertakes never in any circumstance to develop, produce, stockpile or otherwise acquire or retain (biological weapons)."

Dr. Rosenberg wrote, "Once again, the Bush administration has blocked action by the rest of the world on a vital treaty to monitor a ban on biological weapons . . . Rejection of the biological weapons treaty follows a pattern of arrogance . . . The Bush administration, which is a minority government, is intent on using its brief opportunity to impose unilateral security decisions on the rest of the world, and to do so in as irreversible a manner as possible . . . We recognize that there is no way to defend populations from such weapons. Therefore, the world cannot afford to turn down any reassurance that would contribute to prevention."

<http://fas.org/bwc/news/anthraxreport.htm>

Connecting the Dots and Asking Questions

By Richard J. Ochs

Pretend you are a private investigator of last fall's anthrax attacks. What questions would you ask and what leads would you follow? First, consider the following information, reported in major media:

- The letters were sent to senate leaders who were against letting President Bush weaken the Bill of Rights after 911. See website: www.freefromterror.net
- DNA analysis traced the anthrax, which killed five and terrorized Congress last year, to the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) at Fort Detrick.
- A former commander of Fort Detrick, Col. David Franz, said, "A lot of good has come from it . . . five people have died, but we've put about \$6 billion in our budget . . ." (*ABC News*, 4/4/02).
- Only 20 or 30 people who worked in USAMRIID labs have the capacity to make the concentrated powder that was used.
- One of those people, Steven Hatfill claimed he served with the Special Forces of the white Rhodesian government in its civil war against black rebels in the late 1970s.
- Reporter Nicholas Kristof asked if Hatfill had **"connections to the biggest anthrax outbreak among humans ever recorded, one that sickened 10,000 black farmers in Rhodesia in 1978-80?"** (*New York Times*, 7/2/02).

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- Pat Clawson, radio executive for Oliver North (who was guilty of selling guns to Iran for the cocaine-running contra terrorists) admitted being at a shooting party with his friend Hatfill and like-minded guys. It took place in a remote cabin suspected of being contaminated during the anthrax attacks last October (*Baltimore Sun* 8/13/02).
- Kristof reported: "The FBI knows that Hatfill gave Cipro (anthrax vaccine) to people who visited" this property, which "may be operated by American intelligence" (*New York Times*, 7/2/02).
- Asked about an infection, Clawson replied he opened a powdered envelope addressed to Oliver North but then discarded it. The alleged letter to the only right-winger of all the anthrax targets was not reported earlier.

Questions

- **Investigators just found out that the CIA and "DIA hired Battelle labs to create a genetically enhanced version of anthrax" with no prior proven vaccine, in violation of the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention** (Laura Rozen in *Salon.com*, 2/8/02). Who else will be implicated if Hatfill talks under duress of prosecution? Can he embarrass big shots in the Pentagon or government? Will he skate, take the fall or is he a walking dead man?
- **Who knowingly hired a known racist mercenary to handle the world's most dangerous biological agents?**
- Extremist supervisors apparently collaborated or winked at Hatfill's schemes. An anonymous letter was sent to the FBI describing Egyptian-born Dr. Ayaad Assaad as a "potential terrorist" early last October right before the anthrax letters. Although the FBI cleared him of any suspicion, his victimization by a racist clique at Fort Detrick prior to his layoff in 1997 was revealed. At that time he was targeted with racist poison pen letters at work.

His supervisor, Col. David Franz, "slammed the door in my face," asserted Assaad, "when I complained."

Dr. Richard Crosland and Dr. Kay Mereish described Fort Detrick Commander Franz as a

"bigot" and "racist" when they were laid off in the same year that Hatfill was hired. William Patrick, inventor of the process to powder anthrax, described Franz as "fair minded" and belittled accusations of racism. What does that say about Patrick? Is Hatfill part of a clique of racist germ warriors? (*Hartford Courant*, 12/19/01) The apparent plot to blame Arabs for the anthrax letters failed miserably.

FBI Cover Up?

- "FBI spokesman Chris Murray said the FBI is not tracking the source of another anonymous letter to Assaad, despite its curious timing, coming a matter of days before the existence of anthrax-laced mail became known" last fall. Why not?
- The FBI has been stalling, seeming to cover up these and other crimes. The FBI has not "asked its outside handwriting expert to compare his (Hatfill) writing to that on the anthrax letters" (*NYT*, 7/2/02). Kristof also asked if the FBI checked hoax letters of 1997 and 1999 for DNA on possible licked stamps (*NYT*, 7/12/02). We've heard nothing.
- Is the FBI deliberately sabotaging the legal case for successful prosecution with irregular procedures? **Remember that the war criminals Sgt. Calley and Oliver North never served a day in jail even though they were found guilty of felonies and war crimes.**
- Why is the FBI showing only one photograph to the public in Princeton NJ where the contaminated mailbox was found? Why don't they show pictures of all the men who were at the remote cabin a week after the anthrax mailings? Was North at the cabin?
- Who else was there? What phone records exist for these men? Who called who, and when? Where were these men on October 9 when the anthrax letters were mailed from New Jersey? Who was missing? Have the credit/debit card records of gasoline purchases on the route to and from New Jersey been checked for these men? Who has ironclad alibis?

Some Tentative Conclusions

"The FBI knows who did it," concludes Dr. Barbara Hatch Rosenberg of the Federation of American Scientists (FAS), "but it is dragging its feet because an arrest would be embarrassing to the U.S. authorities . . . The suspect is part of a clique that

includes high-level former USAMRIID scientists and high-level former FBI officials."

The anthrax attacks could be a conspiracy to intimidate Congress and influence legislation. Any such cabal is operating in the context of a military-intelligence culture of impunity, illegality, racism and international aggression. The anthrax perpetrator was helped by accomplices before and after the fact, by investigators who are not investigating and by an administration which allows such transgressions. The public spotlight on the domestic anthrax terrorism has also revealed other associated crimes, malfeasance and treaty violations. See: www.freefromterror.net

Dr. Rosenberg of FAS summarizes the political climate which allows racist military cliques to run rampant: "The Bush administration blocked action by the rest of the world on a vital treaty to monitor the ban on biological weapons . . . Rejection of the biological weapons treaty follows an administration pattern of arrogance . . . The Bush administration, which is a minority government, is intent on using its brief opportunity to impose unilateral security decisions on the rest of the world, and to do so in as irreversible a manner as possible . . . We recognize that there is no way to defend populations from such weapons. Therefore, the world cannot afford to turn down any reassurance that would contribute to prevention."
(See FAS website: <http://fas.org/bwc/news>)

The prevention urged by Dr. Rosenberg is **international inspection and verification of all biological warfare labs in the world, including USAMRIID at Fort Detrick. That would protect us from foreign and domestic terrorism.** President Bush: are you listening? Or do you want to keep everyone in a state of terror; the better to reap oil and war profits for your filthy rich friends and relatives? Last question: when does democracy end and fascism start (or vice versa)?

**"DEMOCRACY AT RISK:
Does what hasn't been in the news
shed light on what has been?"**

**A PROGRAM FOR CONCERNED CITIZENS
Rosenstock Hall, Hood College
[Thursday, October 3, 7 pm
Sponsored by the Peace Resource Center**

Why They Hate Us

By Gerald E. Kessler

One of the cover-up ploys used by our intelligence community is the time-lag technique. When a criminal act is committed by the CIA or the Special Forces, etc, it is covered up or denied at the time and anyone courageous enough to blow the whistle is dealt with in an unkind manner.

For example it is now a matter of public record that **the CIA overthrew the democratically elected government of Iran in 1953** because we did not intend to let them nationalize their oil industry. Instead we installed the Shah and set up his secret police the SAVAK which for nearly two decades brutalized and murdered any democratic opposition to our client government. It was only until the second Clinton administration that his Secretary of State Madeline Albright admitted that the US had a hand in this foul deed.

To this day, there are thousands of Iranian Muslim survivors of that coup who hate us. Can you understand the roots of their rage?

Again in 1954 the CIA executed a coup which overthrew the democratically elected government in Guatemala. The U.S. installed a puppet government, armed, equipped and trained its army which then proceeded to kill, kidnap, and torture any opposition. Why? Because the democratic government was planning to level taxes on the U.S. multinational corporation United Fruit and allow its native employees to organize into unions. We regarded this as communism.

This colossal injustice was largely unreported by the media. The time-lag ploy worked for a period of nearly 40 years after which Pres. Clinton publicly apologized to the Guatemalan people.

Moving forward to another time and place, in Islamic Indonesia in 1967 the CIA in what they bragged as a textbook case on how to execute a coup joined with the Indonesian army generals and overthrew their government and replaced it with a pro-business regime which of course would tolerate no opposition. One of the victims was American journalist Allan Nairn who attempted to report on the atrocities committed by the U.S. Army-supported Indonesian army.

For his efforts, Nairn was beaten and his skull fractured by soldiers armed with US rifles. ("A Witness to U.S.-Supported Horror" - Washington Post 1-10-

95). Nairn received no support from the U.S. Embassy in Indonesia.

For 33 years a Suharto (Indonesian) Armed Forces regime built on the underlining threat of force (in the words of the Indonesia investors guide Political Risk Services) made it possible for foreign companies to grow rich on Indonesia's vast resources and cheap labor. This from CorporationWatch (5-29-98). Until only recently the U.S. military continued to support the Indonesian army, providing it with weapons and training by our Special Forces. **Is it any wonder that so many Muslims in Indonesia hate us?**

The time-lag technique works so well because of the lapse of years between the time an act is committed and the time it is made known to the public. By that time it is old hat and the public is interested in other things. Thus criminal acts go unpunished. **And you can rest assured that nefarious activity undercover at the present time will go unnoticed until years in the future.**

Elegy for the Fallen

by W. S. Mayo

What then is the bounty on one man's soul?

That one man shall slay

And another shall be slain?

That blood shall chase the waters of the Nile

And skyscraper fallen and plane riders

Should hurtle blindly forward

into steel and glass and flame?

Out of sheep

Come the followers of madness

And we pray for our own souls in the passing.