
CABLE Gram
Collecting and Broadcasting for Law Enforcement
Subscription information available at www.cablegram.org
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CABLE Gram Volume 3 Issue 22

14 April 2006 CABLE Gram™

Good Morning All,

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

Electronic Distribution provided by Richard Forno and Bill Feinbloom of G2-Forward

The CABLE Gram is a weekly publication, distributed in PDF format and is currently included as a benefit of membership in the OPSEC Professionals Society and the National Military Intelligence Association.

Issues covered in the CABLE Gram include: Homeland Defense, Homeland Security, Terrorism, Federal Law Enforcement, First Responders, Money Laundering, Identity Theft, NBC Weapons, Cybercrimes, Smuggling, Narco Trafficking, Hazardous Materials and other related topics.

We search the topics and Websites that you request, so it is important for you to provide feedback. We are in our infancy and the CABLE Gram will be as useful as you help make it. Please let us know the topics and keywords that will assist you in your professional endeavors. Send all comments and suggestions to zhi@cablegram.org – please type CABLE Gram in the subject line.

Please forward the CABLE Gram to all people you feel will find it useful!

FEDERAL

1. U.S. Freezes Indonesian Suspects' Assets (AP, 13 Apr 2006)

WASHINGTON - The Bush administration moved Thursday to financially clamp down on four Indonesians the United States suspects are leaders of an al-Qaida-linked Southeast Asian terror group. The Treasury Department said they are connected to the Jemaah Islamiyah terror group, which is believed to be behind deadly bombings in Bali in 2002 and 2005. The department's action means that any bank accounts or other financial assets found in this country belonging to the four people must be frozen. Americans also are forbidden from doing business with them.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=78&sid=270607>

2. Davis joins push to restore FEMA's independence (By Chris Strohm, CongressDaily, 13 Apr 2006)

With less than 60 days before the start of the hurricane season, a dispute has erupted between senior House Republicans and powerful committee chairmen over whether the Federal Emergency Management Agency should be removed from the Homeland Security Department. House Government Reform Chairman Tom Davis, R-Va., said Wednesday he wanted FEMA removed from Homeland Security and under the president's direct control. "The response [to a disaster] has to be able to bring all the assets of the federal government together quickly," Davis told reporters at the 2006 Homeland and Global Security Summit in Washington, organized by Equity International. But leaders of the House Homeland Security Committee say such a move would cripple the agency and the government's ability to respond to disasters.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33832&dcn=e_gvet

3. Mandatory employment verification seen as privacy threat (By Michael Martinez, National Journal's Technology Daily, 13 Apr 2006)

Privacy advocates are wary of provisions in federal immigration proposals to mandate an electronic system for employment verification. A House-passed measure, H.R. 4437, would require all employers to participate in a test program that has been online since 1996. The system lets employers screen the personal information of job applicants against federal databases to determine whether they are eligible to work in the United States. Senate immigration proposals have included similar mandates. Timothy Sparapani, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, said the pilot program has been an unmitigated disaster and that none of the current proposals would provide adequate privacy safeguards for a national system.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33834&dcn=e_gvet

4. CDC Eyes Air Travel in Mumps Epidemic (AP, 12 Apr 2006)

ATLANTA - Two infected airline passengers may have helped spread Iowa's mumps epidemic to six other Midwestern states, health officials said Wednesday, the latest example of how quickly disease can spread through air travel. "These people may have exposed other people on those planes or in these airports," said Kevin Teale, a spokesman for the Iowa Department of Public Health. The mumps epidemic is the nation's first in 20 years. Health officials say 515 suspected cases have been reported in Iowa, and the disease also has been seen in six neighboring states, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Z485255FC>

5. Judge Decries Rigid U.S. Immigration Laws (AP, 13 Apr 2006)

PHILADELPHIA - A federal appeals judge has sharply criticized U.S. immigration laws, writing that rules designed to combat terrorism instead force the "knee-jerk" removal of "decent men and women." Judge Maryanne Trump Barry complained that judges have no discretion in applying harsh and complex laws, and she urged the federal government to intervene in the case of a man from Northern Ireland denied asylum this week by the panel on which she sits, the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. "I refuse to believe that 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...' is now an empty entreaty. But if it is, shame on us," Barry wrote in a concurring opinion.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=80&sid=358435>

6. Some Immigration Marchers Pay High Price (AP, 13 Apr 2006)

CHICAGO - Six employees at a seafood restaurant in Houston were fired this week after skipping work to take part in a pro-immigration march. In Detroit, 21 immigrants lost their jobs as meat cutters after attending a similar protest last month. And several students at a high school near Tampa, Fla., were suspended this week for walking out of class to go to a demonstration. Across the country, workers and students have paid a price for attending the immigration rallies that have recently swept the nation. They have lost jobs or been cited for truancy for joining the hundreds of thousands who have protested

proposed federal legislation that would crack down on illegal immigrants. In one case, the family of a 14-year-old Los Angeles-area boy said he committed suicide because he was threatened by a school official for participating in immigration protests. School officials disputed that.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=80&sid=358318>

7. Homeland Security gets moving on border project (By Chris Strohm, CongressDaily, 12 Apr 2006)

A senior Homeland Security Department official said the department issued a solicitation Tuesday for a massive border security contract but also called on Congress to approve legislation for a temporary guest-worker program that would allow millions of migrants to legally work in the United States. Homeland Security Deputy Secretary Michael Jackson said the Customs and Border Protection division announced its procurement plan for the Secure Border Initiative-Net program. "SBInet is a comprehensive attempt to bring together for the first time ... a package of tools that will comprehensively control the border," Jackson said during a keynote speech at a security summit organized by Equity International. Under the program, the department is seeking a prime contractor to help develop and integrate technology and infrastructure with personnel along the border. SBInet was announced last fall to replace two previous efforts to gain control of the borders: the Integrated Surveillance Intelligence System and America's Shield Initiative.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33825&dcn=e_gvet

8. US, Canadian police bust human smuggling ring (Reuters, 12 Apr 2006)

VANCOUVER, British Columbia - U.S. and Canadian police have broken up a criminal ring that smuggled dozens of Indian and Pakistani nationals into the United States at a cost of up to \$35,000 each, officials said on Wednesday. Police said 14 people have been indicted by a U.S. grand jury in Seattle in connection with the Vancouver-based scheme that transported people over the border between British Columbia and Washington state. Four people waiting to be transported to the United States were arrested in houses in the Vancouver suburb of Surrey on Tuesday in raids that also lead to the arrest of a man police said was the ringleader. The smuggling operation was first discovered in January 2005, when U.S. agents near Oroville in eastern Washington state received a tip about men purchasing maps of the rural border area.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?N206325FC>

9. Ambassador OKs banned hazmat cargo on bridge (Today's Trucking Online, 12 Apr 2006)

WINDSOR, Ont. - The Ambassador Bridge is telling its bridge workers to wave through trucks carrying hazardous cargo in violation of a U.S. ban, according to a document obtained by The Windsor Star. A copy of a permission letter, signed Dec. 6 by Detroit International Bridge Company general manager Dave Jolly, advises bridge employees that trucks carrying a corrosive material for General Chemical Corp. were free to cross the international link seven days per week. The letter informs the bridge's toll collectors

that "the bearer of this letter ... has permission to transport the commodity 'Alum' across The Ambassador Bridge." The union for Canada Customs workers says there's little it can do to enforce a U.S. rule restricting hazmat on the bridge. The letter advises bridge employees that "this is a 'mild' corrosive and the truck will be placarded as such." Jolly's letter states passage is permitted seven days per week until March 1, 2006, "when an updated letter must be obtained." Bridge spokesman Skip McMahon claimed last week he was unaware of any such shipments.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.todaystrucking.com/news.cfm?intDocID=16102>

10. Easy Access: Russian and Chinese Spies Saturate US, UK (By Jim Kouri, CPP, 13 Apr 2006)

The practically legendary MI5 British counterintelligence service is said to be deeply concerned over an increase in spying by Russian and Chinese operatives in the United Kingdom. The United States' Federal Bureau of Investigation has similar concerns with Russian and Chinese agents infiltrating the US military-industrial complex, sometimes in violation of US immigration laws. Although intelligence experts aren't certain how widespread the problem is, they believe the espionage is rampant and a serious consequence of the global economy. MI5 suspects upwards of 15 foreign intelligence services are working within the UK and are a threat to the United Kingdom's interests, and the primary focus of their counterespionage efforts are the Chinese and Russians. Using many of the same methods the Japanese used in the United States in the 1960s and 1970s, the Chinese are interested in any and all information that may give them a leg up in the competitive global economy. In spite of repeated warnings to businesses, companies in the UK and US continue to hire Chinese workers without conducting thorough background investigations including verifying previous employment or immigration status.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://newsbyus.com/more.php?id=3060_0_1_0_M

11. Indianapolis Investigator Warns of Need for Intellectual Property Protection (NewswireToday, 12 Apr 2006)

Indianapolis, IN - US businesses are feeling the impact of stiff foreign competition. Review the facts shared by an Indianapolis investigator about intelligence tactics and how to secure proprietary information. For over 35 years, Indianapolis investigator, Tim Wilcox, has been involved in the fascinating world of corporate espionage on an international scale. Drawing on this vast and intriguing experience, he has recently been speaking to Indiana companies about the dangers they face from foreign competition, as well as domestic competitors. "Having worked all sides in the intelligence-gathering game," states Mr. Wilcox, "I feel it is extremely important that Indiana businesses begin to take the matter of securing their data more seriously." As president of International Investigators, Inc., in Indianapolis, Tim Wilcox has been helping companies around the world defend themselves against underhanded competitive intelligence practices. However, he points out, "There seems to be an attitude of complacency in the Midwestern states, especially in Indiana, which is due primarily to a sense of being insulated within the heart of the country."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.newswiretoday.com/news/4899/>

12. \$90 Million Would Enhance Witness Protection Programs (North Country Gazette, 11 Apr 2006)

WESTCHESTER - U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer and Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore have announced a new \$90 million-a-year plan that would for the first time allow the Federal government to help pay for witness protection in major violent crime court cases. Senator Schumer's Witness Protection Act will help New York DA's fight growing gang violence in the lower Hudson Valley. District Attorneys in Westchester and across the state say that more funds for witness protection are a crucial tool in fighting crime. The Justice Department's current Federal Witness Protection Program is designed to provide long-term protection for witnesses in cases that are being tried in Federal courts. Schumer will introduce legislation in the Senate as soon as it goes back into session to create a new grant program with the sole purpose of protecting witnesses in state and local criminal trials. "Witnesses who are willing to stand up in court and testify about a violent crime in their community are some of the most courageous people there are," Schumer said. "They are literally willing to put their lives on the line for the sake of justice. The least we can do is protect them from the criminals who want to harm them."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.northcountrygazette.org/articles/041106WitnessProtection.html>

13. Moussaoui: 'No Regret, No Remorse' (AP, 13 Apr 2006)

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - Reasserting his role in Sept. 11, al-Qaida conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui told jurors Thursday he has "no regret, no remorse," was disgusted by the heart-rending testimony of victims and relatives and only wished they had suffered more. He said hearing a Navy officer sobbing in court made his day. "So you would be happy to see 9/11 again?" Prosecutor Rob Spencer asked. "Every day until we get you," the bearded 37-year-old Frenchman shot back. As court-appointed defense lawyers began the last phase of their effort to save him from execution, Moussaoui put in a second unsettling appearance on the witness stand.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=80&sid=3225>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

14. AL: Local law enforcement takes possession of truck loaded with supplies to put to use in emergency (Cullmantimes.com, 13 Apr 2006)

Law enforcement agencies in Cullman County now have one more valuable piece of equipment at their disposal in the event of a terrorist attack or natural disaster. The Cullman Police Department, Cullman County Sheriff's Office and Hanceville Police Department, along with law enforcement agencies in nine other north Alabama counties, received shipment Wednesday of fully-equipped emergency response vehicles purchased with grant funds received through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The 2006 Ford F-250 pickup trucks and equipment, valued in excess of \$50,000, were issued to

representatives of the 10 counties which comprise the Alabama Department of Homeland Security's Region 6 during ceremonies Wednesday at the Madison County Sheriff's Office Annex in Huntsville. Jim Walker, Alabama Homeland Security director, made the presentation.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W375125FC>

15. AK: It's Time to Help Prevent Identity Theft and Protect Our Data (By Sen. Gene Therriault and Sen. Gretchen Guess, 12 Apr 2006)

Whether you have been a victim of identity theft, worry about it, or just value your privacy like most Alaskans, now is the time to urge your legislators to ratchet up the fight to protect you. Why the urgency? Our current laws require no accountability from either the private sector or government entities that use and sell your personal information. The [2005 ChoicePoint scandal](#) (a breach of 145,000 customer records) proved to be the tip of a very large iceberg. Since then, over 130 documented major data breaches have occurred in banks, universities, hospitals, government institutions and other entities. In response, more than half the states are now actively working to provide tighter security measures to protect consumer information.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.sitnews.us/0406Viewpoints/041206_therriault_guess.html

16. CA: Council OKs anti-terror unit for Port of Los Angeles, LAX (Copley News Service, 12 Apr 2006)

The Los Angeles City Council on Tuesday approved Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's plan to hire 73 police officers and 10 firefighters dedicated to counterterrorism and disaster preparedness efforts. The plan is geared toward improving the city's information sharing with state and federal agencies, increasing counterterrorism and surveillance efforts, and planning for natural disasters. Several Los Angeles Police Department officers will be assigned to a soon-to-open Joint Regional Intelligence Center to help the city work with the FBI, the state's Homeland Security Office, the Sheriff's Department and other agencies.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/articles/2619246.html>

17. CA: San Pedro crime leads to bust of nationwide identity theft ring (Daily Breeze, 13 Apr 2006)

A single counterfeit check passed at a bank in San Pedro resulted in the smashup of an elaborate organized-crime ring that committed millions of dollars in identity theft fraud, including establishing fake businesses with victims' names. Los Angeles police and other law enforcement officials will hold a news conference this morning to announce charges against 20 suspects allegedly involved in the ring, which was centered across Southern California but victimized people as far away as the East Coast. "It was a sophisticated operation using all different methods of fraud, where they would take on your entire identity and open businesses in your name, none of which you would be aware of," Harbor Division police Lt. Rick Angelos said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/articles/2626676.html>

18. CO: Identity theft could soon be a felony (9news.com, 12 Apr 2006)

DENVER - The State of Colorado could soon have a strong law against identity theft. HB-1326 is on the fast track through the Legislature and was approved by the House Wednesday with only one negative vote. The bill would make identity theft a Class 4 felony, and could carry a mandatory two to six year prison sentence. State Representative Bill Crane from Arvada says he expects the Senate to quickly approve the bill, followed by a signature from the Governor. "If your identity is stolen and used, it's just devastating to the average citizen," he says, "It can take several years and thousands of dollars for you to get it back."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?A316565FC>

19. CT: Librarians Win as U.S. Relents on Secrecy Law (New York Times, 13 Apr 2006)

After fighting ferociously for months, federal prosecutors relented yesterday and agreed to allow a Connecticut library group to identify itself as the recipient of a secret F.B.I. demand for records in a counterterrorism investigation. The decision ended a dispute over whether the broad provisions for secrecy in the USA Patriot Act, the antiterror law, trumped the free speech rights of library officials. The librarians had gone to federal court to gain permission to identify themselves as the recipients of the secret subpoena, known as a national security letter, ordering them to turn over patron records and e-mail messages.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?M217525FC>

20. FL: FDLE takes first step to share communications (Tallahassee Democrat, 12 Apr 2006)

Florida Department of Law Enforcement officials have taken the first step in a \$15 million state-wide effort to coordinate computer communications among state law-enforcement agencies, officials say. "We need to make sure (they) are all speaking the same language," said Martin Zaworski, a manager in the homeland defense and domestic security division of Unisys Corp., which will help the FDLE organize law-enforcement databases.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V265315FC>

21. GA: Chambliss promotes facility (The Red & Black, 12 Apr 2006)

If the University secures a bid for a National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility, it would put a stamp on Georgia's status as the infectious diseases research capital of the world, a U.S. senator said. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., toured a proposed site for the facility, which would serve as a research center within the Department of Homeland Security to fight both agroterrorism and bioterrorism pandemics, on College Station Road Tuesday morning. "This project is probably one of the more significant projects we have seen Georgia have the opportunity to participate in," Chambliss said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.redandblack.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2006/04/12/443c740db29d1>

22. IA: Powder Scare Shuts Down Courthouse (KCCI, 12 Apr 2006)

DES MOINES, Iowa - The Polk County Courthouse was shut down for about two hours on Wednesday after a suspicious white powder was found. This is the third time in four weeks that the courthouse has been closed for a white powder scare. The latest scare happened just after 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, when a first-floor mailroom employee opened an envelope and found suspicious white powder. By 10:45 a.m., the Des Moines Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Unit was on the scene, and deputies were locking down the Polk County Courthouse.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kcci.com/news/8653460/detail.html>

23. MD: Hazmat incident closes I-83 north in Parkton (Baltimore Sun, 13 Apr 2006)

PARKTON - A chemical spill in a truck hauling waste from a federal facility in Maryland shut down a portion of Interstate 83 this afternoon, creating a rush-hour headache that lasted late into the night for motorists heading home in northern Baltimore County and Pennsylvania. The highway was closed in both directions near Parkton, about six miles south of the Pennsylvania border, shortly after the 1:30 p.m. spill. While southbound lanes reopened within a couple of hours, I-83 north in the area was expected to be closed through the late evening.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V426225FC>

24. MA: Town prepares for bombs, bird flu or bioterrorism (Swampscott Reporter, 13 Apr 2006)

Is Swampscott prepared for a really, really big problem, say a bomb over Boston, an off-shore oil tanker explosion or a bird flu pandemic? Selectman Dan Santanello wants to know and he got some answers Monday night from Fire Lt. Bruce Gordon, who is the town's emergency preparedness director, and Jeff Vaughan, the town's public health director. The answer? Not quite, but it's getting there and townspeople can help. "For a local event, we're OK," Gordon said. "We can handle a local event. The issue is more cloudy if the event escalates." The first priority in case of emergency, he said, is to get people to "shelter in place," which means teaching the populace how to do that, he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www2.townonline.com/swampscott/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=469763>

25. MI: No easy way for identity theft victims to regain identity (WOOD8, 12 Apr 2006)

Grand Rapids - Marco Munoz is accused of stalking and identity theft. Investigators say the 39-year-old Fifth Third Bank executive used private customer information from at least three female TV personalities in Michigan who bank at Fifth Third. 24 Hour News 8 has learned nearly 1,000 more Fifth Third Bank customers may have had their personal files breached as well. Two of his alleged victims are from Grand Rapids, including one from 24 Hour News 8. Fifth Third Bank admits Munoz was employed in a department

that allowed him access to personal information. The Identity Theft Resource Center, headquartered in San Diego, told 24 Hour News 8 a stalker, like Munoz, has the potential to sell information to identity thieves. In cases like these, ITRC Executive Director Jay Foley recommends victims have their Social Security number changed.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.woodtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4763461&nav=0Rce>

26. NE: Omaha Schools Split Along Race Lines (AP, 13 Apr 2006)

LINCOLN, Neb. - In a move decried by some as state-sponsored segregation, the Legislature voted Thursday to divide the Omaha school system into three districts _ one mostly black, one predominantly white and one largely Hispanic. Supporters said the plan would give minorities control over their own school board and ensure that their children are not shortchanged in favor of white youngsters. Republican Gov. Dave Heineman signed the measure into law. Omaha Sen. Pat Bourne decried the bill, saying, "We will go down in history as one of the first states in 20 years to set race relations back."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=80&sid=356413>

27. NV: Nevada seeking more info on blast (The Spectrum, 13 Apr 2006)

ST. GEORGE - Nevada state officials said the large non-nuclear blast planned for June 2 at the Nevada Test Site could be delayed if federal officials do not provide information the state requested last year. "They are prohibited from moving forward until they have the authorization from us," said Dante Pistone, public information officer for the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. "We're just mainly concerned with ensuring the test is done according to our rules and regulations and that all of those specifications are met." Pistone said the state asked the U.S. Department of Energy last year for additional information required for an air quality permit. It still has not received that information. On April 7 it sent another letter to the DOE indicating it could not proceed with the test until the information is received.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?K536525FC>

28. NJ: Trooper admits 'muscle' role in exec's extortion ring (Newark Star Ledger, 12 Apr 2006)

The scheme netted hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and stock between December 1999 and June 2004, prosecutors said. Large sums of money and stock were transferred to offshore accounts where it was then distributed among those involved in the extortion ring. It all fell apart when Bethune and two others tried to extort \$250,000 from an undercover federal agent posing as a corporate insider who supposedly had defrauded the businessman. Last September, federal and state authorities arrested Bethune and two others -- a bouncer from Cherry Hill and a Pennsylvania auto salesman -- on charges they conspired to affect commerce by extortion. The two also have pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing. The bust failed to nab the businessman -- securities promoter Christian Harper, who split time between Colorado and Vancouver. Harper, 56, remains a fugitive.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Z576235FC>

29. NY: NYC to Randomly Scan Students for Weapons (AP, 13 Apr 2006)

NEW YORK - Public schools will begin introducing portable metal detectors at random and searching students for weapons, city officials said Thursday. By April 26, school safety officers will begin putting up temporary, portable walk-through detectors to screen middle and high school students, officials said. On days machines are at a site, signs will alert students. On any given day, detectors will be in as many as 10 schools. Crime is falling in city schools, but the number of weapons confiscated is up. This academic year, 307 weapons have been confiscated in schools, including 20 guns, officials said. That's up 5 percent from the same time last year.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=80&sid=358444>

30. WA: Feds Set Up Hotline In Human Smuggling Case (KIRO, 11 Apr 2006)

SEATTLE - Federal officials are asking for the public's help in solving a human smuggling case. Customs officials have set up a hotline and ask anyone with information about human smuggling to call (206) 553-6785 Customs agents set up a hotline and are asking for tips related to the 22 Chinese nationals who were arrested at the Port of Seattle last week. The undocumented Chinese citizens told immigration agents they paid \$10,000 each for passage to the United States.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kirotv.com/news/8623036/detail.html>

31. WI: Governor creates new office to fight identity theft (WBAY, 13 Apr 2006)

MADISON, Wis. Governor Doyle is creating a new state office to deal with identity theft. The four-person Office of Privacy Protection opened today. Its employees will help local, state and federal authorities investigate identity crimes. Identity theft victims, lawmakers and businesses can also use the office for assistance in dealing with the crime's aftermath and preventing security breaches. Doyle says identity crimes have increased 20 percent in Wisconsin over the last three years, costing state businesses and consumers 570 (M) million dollars annually.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wbay.com/Global/story.asp?S=4767290>

32. WY: UW Bulletin Suggests Ways to Protect Agriculture from Agroterrorism (Univ of Wyoming, 12 Apr 2006)

A farmland security bulletin from the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service (UW CES) describes how farmers and ranchers can protect their operations and the agriculture industry from agroterrorism. The bulletin, "Farmland Security," offers suggestions for safe practices on farms and ranches, traffic control and safety, farm and ranch sanitation and facility security. "Traditional emergency responders are well recognized as the first line in responding to potential terrorist events, but farmers and ranchers and everyone involved in agriculture may hold the true first line of defense to prevent, detect, or respond to acts of terrorism on agriculture or agroterrorism," says Ron Cunningham, UW CES educator for the Fremont County and Wind River Area.

Cunningham and Jim Gill, Washakie County CES educator, wrote the bulletin. A variety of targets are abundant within agriculture that terrorists could use to disrupt or adversely affect the nation's safe food supply, notes Cunningham.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.uwyo.edu/news/showrelease.asp?id=7719>

KEY PEOPLE

33. Bush, Reid Trade Barbs on Immigration (AP, 13 Apr 2006)

WASHINGTON - President Bush accused Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid on Thursday of "single-handedly thwarting" action on immigration legislation, and got a brisk retort in return. "President Bush has as much credibility on immigration as he does on Iraq and national security," shot back the Nevada Democrat. The exchange was the latest in a series of maneuvers among party leaders trying to assign blame for Senate gridlock over comprehensive immigration legislation. A pending measure would strengthen border security, create a guest worker program and offer eventual citizenship to many of the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in the country.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=78&sid=250776>

34. Senator Reid talks homeland security, immigration reform (KVBC, 12 Apr 2006)

The frontline of homeland security is the group of first responders who protect us. That from Senator Harry Reid who was in Henderson Wednesday to talk about how to better protect Southern Nevada. However, the conversation on security quickly turned to another big topic: Immigration. The Senator says he's gotten an earful from people unhappy about talks over immigration reform, but he too isn't happy with what's going on with immigration, specifically loose borders and the millions left in limbo without citizenship. "What we need is a path to legalization, no amnesty, but make sure people have the ability to change their status if they do certain things, learn English, stay out of trouble, pay taxes, get a job," said Senator Reid. But Reid was primarily in Henderson to talk about defending our cities; to make sure our first responders get the money they need to do the job they do.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kvbc.com/Global/story.asp?S=4762750&nav=15MV>

35. Bush Nominates Chairman for NTSB (AP, 13 Apr 2006)

WASHINGTON - President Bush on Thursday nominated Mark Rosenker to be chairman of the board that investigates major transportation accidents. Rosenker is acting chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board and has been on the board since 2003. The nomination requires Senate approval. Rosenker was a major general in the Air Force Reserve, deputy assistant to the president and director of the White House military office.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=78&sid=358427>

GANG ACTIVITY

36. DC: Punching Keys As Well as Gang Rivals (Washington Post, 14 Apr 2006)

The threat from the Washington area gang Street Thug Criminals was very clear: "We swore we were going to get the *bleep* that did this and we are. RIP Antonio." It was delivered the way almost everything seems to be these days: on a Web page. The Street Thug Criminals have an Internet page, and they used it to warn a rival Langley Park gang that Antonio's death would be avenged. Police call it "cyberbanging" -- gang members openly bragging about affiliations, skipping school, getting high and battling rival gangs. Many postings deal with Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, a Latino gang that has been spreading quickly across the Washington region in recent years.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?I207525FC>

37. FL: Gang-related crime worries Wells (Herald Today, 12 Apr 2006)

MANATEE - Aggravated assault cases climbed 20 percent from 2004 to 2005. Robbery was up 13 percent. And during the first 100 days of 2006, there were 100 confirmed shootings in Manatee. Those numbers are a sore spot for Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells, who told county commissioners Tuesday that he is starting to develop serious concerns about gang-related activity in Manatee County. The sheriff's office has identified 30 criminal street gangs, 13 of which are active, Wells said. There are an estimated 440 members in the gangs.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/14320994.htm>

38. NJ: Gang death threats alleged (The Times, 13 Apr 2006)

TRENTON - Mayor Douglas H. Palmer said yesterday that he, Police Director Joseph Santiago and a political ally have received death threats from gang members who have been rattled by a recent police crackdown in the city. Palmer and Santiago said they discussed the threats Tuesday night, including how to break the unpleasant news to their families.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nj.com/news/times/index.ssf?/base/news-1/114491603747960.xml&coll=5>

39. NJ: Cops find 7 suspects, weapons in SUV stop (NorthJersey.com, 12 Apr 2006)

TENAFLY - Police are investigating why an SUV full of alleged gang members and weapons was in the borough early Saturday morning. Police said seven men from Virginia were driving past police headquarters on Riveredge Road at 1:50 a.m. when Officer Alex Cardillo stopped them. A taillight on their gray Honda Passport was broken, and a temporary Virginia plate was hanging by one fastener, according to Capt. James Foxen. The registration and temporary tags had expired and were altered with a magic marker, Foxen said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?X1F6615FC>

40. NY: Alleged MS-13 gang member faces federal charges (AP, 13 Apr 2006)

CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y. - An alleged member of the MS-13 street gang is on trial in federal court on Long Island facing conspiracy, murder and weapons charges, part of a trend by prosecutors to target gang members under federal racketeering statutes. Prosecutors are attempting to prove Leonel Mejida carried out the crimes to "maintain and improve" his position with the gang, and that MS-13 is an organized group committing crimes. Mejida, 21, of Uniondale, faces up to life in prison if convicted.
CABLE Gram Suggested URL:
<http://makeashorterlink.com/?J4E6125FC>

41. RI: Patriarca crime family member faces extortion charges (Boston.com, 13 Apr 2006)

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - A longtime member of the Patriarca crime family was arrested Thursday and charged with conspiring to extort payments from two men. Anthony St. Laurent Sr., 64, known as "The Saint," was arrested by law enforcement officials at his Johnston home and ordered held in jail after a brief hearing in U.S. District Court. Authorities have previously described St. Laurent as a made member of the Mafia. He was on supervised release at the time of his most recent arrest.
CABLE Gram Suggested URL:
<http://makeashorterlink.com/?I486125FC>

42. VA: Man sentenced in gang rival's death (Richmond Times-Dispatch, 13 Apr 2006)

A Richmond man was sentenced to serve 16 years in prison for the shooting death of a rival gang member. Durrell "Q-Tip" Taylor, 19, was sentenced Tuesday in Richmond Circuit Court to 20 years, with four suspended, for the March 2003 slaying of Reginald "Lil' Reggie" Irby. Taylor was a member of the Poe Street Boys gang. Irby was part of the Meadowbridge Boys gang.
CABLE Gram Suggested URL:
<http://makeashorterlink.com/?H296125FC>

43. U.S. biker denies link to 'horrible' gangland slayings in Canada (Globe and Mail, 13 Apr 2006)

The Texas-based president of the international Bandidos biker club says he was as "shocked as anybody else" by the deaths of eight of his members last weekend in Ontario and denied his organization had anything to do with the slaying. "The only people that really know what happened are the eight people killed and maybe the people in jail," Jeff Pike said in an exclusive interview with The Globe and Mail from his home outside Houston. "Whatever happened . . . what a mess!" Mr. Pike took over the leadership of the 2,400-strong biker gang -- second only to the Hells Angels worldwide -- when the long-serving Bandido chieftain, George Wegers, was arrested last June along with 19 other bikers and charged, under tough U.S. anti-racketeering laws, with conspiracies to commit murder, kidnapping, extortion and methamphetamine distribution.
CABLE Gram Suggested URL:
<http://makeashorterlink.com/?G346225FC>

44. RCMP studying British 'super crime agency' (CBC News, 12 Apr 2006)

Ottawa and the RCMP are considering a wholesale restructuring of federal law enforcement, based on a new British super crime-fighting agency, CBC News has learned. Canadian officials are examining an organization unveiled in the United Kingdom last week known as the Serious Organized Crime Agency, or SOCA. The biggest change in law enforcement since the founding of Scotland Yard, the FBI-style agency brings together 4,000 people from the U.K.'s National Crime Squad, the Intelligence Service, Customs and Excise, and the Immigration Service. SOCA members can hold multiple powers of police, immigration and customs officers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cbc.ca/story/canada/national/2006/04/12/rcmp-soca060412.html>

45. Honduras' president softens stance on gangs (Miami Herald, 13 Apr 2006)

The country that invented the harsh *Mano Dura* crackdown on notoriously violent street gangs is softening its stance as its new president addresses allegations of police executions and arbitrary arrests of suspected criminals. Honduras led Central America over the last few years in its tough policies against the gangs, Mara Salvatrucha and Mara 18, born among Central American immigrants in Los Angeles but now spread throughout the region. Anyone with a tattoo risked going to jail, and just associating with a gang was a crime. But now newly elected President Manuel Zelaya says he wants to narrowly focus the attack on violent gang leaders, arguing that *Mano Dura* -- Hard Hand -- gave rise to death squads, imprisoned countless innocent youths and caused hysteria while doing little to lower the crime rate.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/14330148.htm>

46. Italy: Prosecutors fear capture of mafia boss will spark bloody war of succession (The Guardian, 13 Apr 2006)

One of Sicily's most senior anti-mafia prosecutors forecast a war inside Cosa Nostra yesterday if its leaders failed to agree on a successor to Bernardo Provenzano, the "boss of bosses" seized on Tuesday. Investigators believe the fugitive godfather established a "directorship" of up to seven mobsters to run the organisation. Sergio Lari, deputy chief prosecutor of Palermo, said: "Either the directorship can choose a successor or we could again be in for a fiery time".

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/frontpage/story/0,,1752836,00.html>

47. Italy: Experts try to identify Mafia don's helpers (iol, 13 Apr 2006)

Forensic experts today continued to search the final hideout of reputed Mafia boss Bernardo Provenzano for clues that might identify people who helped him hide from authorities for more than 40 years. Provenzano, Italy's number-one fugitive, was arrested in a rundown farmhouse just outside of his hometown of Corleone, Sicily, on Tuesday. Experts were searching for any clues, such as fingerprints or DNA traces, that might help identify individuals who helped conceal Provenzano's whereabouts, the Italian news agency ANSA reported. Police arrested three people yesterday accused of aiding the fugitive by delivering notes about the administration of Cosa Nostra affairs on the island.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://breakingnews.iol.ie/news/story.asp?j=179348710&p=y793494y6>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

48. CT: Eight-Year Sentence In Cocaine Case (Courant, 13 Apr 2006)

EAST HARTFORD - A local man was sentenced Wednesday to about eight years in federal prison for transporting cocaine across state lines, the U.S. attorney's office said. Thomas Byrd, 52, of Cannon Road was sentenced to 97 months, followed by four years of supervised release, according to a press release. Byrd pleaded guilty Jan. 10, 2005, to conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute and the distribution of more than 500 grams of cocaine, which is more than 17.5 ounces.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Q247125FC>

49. FL: ICE Seizes More Than \$1 Million In Cocaine Headed For Miami (local10, 12 Apr 2006)

MIAMI - Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents stopped a shipment of 70 kilograms of cocaine with a street value of more than \$1 million that was bound for the streets of Miami. The cocaine, which was found in two locations, was hidden in the wooden pallets of an empty shipping container. The first load was discovered aboard the Providence II, a Haitian registered cargo ship that arrived at the Miami River, while the second load was discovered in the shipping yard. "Drug traffickers who think Miami is an easy way to bring drugs into the United States need to think again," said Jesus Torres, ICE special agent-in-charge in Miami.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.local10.com/news/8650426/detail.html>

50. NC: Wreck yields cocaine; 4 charged (News-Record, 13 Apr 2006)

GREENSBORO - Two men who crashed a pick up Tuesday while fleeing police had been transporting upward of \$200,000 in packaged cocaine before officers arrested them after a brief foot chase, according to police and arrest warrants. And records show that one of the men running from officers tried to steal a minivan by pointing a gun at its owner as police closed in.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Z337255FC>

51. PA: City police arrest 20 in cocaine sting (The Patriot News, 12 Apr 2006)

Harrisburg police officers posing as crack cocaine dealers at Sixth and Schuylkill streets have arrested 20 people on drug charges, police said yesterday. Police from the Harrisburg Bureau of Police Criminal Investigation Division Vice Unit set up the operation on Friday, aimed at arresting people attempting to buy drugs.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?G1C6215FC>

52. Drug gang violence again strikes Mexico (Reuters, 12 Apr 2006)

MEXICO CITY - Gunmen shot dead four men in a Mexican northern border city and a man was killed in a grenade attack at a Pacific coast restaurant as drug violence spiraled, police said Wednesday. Mexico has been in the grip of a drug war between rival gangs since last year and about 1,500 people have been shot, beaten or suffocated to death as brutal cartels battle for control of the lucrative cocaine, heroin and marijuana trade. Hitmen armed with assault rifles shot dead four men and wounded three others as they drove through Nuevo Laredo late Tuesday, police said. More than 80 people have been killed since January in the city of 300,000 people.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/world/3790842.html>

53. Mexicans seize huge cocaine haul (BBC, 12 Apr 2006)

Mexican officials say they have seized five-and-a-half tonnes of cocaine from a commercial aircraft that landed after flying from Venezuela. The drugs are said to have a potential street value of up to \$100m (£57m). The cocaine was reportedly packed in more than 100 suitcases marked "private". Three people were arrested. Mexican officials say that cocaine is increasingly being imported from Colombia via Venezuela, with the US being the ultimate destination.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4901828.stm>

54. Britain tops European league for cocaine use - and rivals US (The Independent, 13 Apr 2006)

Cocaine abuse has never been more widespread in this country, and there is little to suggest things are going to improve in the short term. Britain is now top of the European league table for cocaine use and is fast approaching levels seen in America, according to the main EU drug agency. Alarming, this trend includes the use of the class-A drug among children of secondary school-age, which has doubled in a year. The drug is also becoming increasingly popular in its most damaging and addictive form, as "crack", or cooked, cocaine.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/crime/article357414.ece>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

55. I.R.S. Asks PayPal for Taxpayer Data (AP, 11 Apr 2006)

WASHINGTON - The Internal Revenue Service said Tuesday that it had won approval from a federal court to ask the online payment company PayPal to turn over information about people who may be evading taxes by hiding income in other countries. A federal court in San Jose, Calif., gave the I.R.S. permission to ask PayPal for information on American taxpayers who have bank accounts, credit cards or debit cards issued by financial institutions in more than 30 countries that are reputed to be tax havens. Amanda Pires, a PayPal spokeswoman, said Tuesday that the company had just received the summons. "We're still evaluating our options," she said. "The privacy of our customers' information is something we take really seriously."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?O3D6225FC>

TECHNOLOGY

56. U.S.-Taiwanese Innovative Satellite Array To Launch April 14 (Dept. of State, 13 Apr 2006)

Washington – A globe-spanning constellation of six satellites expected to improve weather forecasts, monitor climate change and enhance space weather research will head into orbit April 14. A Minotaur rocket is scheduled to launch the array from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, according to an April 12 press release from the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF). The low-orbiting satellites will be the first to provide daily atmospheric data in real time over thousands of points on Earth for research and weather forecasting by measuring the bending of radio signals from the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS) as the signals pass through Earth's atmosphere. Called COSMIC, for Constellation Observing System for Meteorology, Ionosphere and Climate, in the United States and FORMOSAT-3 in Taiwan, the \$100 million satellite network is the product of an agreement between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?J195145FC>

57. Latest Defense Concepts Shared At Security Summit (nbc4.com, 12 Apr 2006)

WASHINGTON - The fifth annual Homeland and Global Security summit was held at the Washington Convention Center Wednesday, offering a glimpse of new concepts in defense. A remote-controlled helicopter is being pitched as a tool for national defense. Alex Martinez said his "coptervision" system is a safe and inexpensive way to track drug smugglers or terrorists. "We also have a lot of interest from the gas industry, protecting the pipelines," he said. Also featured at the summit were new robots designed to take out improvised explosives devices. There was a proposal to protect seaports with offshore platforms that can detect weapons of mass destruction on ships.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nbc4.com/news/8649407/detail.html>

58. New Hazardous Materials Tool (WEIU, 13 Apr 2006)

What used to take days to figure out now takes seconds and local firefighters say during an emergency a piece of new equipment is vital. The Charleston Regional Hazardous Materials Team received a new ID Command System a month ago. Firefighters say the new device will be used in 14 counties and can detect substances like anthrax and methamphetamine. They say substances are put on the I.D. system and scanned. The system goes through the 45 hundred chemicals stored in its database to make a match.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.weiu.net/news/archive/newsbuilder/2006/april/0413/hazmattool.htm>

EVENTS

59. Upcoming NJIT conference focuses on Hurricane Katrina, technology, and more

A closer look at how people react during emergencies, the role of computers and technology and what really happened during Hurricane Katrina number among the topics to be discussed at the third annual meeting of the Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM). New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) will host the event May 14-17, 2006.

A panel focusing on Hurricane Katrina and how information technology did not work is expected to draw the largest crowd. "Researchers will detail how information management problems and information technology problems were significant factors in a failed response," said Murray Turoff, PhD, distinguished professor in the department of information systems at NJIT. "Members of this panel were either in New Orleans and involved at the time or brought in shortly afterwards to evaluate what occurred."

Other sessions will deal with the requirements and approaches to public warning systems and ways to improve the systems. One aim is to improve planetary monitoring by satellites for real time earthquake and tsunami alerts. Experts will also introduce new and significant efforts for improving time-dependent alerts and assessments.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2006-04/asfb-unc041206.php

FULL REPORTS

60. Terrorists' Tactics Changing, Says FBI Official - No longer awaiting orders, attackers are self-financed, decentralized (By David Anthony Denny, Washington File Staff Writer, 13 Apr 2006)

Washington - The terrorism paradigm has changed markedly from the days before the September 11, 2001, attacks, says John Miller, FBI assistant director for public affairs.

Terrorism training has changed from hands-on instruction at particular facilities to Internet-based correspondence courses, Miller said at a April 11 Foreign Press Center briefing.

Moreover, in pre-9/11 days, al-Qaida and other terrorist groups were hierarchical "in a kind of paramilitary way," Miller said. "There was a boss, in that case, Osama bin Laden; an 'under-boss,' [and] captains who ran crews of operators." From an investigator's standpoint, he said, the groups had a structure similar to that of an organized-crime family.

Since the defeat of Afghanistan's Taliban regime and the killing or capture of many al-Qaida leaders, that group's structure now has become "almost ... a movement or a state of mind," Miller said.

Under the previous configuration, Miller said, a terrorist cell, to carry out a planned operation, would have gone to its controlling entity to explain the plot and request

logistical help, training and money for things like false documents or bomb-making expertise, he said.

Now, Miller explained, these cells practice "a kind of do-it-yourself terrorism," where they use the Internet to learn how to conduct surveillance, plan a terrorist operation or make bombs and other devices.

"[W]e've gone from having a university for terrorism to having a correspondence course over a computer," he said.

Because of this shift, Miller said, sleeper cells -- small groups which before would have been planted in a country to await signals from headquarters to put a plan into action -- now could be described as "self-starter cells."

Such groups put themselves together, he said, based on mutual agreement about using violence and fear to achieve political or social change, then raise their own money and plan and carry out their own operations.

"That is more realistic today than the concept of al-Qaida-run sleeper cells," Miller said.

Before working for the U.S. government, Miller spent 20 years as a television journalist for NBC and ABC. In 1998, while with ABC, he interviewed al-Qaida founder Osama bin Laden.

"[I]t makes me one of the few people in the FBI who's actually met with him among the very, very many who would very much like to," Miller said.

The [transcript](#) of Miller's remarks is available on the State Department Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

61. Frist, Hastert Give Joint Statement On Border Security Bill (The Chattanooga, 11 Apr 2006)

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) and House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-IL) released today the following joint statement regarding the border security bill:

“America is a nation with borders and borders matter. We are a nation of citizens and citizenship matters. We are also a nation of laws and laws matter. We have an important immigrant heritage and honoring that heritage matters.

“In December, the House of Representatives passed a strong border security bill aimed at securing our borders and preventing illegal immigration.

“However, on Dec. 16, 2005, there were 191 House Democrats who voted to oppose House Republican efforts to reduce the crime of unlawful presence in the United States

from a felony to a misdemeanor. Instead, they voted to make felons out of all of those who remain in our country illegally.

“While we are disappointed with the House Democrats’ lack of compassion and the continued efforts by Senator Reid to block action on immigration legislation so that Congress can proceed to conference, it remains our intent to produce a strong border security bill that will not make unlawful presence in the United States a felony.”

Earlier Tuesday, the Frist office released the following statement and fact sheet regarding border security provisions:

"To tackle immigration reform, Congress must act to secure the border, address workplace enforcement, and create a comprehensive system which respects the rule of law, acknowledges the country’s economic needs, and honors our heritage as a nation of immigrants.

"Every day Senators Reid and Schumer stand in the way of action in the Senate on immigration reform, America is less safe and less secure. Their politically motivated stunt should not prevent a bipartisan agreement to secure our borders.

"An estimated 1.2 million people enter America illegally each year – for every person who is apprehended, three more enter successfully. In total, our illegal population grows by more than 500,000 annually.

"Republican-backed legislation includes tough new provisions that will secure our borders and help state and local officials deal with the illegal population already in place."

New Border Enforcement Provisions In The Frist And Senate Judiciary Committee Bills

(Section numbers reference S.2454, the Securing America’s Borders Act)

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.chattanooga.com/articles/article_83580.asp

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