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CABLE Gram Volume 2 Issue 75

6 December 2005 *CABLE Gram*™

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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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.

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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. Counterterror chief focuses on Al-Qaida capabilities in U.S. (AP, 2 Dec 2005)

WASHINGTON - U.S. counterterrorism agencies have not detected a significant Al-Qaida operational capability in the United States since the 2003 arrest of a truck driver who was in the early stages of plotting to destroy the Brooklyn Bridge. Nevertheless, Al-Qaida's capabilities aren't clear and the group remains dangerous, the new deputy director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Kevin Brock, said in an interview. The uncertainty reflects the tension facing national security officials even though the country has gone four years without a domestic attack.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.startribune.com/stories/484/5761049.html>

2. U.S. to receive unsatisfactory security report card (AP, 2 Dec 2005)

WASHINGTON - More than four years after the September 11 attacks, U.S. intelligence agencies still are failing to share information while Congress battles over security funding, a panel that investigated the terrorist hijackings will conclude in a new report. In interviews Friday, members of the former September 11 commission said the government should receive a dismal grade for its lack of urgency in enacting strong security measures to prevent terror attacks. The 10-member, bipartisan commission disbanded after issuing 41 recommendations to bolster the nation's security in July 2004. The members have reconstituted themselves, using private funds, as the 9/11 Public Discourse Project and will release a new report Monday assessing the extent to which their directives have been followed. ([Read about the intelligence chief saying America is safer since 9/11 attacks](#))

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/12/02/911.commission.ap/index.html>

3. US spy chief says country is safer with improved intelligence (Political Gateway, 2 Dec 2005)

WASHINGTON - US intelligence czar John Negroponte defended the country's spy services Friday, saying they are "better integrated" and that the United States is safer since the September 11, 2001 attacks. "I certainly believe America is safer since 9/11. And I believe from an intelligence point of view that our intelligence effort is better integrated today than it was previously," Negroponte, the director of national intelligence, said in an interview with CNN television. He cited the creation of a new National Clandestine Service to develop the country's network of undercover spies around the world. He also cited the creation of a branch in the normally domestic crime-oriented FBI which focuses on national security.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.politicalgateway.com/news/read.html?id=5511>

4. Federal law could stretch clerks' budgets, restrict access (The Eagle-tribune, 4 Dec 2005)

BOSTON - A federal law meant to prevent terrorists from stealing people's identities may shift the cost of the war on terrorism to communities while restricting public access to vital records. Based on recommendations from the 9/11 Commission, the 2004 Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Act requires city and town clerks to take precautions to secure birth records and prevent their unlawful use. Some clerks worry that complying with the law could strain their already-stretched budgets. People who use birth certificates, such as genealogists, question whether they will lose access to documents used in their work. And civil liberties advocates charge the law is part of a Bush administration plan to limit privacy.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/bawhf>

5. TSA announces security screening changes (AP, 2 Dec 2005)

WASHINGTON - Airline passengers soon will be allowed to take small scissors and screwdrivers aboard planes again, Transportation Security Administration chief Kip Hawley announced Friday. Hawley said the change will take effect December 22 and is part of a broader effort aimed at having screeners spend more of their time searching for explosives rather than small, sharp objects that don't pose as great a risk. The small implements were banned after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2005/TRAVEL/12/02/passenger.screening.ap/>

6. Investigators to shed new light on military's role in Katrina response (By Greta Wodele, National Journal, 5 Dec 2005)

House and Senate investigators probing the government's response to Hurricane Katrina are wading knee-deep through documents about the catastrophic storm that prompted angry accusations of bureaucratic ineptness. More than 50 aides are trying to figure out what went wrong, when it went wrong, and ultimately, who is responsible. History books are filled with pages about high-profile congressional investigations, such as the Watergate and Iran-Contra hearings. Many inquiries required years of questioning and

cost millions in taxpayer dollars. By contrast, the lawmakers and staff working on the Katrina investigations -- headed by House Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis, R-Va., and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine -- are working within a timeframe of six months and with less than \$1 million in each chamber to produce their findings. Nevertheless, they believe that when they issue their reports in February, the hurricane inquiries will be on par with other major investigations.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=32915&dcn=e_gvet

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

7. AL: Redstone Federal joins effort to fight ID theft (The Huntsville Times, 3 Dec 2005)

A coalition including Redstone Federal Credit Union has joined Attorney General Troy King in a new public service announcement to highlight the growing problem of identity theft. King was in Huntsville Friday at the credit union's headquarters to unveil the 30-second ad which features him and a warning to guard against identity theft. The spot urges people who want to know more about how to protect themselves to contact King's office through the Web site www.familyprotection.alabama.gov, or by calling (800) 230-9485.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?T5101244C>

8. AZ: Man sentenced under new human smuggling law (KVOA, 2 Dec 2005)

YUMA, Ariz. A man accused of smuggling illegal immigrants from Arizona to California has been sentenced in Yuma to two years in prison. Prosecutors say 20-year-old Pedro Velazquez is the first person in Yuma County _ and possibly the first in Arizona _ to be sentenced under the state's new human smuggling law. Prosecutors say Velazquez admitted that he picked up a pickup packed with illegal immigrants in Yuma and was planning to transport them to Los Angeles. Court records show he said his employer, who he wouldn't identify, told him not to stop for police.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=4194529&nav=HMO6>

9. CA: Sheriff hits mark with straight talk (San Francisco Gate, 5 Dec 2005)

The latest weapon in the Bay Area's arsenal against terror is an 85-foot patrol vessel, a gift from the folks in the Department of Homeland Security and our very own Alameda County Sheriff's Department. The former U.S. Coast Guard patrol boat is armed with twin .30-caliber machine guns that straddle the bow, is capable of a top speed of 40 knots and can be used on the open sea. It's more than Sheriff Charles Plummer could have hoped for. At Friday's christening at Jack London Square in Oakland, Plummer described the capabilities of the Susan M., named after county administrator Susan Muranishi: The boat will be used to support drug interdiction efforts, patrol the Port of Oakland (one of Plummer's biggest worries) and strengthen law enforcement response to any problems that may arise in the bay.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/7q6lp>

10. CT: Deadline passes for courthouse bombs (AP, 2 Dec 2005)

HARTFORD, Connecticut - Bomb threats prompted police to evacuate the state's 45 courthouses Friday, abruptly interrupting trials while sending judges, lawyers and people with routine court business into the streets. A caller said bombs would go off at 2 p.m. An hour later, the buildings were still being searched with dogs and nothing had been found. Public Safety Commissioner Leonard Boyle said there were five threats that were not directed against specific courthouses.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/12/02/courthouse.evacuation.ap/index.html>

11. IL: ISU to develop bioterrorism curricula (PJStar.com, 3 Dec 2005)

NORMAL - A \$300,000 federal grant will allow Illinois State University to develop bioterrorism curricula for applied health programs offered at Illinois community colleges, officials announced Friday. No standardized curriculum model currently educates community college health care professional students about the appropriate response to bioterrorism, chemical and nuclear incidents. Instructional materials are available on the Internet but are not organized or structured to easily be integrated into such health disciplines as allied health, dental hygiene, nursing and veterinarian technology. Community college nursing programs, for instance, could easily revise their curriculum to include treatment of victims of bioterrorist events that result in acute radiation exposure.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.pjstar.com/stories/120305/REG_B8A439O5.033.shtml

12. IA: Iowa Police Nab Fake Officer (KPLC, 2 Dec 2005)

In the days following Hurricane Rita, law enforcement came from all over the country to help out Southwest Louisiana. Unfortunately, not everyone offering that help was legit. That's a lesson Iowa Police learned, after they say 29-year-old Joshua Williams from Texarkana, Texas, arrived at their door. Iowa Police Captain Robert Lane says, "He showed up and he was in a big four wheel drive Ford with 'Homeland Defense' on the side and also 'Emergency Response.' He presented the chief with credentials that identified him as a Homeland Defense Officer." Williams showed up right after Hurricane Rita. In the midst of all the chaos, with no phones or Internet, Captain Lane says there wasn't a way to double check.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kplctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4195651&nav=0nqx>

13. MA: Three Former Logan Ticket Agents Arrested for Currency Smuggling and Laundering, Reports U.S. Attorney (PRNewswire, 2 Dec 2005)

BOSTON - Three women who worked as ticket counter representatives for a major commercial airline at Logan International Airport have been arrested on charges that they laundered U.S. currency and smuggled cash out of the United States to the Dominican Republic.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?U1002244C>

14. MN: New passenger screening system to be tested at MSP (AP, 4 Dec 2005)

MINNEAPOLIS - Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport will begin testing next month of a new passenger-screening system. It's meant to give greater weight to how people act than to what they're carrying. Airport police say the unit is trained by former Israeli airport security experts in "behavioral pattern recognition." It begins work in January. The unit will work with the Transportation Security Administration, which began testing a similar system at the airport last month.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kstp.com/article/stories/S12529.html?cat=1>

15. MS: Local Emergency Director to Testify Before Congress (Picayune Item, 3 Dec 2005)

POPLARVILLE - Bobby Strahan, Pearl River County Emergency Management Director, won an award from his profession this summer for making a difference with Mississippi Legislators. This week, the US Congress will give him the opportunity to make a difference with them. Strahan will speak for five minutes to the United State's House of Representative's regarding preparations and responses of local, state and federal leaders in the days surrounding Hurricane Katrina. Wednesday at 10 a.m., he will address the House's Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation and Response to Hurricane Katrina. Strahan will submit written testimony and answer Congressional inquiries in addition to the speech.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.picayuneitem.com/articles/2005/12/03/news/03strahan.txt>

16. NC: New identity theft law put into effect (News 14 Carolina and The Associated Press, 2 Dec 2005)

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A new law that went into effect Thursday will make it more difficult for identity thieves to operate. The Identity Theft Protection Act, signed last fall by Gov. Mike Easley, will allow consumers to put a security freeze on their credit reports to prevent identity thieves from opening accounts and generating credit using stolen information. Businesses will now be required to notify customers when there's been a security breach and to destroy or shred records that contain personal information before throwing them out. Businesses also can be sued for damages by a consumer if they break the law.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.news14charlotte.com/content/local_news/?AC=&ArID=108139&SecID=2

17. NC: Bioterrorism, infection surveillance system receives national award for excellence (By TOM Hughes, UNC School of Medicine, 4 Dec 2005)

CHAPEL HILL – A computerized system developed by University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and N.C. Division of Public Health experts to detect bioterrorism and infectious disease outbreaks has received a prestigious national award for excellence. The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) recently announced

that the N.C. Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiological Collection Tool (NC DETECT) was one of two recipients of the 2005 Nicholas E. Davies Award of Excellence in the public health category.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.lincolntribune.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=3437>

KEY PEOPLE

18. TSA Says Ciao To Oberman, Welcomes Rowe (FedNews-Online, 2 Dec 2005)

The Transportation Security Administration announced this week Stephanie Rowe will serve as assistant director for Transportation Threat Assessment and Credentialing. Rowe replaces Justin P. Oberman, who will return to the private sector. Oberman led major initiatives, such as Secure Flight and Registered Traveler, in addition to being responsible for programs affecting the commercial aviation, general aviation, trucking and maritime industries. "Since the early days of TSA, Justin has contributed in many ways to the legacy of this agency. His dedication and leadership have served TSA well and will take him far in his future endeavors," said TSA Director Kip Hawley on Oberman's departure. Rowe has more than 15 years of business consulting experience for private and public sector clients, assisting with growth performance and communicating with external and internal stakeholders. Rowe has provided vital consulting services in support of several Homeland Security programs, including Secure Flight and US-VISIT.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.fednews-online.com/view_publication.aspx?publicationId=8661

GANG ACTIVITY

19. CA: Crips gang focus of Williams execution debate (Reuters, 3 Dec 2005)

LOS ANGELES - A growing debate over the planned execution of Stanley Tookie Williams hinges partly on his claim that he founded the notorious Crips street gang then renounced a criminal life in a quest for redemption. Williams is scheduled to die on December 13 unless granted clemency by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. His case is one of several that have drawn attention to U.S. use of the death penalty, as the execution toll passed a milestone on Friday of 1,000 since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated capital punishment in 1976. Though Williams maintains his innocence in the four 1979 murders that landed him on death row, he asserts credit for founding the Crips a decade earlier with another teenager, Raymond Washington, and says he now regrets his role. He has written a series of books urging children to reject violence.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?K1206144C>

20. CA: Supreme Court allows Hells Angels' lawsuit (AP, 5 Dec 2005)

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court refused Monday to muscle into a dispute between the Hells Angels and California law enforcement agencies over the shooting of three family pets during a police search. That means officers can be sued by the biker group over 1998 raids that an appeals court said went too far. The case presented an interesting question for the justices: what type of constitutional protection does someone have when

a police officer executing a search warrant shoots a pet? For now, the justices declined to answer it. Attorneys for the San Jose and Santa Clara county officers said that the officers had to kill the dogs, a 100-pound Rottweiler at one house and two dogs that resembled bull-mastiffs at another, to protect their safety.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/1154AP_Scotus_Hells_Angels.html

21. FL: Gang Task Force arrests 45 on drug, weapons charges (The Miami Herald, 4 Dec 2005)

The street was dark in North Miami Beach, and the skinny teenager in the red T-shirt stood on the sidewalk drinking a Corona. Not a violent crime. But for the gang detectives, it was intriguing enough. A closer look revealed a five-point crown tattooed on the underside of his left arm. On his left calf, the word *King*, on the right *Love*. On his left ankle, the tattoo read *ADR* -- or *Amor del Rey*, Spanish for Love from the King. Signs of the gang known as the Latin Kings.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/13322583.htm>

22. MT: The Navas: 'We're not a gang. We're a family' (The Gazette, 4 Dec 2005) - Interesting Story

Ray Nava Jr. suspected something was wrong when the restaurant manager didn't call. The week before, the manager had seemed anxious to hire him, and he all but assured Nava the kitchen job at the restaurant was his. But that was before two of Nava's cousins were identified as suspects in a fatal shooting at a house party. The two brothers - Richard Nava, 21, and Christian Nava, 19 - were accused of killing a 24-year-old man on Sept. 17. The Navas were back in the news, and Ray Nava Jr. suddenly had a bad feeling about the prospects for his new job. He waited a few days to see if the manager would call as he had promised. Then he picked up the telephone. "I called him and told him I was ready to go to work," Nava said. "He said, 'We heard your family got in some trouble this weekend.'" The manager said they had hired someone else.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?N2305144C>

23. TX: Gang's number growing (The Beaumont Enterprise, 4 Dec 2005)

PORT ARTHUR - MS-13, a predominantly Hispanic gang, is gaining nationwide notoriety for its crimes and violence. And in Port Arthur -- where almost one-fifth of the population is Hispanic -- police have taken notice. "Hispanic gangs, overwhelmingly, are a growing problem," said Sgt. Terry Chance of the Port Arthur Police Department. "In the beginning, they used baseball bats, clubs and knives, but they've stepped up." Although MS-13 members here don't spill blood like their counterparts do in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and Houston, where victims might meet the business end of a machete, the locals are becoming more violent, police said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/btecj>

24. TX: Border agents nab suspected gang member (The Brownsville Herald, 3 Dec 2005)

U.S. Border Patrol agents detained a suspected Mara Salvatrucha gang member Wednesday, according to a news release by the agency. Manuel de Jesús Sandoval-González, 33, was detained by the federal agents while trying to illegally cross into the country through Brownsville. The agents identified him as part of the violent MS-13, or Salvatrucha, gang from Central America after seeing the gang tattoos on Sandoval's body. He is one of 15 suspected gang members arrested in the Rio Grande Valley in the past couple of weeks.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/ts_more.php?id=68313_0_10_0_C

25. TX: Suspected Gang Members' Gun Battle With FBI Kills 2 (NBC, 4 Dec 2005)

HOUSTON - Two suspected gang members died and two others were injured during a gun battle with FBI agents in northeast Houston, KPRC Local 2 reported Friday. Authorities responded to a robbery at a home on Liberty Road near Lockwood Drive at about 11:30 p.m. Thursday. "Four to five males came in and entered the building. They broke into a building, at which point they were surrounded by FBI agents," Houston Police Department Sgt. Mike McStravick said. The FBI agents ordered the men to drop their weapons, however, the suspects opened fire on the officers. Agents returned fire, striking four of the men. Two of the suspects died.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/9924893/>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

26. AL: arrested, cocaine, crack are confiscated (The Brewton Standard, 4 Dec 2005)

A year-long investigation led to the arrest of two individuals this week when agents recovered approximately \$75,000 worth of drugs. According to a press release sent out this week, agents with the 21st Judicial Circuit Drug Task Force along with officers from the Escambia County Sheriff's Department, Brewton Police Department, East Brewton Police Department, Flomaton Police Department, Atmore Police Department and the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries executed a search warrant on Cunningham Road in the Pea Ridge Community. At that residence, agents recovered more than 700 grams of powder cocaine, more than 70 grams of crack cocaine and approximately two ounces of marijuana with a "conservative" street value in excess of \$75,000, two firearms, one automobile and drug paraphernalia consistent with cocaine distribution.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.brewtonstandard.com/articles/2005/12/04/news/news02.txt>

27. CA: More than 140 pounds of cocaine seized in bust (The Press-Enterprise, 3 Dec 2005)

A statewide drug bust led to the seizure of more than 140 pounds of cocaine in Moreno Valley, said authorities, who estimated the drug was worth \$5 million. Drug Enforcement Administration officers in Oakland headed the investigation that led them to the find,

according to a news release from the federal agency. Northern California agents knew a man was going to Moreno Valley to retrieve 44 pounds of cocaine and return with it to the Bay Area. After watching the exchange, agents seized the drug Wednesday and arrested the buyer, according to the release.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_B_coke04.33b4555.html

28. CA: Feds break up East Bay cocaine smuggling ring (Contra Costa Times, 2 Dec 2005)

An investigation into a ring of drug suspects yielded five arrests, several high-powered firearms and 65 kilograms of cocaine, about one-third of which was destined for Richmond and Vallejo neighborhoods, authorities said Friday. Agents from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the West Contra Costa Narcotics Enforcement Team and police from Richmond and Vallejo spent nearly a year investigating the group, said DEA Special Agent Casey McEnry. DEA agents developed information that 33-year-old Benicia resident Ivan Luque-Lopez planned to pick up 20 kilograms of cocaine from a house in Moreno Valley in Southern California on Wednesday. Authorities followed him to Moreno Valley, watched him make the pickup, then arrested him and confiscated the drugs.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/news/13315057.htm>

29. GA: Cocaine found after police chase (Savannah Morning News, 3 Dec 2005)

A Friday night Victory Drive police chase ended with a jail escapee back behind bars and the seizure of almost \$10,000 worth of cocaine. Around 7 p.m., Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police officer Kendall Brown pulled over a Buick Century whose driver allegedly wasn't wearing a seat belt at Victory Drive and Skidaway Road.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.savannahnow.com/stories/120305/3467309.shtml>

30. IL: \$35,000 in cocaine confiscated; police arrest three suspects (Pantagraph.com, 3 Dec 2005)

FORREST - Officers arrested three people and confiscated about \$35,000 in cocaine and about \$800 in marijuana early Friday in southeastern Livingston County, police said. Carmello J. Lupo, 41, Christina M. Lupo, 18, and Terrance D. Bryant, 22, all of Forrest, were arrested after officers with Task Force 6 -- a multiple-agency, drug-enforcement unit -- executed search warrants about 12:30 a.m. in the 300 block of Orchard Street and the 100 block of West Martin Street in Forrest. The officers found about 350 grams -- or about 13 ounces -- of cocaine, about 112 grams of marijuana and about \$1,100 in cash in the homes, police said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.pantagraph.com/stories/120305/new_20051203023.shtml

31. MI: Stake-out of house led to record cocaine bust (Kalamazoo Gazette, 5 Dec 2005)

The arrests of four men in what authorities say was the largest cocaine bust ever in Kalamazoo County came after police staked out a residence in neighboring Van Buren County, according to an affidavit filed Thursday in U.S. District Court. Two Detroit men with ties to Mexico and two Kalamazoo men appeared in federal court Friday. Their arrests came Wednesday after the Kalamazoo Valley Enforcement Team, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and Van Buren County Sheriff's Office seized more than 15 pounds of cocaine valued at \$748,000, according to police.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/anjo9>

32. PA: Dillsburg man faces cocaine charges (The Sentinel, 2 Dec 2005)

A Dillsburg man was jailed Tuesday, accused of selling \$2,700 worth of cocaine in Cumberland and Dauphin counties, the state attorney general's office says. Michael A. Mirabal, 28, of the first block of Warrington Road, allegedly sold three ounces of cocaine to an undercover agent during the month of September. Authorities say the investigation was launched after they heard Mirabal had a brother in New York who had "fronted him" half a kilogram of cocaine, said to be worth \$50,000.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cumberlink.com/articles/2005/12/02/news/news10.txt>

33. PA: Boy, 2, Has Surprise For Teacher -- Crack Cocaine (NBC10, 2 Dec 2005)

PHILADELPHIA - Police said they have arrested a mother and her roommate after the mother's son came to his daycare center with crack cocaine. Police said they have arrested 22-year-old Tonetta Luke and 26-year-old Shanice Butler, charging them with child endangerment and drug possession. Police arrested the women after Butler's 2-year-old son showed up at his day-care center with 11 packets of crack cocaine in his pockets - - and then handed some to his teacher. "As I understand it, he handed two packets to a staff member and then after being questioned, he produced the nine others from his pocket," said Capt. John Darby, of the Philadelphia police.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nbc10.com/news/5454946/detail.html>

34. RI: Three women accused of smuggling drug money (WPRI, 4 Dec 2005)

SALEM, Mass. A Salem woman who worked as a ticket agent at Logan Airport was among three women arrested yesterday for allegedly evading airport security to transport nearly 200-thousand dollars in illegal drug money to the Dominican Republic. Police say 40-year-old Ana Tejada-Holmes, who worked for American Airlines, was arrested by federal agents shortly after 9 a.m. Tejada-Holmes and the other women who are current American Airlines employees allegedly carried the drug money from Logan to Santo Domingo on five separate trips last year. Federal authorities say the defendants allegedly smuggled the money by "bypassing procedures put in place for national security."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.eyewitnessnewstv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4198315&nav=F2DO>

35. SC: York County drug unit arrests two, seizes cocaine (The Herald , 3 Dec 2005)

York County drug unit officers arrested two brothers and seized more than 100 grams of crack and cocaine Friday night, according to Sheriff's Office reports. During a narcotics investigation, officers stopped a 1995 Toyota Camry for a traffic violation, the reports stated. When they did, 23-year-old Terence Montrez Dunifer of 736 Will Jones Circle in Catawba ran from officers, the reports stated.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.heraldonline.com/local/story/5375551p-4861708c.html>

36. TX: Gregg Officials Seize Cocaine During Stop (Tyler Morning Telegraph, 2 Dec 2005)

About \$117,000 worth of cocaine was uncovered during a traffic stop on Interstate 20 Thursday afternoon in Gregg County. Sheriff's Deputy Tracy Freeman was working in the area of Interstate 20 near Texas Highway 42 when he saw a speeding pickup truck that also failed to signal a lane change, according to a statement from the sheriff's office. During the traffic stop, Freeman smelled marijuana and saw a clear plastic package in the front floorboard. The deputy asked for and received consent to search the vehicle and found about 911 grams of powder cocaine and 129 grams of crack cocaine wrapped inside the cellophane, according to the statement.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?C1503144C>

37. WI: Warrant issued in cocaine case (Daily Citizen, 3 Dec 2005)

JUNEAU - A warrant has been issued for a Beaver Dam man who is being charged with manufacturing and delivering cocaine. Dodge County Circuit Court Judge John Storck revoked bond and issued a nationwide bench warrant for Florencio Gonzalez, 25, after he failed to appear for an in-person status conference on Friday. Gonzalez is facing charges of manufacture/deliver more than 40 grams of cocaine and manufacture/deliver between five and 15 grams of cocaine.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wiscnews.com/bdc/news/index.php?ntid=63786&ntpid=3>

38. USS Samuel B. Roberts Interdicts 1.5 Metric Ton Cocaine Shipment (From USS Samuel B. Roberts Public Affairs, 2 Dec 2005)

ABOARD USS SAMUEL B ROBERTS, At Sea - While patrolling in the central Caribbean Sea Dec. 1, USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58), with an embarked U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET), intercepted a speedboat suspected of carrying illegal contraband. The ship sent a Coast Guard MH-68A Sting Ray helicopter to visually identify the suspect vessel. After identifying bales and fuel drums on the vessel, the LEDET was authorized to interdict the vessel. Found on board and transferred to Samuel B. Roberts were 65 bales of suspected cocaine. The vessel was sunk as a hazard to navigation, due to its lack of towing fixtures and inoperable steering and motors.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=21233

39. \$3m Cocaine in timber - Six Guyanese remanded in Barbados on drug charges (Stabroek News, 4 Dec 2005)

Six Guyanese held in a plot to smuggle cocaine worth over US\$3M into Barbados in a shipment of lumber were arraigned in court yesterday on multiple charges, including possession of drugs with intent to supply and drug trafficking. A report from the Barbados Nation said the four men and two women were remanded to temporary prison at Harrison Point, St Lucy, until December 15, when they appeared at the District A Traffic Court yesterday to answer charges in connection with what is being called the island's largest drug bust. The bust has also raised eyebrows locally following a recent tip off to CANU officials that drugs were hidden in a timber shipment bound for Barbados.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article_general_news?id=37864387

40. U.S., Mexico authorities probe brutal footage (Chicago Tribune, 2 Dec 2005)

MEXICO CITY - U.S. and Mexican authorities are investigating DVD footage broadcast this week that allegedly shows renegade Mexican police officers questioning bound and bruised drug traffickers before one of them is shot in the head. Mexicans have reacted with outrage to the footage, which was first broadcast Thursday after being made earlier this year in the beach resort of Acapulco and then sent mysteriously to a newspaper in Bremerton, Wash. In a scene reminiscent of the tapes made by insurgents in Iraq, the footage shows four men with bound hands answering questions from someone standing over them off-camera. A pistol then emerges from one side and discharges into one hostage's head.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/mld/ledgerenquirer/news/world/13315292.htm>

41. Federal authorities arrest Tijuana police commander (AP, 4 Dec 2005)

TIJUANA, Mexico - Investigators have arrested a Tijuana police commander accused of participating in killings and kidnappings ordered by a feared and powerful drug smuggling cartel based here, federal authorities said Sunday. Heberto Yoc, 30, deputy director of an elite municipal police team assigned to the city's central district, was detained during a traffic stop Thursday in the Playas de Rosarito area. At the time of the arrest, Yoc was driving a Ford Lobo pickup without license plates that had been stolen. Inside, police found guns and a bullet proof vest with the insignia of the Federal Agency of Investigation, the Mexican equivalent of the FBI.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/breaking_news/13327150.htm

42. Mexico: Death threats dog Sinaloa narcs (Arizona Daily Star, 4 Dec 2005)

CULIACÁN, SINALOA - The message arrived as a corona of flowers, surprising the police officers when it was left at their office door. Used for funerals, the bright blue-and-pink wreath was addressed to their commander, but he was still alive. The death threat came from the family of an accused methamphetamine trafficker from Mazatlan. Each officer who'd worked on the case received a similar wreath at home. It still amuses the commander of Sinaloa's Special Forces unit. "So we arrested his brother as a narcotrafficker the next day," said Comandante Apolo, who works undercover and identifies himself only by his code name because of death threats from drug traffickers.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/105386>

43. Britain urged to test cocaine addict vaccine (The Sunday Times, 4 Dec 2005)

THE government wants to harness an anti-addiction vaccine designed to cancel out the high experienced by users of cocaine and other drugs. The medicine, invented by a Cambridge company, was discussed at a Whitehall meeting last month and officials hope UK trials can begin soon. It is one of a new generation of treatments that could prove vital in fighting cocaine, heroin and other illicit drugs whose use is blamed for a £16 billion-a-year crime wave in Britain. The medicines may eventually be used to treat smokers and alcoholics as well. TA-CD, the vaccine now drawing government interest, is already under trial in America, where the National Institute on Drug Abuse is pumping millions of dollars into its development. It is expected to be ready for use in treating cocaine addicts within three years.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1903306,00.html>

44. European Consumption Of Cocaine Has Doubled In 10 Years (AGI, 5 Dec 2005)

Palermo - National Attorney General against mafia, Piero Grasso, in a speech in Palermo on the occasion of the fourth national conference on the problems related to the diffusion of drugs, said: "At European level the assumption of cocaine has nearly doubled over the last ten years. The analysis of data is worrying. The abuse of cocaine passed from 1.5 pct of ten years ago to 2.3 pct of 2003". According to Grasso while the EU governments are debating on the possibility of inserting the crimes that punish the criminal association in the EU legislations or to pass a series of norms that will help supergrasses, the international criminal associations have already organized themselves.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/d7x3u>

45. Ukraine, Russia crack cocaine ring (UPI, 2 Dec 2005)

KIEV, Ukraine - The Ukrainian security service, working with international partners, has broken a major cocaine ring. The Security Service of Ukraine, together with the Federal Police of Argentina, the Intelligence Service of Ukraine, law enforcement agencies of Uruguay and Portugal, Russian Drug Control and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has succeeded in liquidating a major cocaine trafficking channel from Argentina to Ukraine. The international criminal group included Ukrainians, Russians and Columbians in its membership the Eurasian Secret Services Daily Review reported, citing the ForUm.ua.com website. The Ukrainian General Department to Fight Corruption and Organized Crime, working with the Alfa special division, detained three Ukrainians in Boryspil airport -- two organizers of the international drug channel and one drug courier - - who had come from Argentina with 4.4 pounds of cocaine, the report said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20051202-023435-2607r>

46. Guinean cocaine jet seized at Segovia airport (ThinkSpain , 5 Dec 2005)

A major drug trafficking gang has been thwarted by Spanish UDYCO drug squad officers, who arrested ten German and Colombian citizens and seized a jet packed with

cocaine at Segovia airport at the weekend. It seems that the jet, which set off from Guinea, was undertaking a pioneering flight that was intended to open up a new route for introducing drugs into Europe.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thinkspain.com/news-spain/10048>

47. South Africa: Drug Availability Hits All-Time High (IOL, 4 Dec 2005)

Cape Town has become a popular end destination for a bouquet of powerful narcotics including cocaine, heroin and other designer drugs. And it seems with the advent of the festive season, drug smugglers are upping the quantity of drugs smuggled into the city to meet the expected demand from locals and tourists alike. In the last few weeks police have arrested nine people in four separate cocaine busts at Cape Town International Airport. But even though the availability of designer drugs is hitting an all time high in the city, methamphetamine (tik) is still the most widely used drug in Cape Town.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?O2605444C>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

48. FBI Special Ops United Combats Cyber Crime (by Jim Kouri, CPP, 3 Dec 2005)

When the Federal Bureau of Investigation implemented the second phase of their reorganization plan in 2003, phase two emphasized the need for allocating special agents to combating cyber crime. According to a Government Accounting Office study, this reallocation involved reassigning away from drug enforcement duties and into counterterrorism, counterintelligence and cyber crime. Part of the FBI's counterintelligence strategy stresses the ability to gather complaints and reports and create a clearinghouse for local law enforcement officials assigned to white-collar crime investigation and cyber-crime investigation. In an effort to more accurately reflect the wide-ranging nature of online complaints being reported, the FBI and the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) recently announced that the Internet Fraud Complaint Center will now be called the Internet Crime Complaint Center, or "IC3." The IC3, which began in May 2000, is a partnership between the FBI and the NW3C to serve as a vehicle to receive, develop, and refer criminal complaints regarding the rapidly expanding areas of cyber crimes.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.theconservativevoice.com/articles/article.html?id=10456>

TECHNOLOGY

49. Airport to test new passenger screening system based on behavior (AP, 4 Dec 2005)

MINNEAPOLIS - Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport will begin testing next month of a new passenger-screening system that gives greater weight to how people act than to what they're carrying. Airport police said Saturday that a unit trained by former Israeli airport security experts in "behavioral pattern recognition" will begin work in January. The unit will work with the Transportation Security Administration, which

began testing a similar system at the airport last month. The announcement follows one Friday from the TSA that said travelers could resume carrying items such as small scissors and screwdrivers on planes starting Dec. 22.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthsuperior/news/politics/13327205.htm>

50. Fed IDs may get faster, safer (FCW, 2 Dec 2005)

By the end of December, the federal government is expected to pick a new storage standard for fingerprint data on its new Personal Identity Verification (PIV) cards, a Homeland Security Department official said today. The cards are expected to use a mathematical template of fingerprint images of cardholders' two index fingers, instead of compressed images of the prints themselves, said Kevin Crouch, portfolio manager for Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12) implementation at DHS' Joint Office of Interoperable Communications.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article91576-12-02-05-Web>

51. E-tracking, coming to a DMV near you (c|net, by Declan McCullagh, contributed by Rock Forno, 5 Dec 2005)

Trust federal bureaucrats to take a good idea and transform it into a frightening proposal to track Americans wherever they drive. The U.S. Department of Transportation has been handing millions of dollars to state governments for GPS-tracking pilot projects designed to track vehicles wherever they go. So far, Washington state and Oregon have received fat federal checks to figure out how to levy these "mileage-based road user fees." Now electronic tracking and taxing may be coming to a DMV near you. The Office of Transportation Policy Studies, part of the Federal Highway Administration, is about to announce another round of grants totaling some \$11 million. A spokeswoman on Friday said the office is "shooting for the end of the year" for the announcement, and more money is expected for GPS (Global Positioning System) tracking efforts. In principle, the idea of what bureaucrats like to call "value pricing" for cars makes sound economic sense. No policy bans police from automatically sending out speeding tickets based on what the GPS data say.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/con51>

52. CombiMatrix Corp. of Mukilteo is taking the high-tech road to battling flu viruses (HeraldNet, 5 Dec 2005)

MUKILTEO - Sometimes, in the name of science, someone has to sneeze into a test tube. That's what one CombiMatrix Group scientist did in the middle of a flu bout last year. The purpose? To see whether researchers could identify what kind of flu he had. If he had bird flu instead of a more common strain, it would be worth knowing right away because some strains have proved fatal at times. Which is why Mukilteo-based CombiMatrix, owned by Acacia Research Corp., began working last year to perfect a biochip that can quickly identify bird flu and dozens of other strains. David Danley, director of CombiMatrix's homeland security and defense programs, said the immediate risk of a

global bird flu outbreak appears small. That doesn't lessen the need for tools to help prevent a pandemic, however.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://heraldnet.com/stories/05/12/05/100bus_virus001.cfm

RESOURCES

53. Uncensored Documentary on Rampant Crack Cocaine Use in America 'Crackheads Gone Wild' Set for National Release on Tuesday, December 6, Promises to be the Most Controversial Drug Abuse Film in 10 Years (PRNewswire, 5 Dec 2005)

ATLANTA - According to the United States Center For Disease Control and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, Crack Cocaine use in the U.S. is on an unprecedented rise, especially in the nation's urban centers.

To address the growing scourge of this drug on the lives, families and communities affected by its use and the users, a group of Atlanta based filmmakers (XTREEME FILMS, L.L.C.) have produced one of the most controversial uncensored documentaries on Crack Cocaine use in America, "CRACKHEADS GONE WILD" with stunning and graphic depictions of actual users and the lengths they will go to proliferate and sustain their addiction.

Executive Producers Leon Lumsden and Gregory Wings along with the film's Director and Executive Producer Daryl Smith have brought the Crack Cocaine underworld with actual footage taken on the streets of Atlanta, Georgia and inside of an actual Crack Cocaine house.

The 55 minute documentary film while replete with humorous anecdotes is one of the most serious and disturbing assessments of the rampant use of this inexpensive and highly addicting drug.

CRACKHEADS GONE WILD is a new and contemporary version of "Scared Straight" an earlier documentary on juvenile crime and the negative road to prison that youth can expect with continued criminal involvement.

The documentary shows the destructive nature of Crack Cocaine through the eyes of actual users who have experienced the devastation of addiction, and how the users cover the racial, ethnic and socio-economic spectrum of our society.

Because of the graphic and uncensored nature of the documentary, the filmmakers are offering it through its website <http://www.crackheadsgonewild.com> , and through a network of independent outlets located throughout the country.

A censored version suitable for instructional use in educational institutions is being developed for release later this month.

Copies of the documentary CRACKHEADS GONE WILD is available for media distribution, and interviews with the film producers and directors are available by contacting The FMG/Glenn Group at 713-320-7788/713-256-6243 or via email at mrharveyglenn@yahoo.com .

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ajvcd>

EVENTS

54. First Ever Trade Show to Explore Issues of Homeland Security for Networked Industries (PRNewswire, 5 Dec 2005)

PHILADELPHIA - The Homeland Security for Networked Industries (HSNI)

Conference and Expo announced today the lineup for its conference, set to take place from January 9-11, 2006 in the Coronado Springs Resort in Walt Disney World, FL. The conference is the first ever to focus on issues of network security for three interconnecting critical infrastructure industries, Telecom, Transportation and Utilities. A dynamic expo floor will demonstrate the latest technologies, products and solutions available on the market in the area of network security. It will also demonstrate network security companies dedicated to issues and solutions for homeland security. "Our lineup of speakers and companies committed to exhibiting at the show is a powerful 'who's who' list of network security leaders in the United States. It also is a clear symbol of solidarity and commitment to securing our nation's critical networks," said Ofir Shavit, General Manager of the HSNI conference.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/9rmah>

55. Combine Efforts to Prevent, Prepare and Respond to Bioterrorism, 21-22 Feb 2006 (Business Wire, 29 Nov 2005)

PRAGUE, Czech Republic - Experts in Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) warfare will be gathered at the marcus evans defence event, NBC Defence Capabilities, February 21-22, 2006 in Prague, Czech Republic. These experts will be meeting to discuss ways of combating CBRN terrorism from a global perspective. With the ever-present threat of a possible bioterror attack from Al Qaeda and other militant groups and the subsequent anthrax incidents in the US after September 11th, 2001, the global community has been put on high alert. Early detection and rapid reaction is crucial for saving lives and protecting our countries in the event that an attack of this nature occurs. This event will focus on exploring a systems approach to chemical and biological defence; combating weapons of mass destruction; promoting health service support in an NBC environment; protecting the armed forces against the use of CBRN weapons and investigating the chemical/biological armament dynamic within a terrorist organisation.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?J3705244C>

FULL REPORTS

56. Bush Repeats Call for More Secure U.S. Borders (Dept. of State, 3 Dec 2005)

President Bush repeated his determination to secure the U.S. border and stem the tide of illegal immigrants, as well as to offer a temporary worker program.

Speaking December 3 in his weekly radio address, Bush warned that illegal immigration “strains the resources of schools, hospitals, and law enforcement. And it involves smugglers and gangs that bring crime to our neighborhoods.”

The president outlined his three-part plan to secure U.S. borders:

- Promptly returning all illegal immigrants caught at the border,
- Reforming U.S. immigration laws, and
- Increasing the number and effectiveness of border patrol agents through new technology and the construction of physical barriers.

Bush also called for a temporary worker program, which he said would provide neither amnesty nor “create an automatic path to citizenship,” but rather create “a legal channel for willing employers to hire willing workers.”

The president said the United States has been strengthened by generations of immigrants. “In this new century we must continue to welcome legal immigrants and help them learn the customs and values that unite all Americans,” he added.

The radio address echoed remarks made by the president in a November 28 speech in Tucson, Arizona. (See [related article](#).)

An [audio file](#) of the address is available on the White House Web site.

57. U.S. Says Colombian Army Opposing Colombian Terrorists - Defense Department reports on internal conflict in Colombia (by Eric Green, Washington File Staff Writer, 2 Dec 2005)

Washington - The U.S.-trained Colombian army has taken the offensive "for the first time" against narco-traffickers and violent anti-government militias that support the drug traffickers in Colombia's mountainous rural areas, says the U.S. Department of Defense.

The department said in a November 29 report that the Colombian government's "Plan Patriota" is making advances against armed terrorist groups that are accustomed to operating "unmolested" in rural, ungoverned areas of Colombia where drug trafficking has thrived. (See [related article](#).)

Two left-wing guerrilla groups operating in those areas -- the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, and the National Liberation Army -- have been designated by the U.S. State Department as terrorist organizations. Also posing a threat in those regions is a right-wing paramilitary group called the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), which the State Department also has designated as a terrorist organization.

U.S. military support for Colombia consists of about 200 trainers and about 200 other troops providing "information support" in the form of reconnaissance support and leadership and planning guidance, the DOD reported. The U.S. Congress has imposed a limit of 800 U.S. service members in Colombia.

The Defense Department quoted Steve Lucas, a spokesman for the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) in Miami, as saying that no U.S. troops or advisers operate with Colombian operational forces.

"U.S. involvement is limited to training in garrison and planning support to headquarters elements" in Colombia, said Lucas.

The U.S. objective in Colombia is to train Colombian military trainers, so they, in turn, can train the bulk of their country's forces, said Lucas. SOUTHCOM officials report that the Colombian troops are making progress in regaining their country because of the training provided by the United States.

The State Department carefully performs background checks on Colombian units that receive U.S. aid to ensure that those troops have not committed human rights violations.

Lucas said the United States has a moral obligation to help Colombia deal with its internal terrorist groups because America "is the largest market for cocaine, the flow of which is corrupting their society."

The vast majority of the world's cocaine comes from the Andean Ridge countries of Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, according to the Defense Department.

SOUTHCOM says it is in the best interest of the United States to provide training to Colombia's armed forces so that the Colombians can counter internal guerrilla, paramilitary and criminal groups. More stable neighbors improve U.S. security, according to SOUTHCOM.

[Additional information](#) about the report is available on the Defense Department Web site.

For more on U.S. policy, see [Colombia](#).

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

58. U.S., Russia To Enhance Cooperation Against Narco-trafficking (Dept. of State, 5 Dec 2005)

Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns praised counterterrorism cooperation between the United States and Russia December 2 following the 14th meeting of the U.S.-Russian Counterterrorism Working Group in Moscow.

The working group decided to enhance cooperation against narcotics trafficking, according to Burns and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Kislyak, who briefed the press together after the meeting.

The meeting was “excellent,” Burns said. “We’re pleased by the cooperation that our federal services have together on the counterterrorism fight around the world. We are pleased by what we will try to do now to enhance the level of our counternarcotics cooperation.” (See [Response to Terrorism](#).)

Kislyak agreed the meeting was “successful ... because it was specific and practical.”

“We believe that Russia and the United States have very good prospects for cooperation in this field,” said Kislyak.

Burns said the working group had met with Victor Cherkessov, director of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service, about “what the United States and Russia can do, especially . . . in interdicting the flow of narcotics from Afghanistan into the Russian Federation, into other neighboring countries, in transportation security, terrorism finance, in weapons of mass destruction, and in other areas.”

Burns added that the relationship with Russia is very important to the United States “and it mirrors the fact that we are partners of Russia, that we have a wide-ranging relationship, and that the state of this relationship is in very good shape.”

Burns refused to comment on a proposed bill that would require all nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in Russia to re-register with a state commission, saying that “it’s best that any specific comments be left for a private diplomatic exchange.”

The bill, which many NGOs have opposed, faces further action in the Duma and then must be signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin before it becomes law.

Burns added, however, that “we hope very much that both here and elsewhere NGOs can continue to contribute to society.”

U.S. Ambassador to Russia William Burns, also participating in the briefing agreed. “We hope ... that the outcome of the debate that is going on amongst Russians about this new draft legislation will be something that facilitates the role of NGOs, enhances their ability to contribute in Russian society, not complicate it,” he said.

The next formal meeting of the working group is scheduled to take place in Washington during the spring of 2006.

For information on U.S. policy in the region, see [Europe and Eurasia](#).

Following is the State Department transcript:
ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/cknwu>

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