

~~SECRET~~

----- Working Copy -----

Precedence: IMMEDIATE

Date: 06/03/2003

To: Washington Field

Attn: SAC Michael E. Rolince

Rome

SAC Ronald A. Nesbitt

Counterterrorism

ALAT [redacted]

International Operations

Attn: AD Larry A. Mefford

Attn: SC Sandra L. Fowler

From: Counterintelligence

[redacted] Room 4133

Contact: SSA [redacted] or  
Unit Chief [redacted]

Approved By:

[redacted]

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b7C  
b7E

Drafted By:

[redacted] vjz

Case ID #: ~~(S)~~(U) [redacted] (Pending)

Title: ~~(S)~~(U) UNKNOWN SUBJECT(S);  
POSSIBLE PERCEPTION MANAGEMENT  
ACTIVITY DIRECTED AGAINST THE  
U.S. GOVERNMENT;  
DOCUMENTS ALLEGEDLY GIVEN TO  
ITALIAN JOURNALIST DISCLOSING  
GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ EFFORTS  
TO OBTAIN URANIAN FROM NIGER  
FCI - X

Synopsis: (U) This electronic communication (EC) designates  
Washington Field as "Office of Origin" to captioned [redacted]  
[redacted] Captioned matter follows inquiries  
by the House Intelligence Committee and Director to the  
Counterintelligence Division (CD). Investigative objectives and  
strategy are discussed. Washington Field is to give priority  
attention to this matter and keep the CD fully apprized of  
developments. Washington Field is to immediately identify the  
responsible squad and points-of-contact (POCs).

b7E

~~(S)~~(U) ~~Derived From: G-3~~  
~~Declassify On: X1~~

Details: (U) Set forth as background for Washington Field is a  
summary of the CD EC [redacted] predicating  
captioned matter with Legat Rome.

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Case ID : [redacted]  
[redacted]

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(S)

(U) The 05/23/03 issue of The Washington Post carried an article on page A13, entitled: "CIA to Review Iraq Intelligence; Questions of Accuracy, Bias Spur Study." The article stated in part: "The House Intelligence Committee, expressing concerns about the failure to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, asked Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet yesterday 'to reevaluate U.S. intelligence' used by the Bush administration to describe Iraq's proscribed weapons programs and its links to terrorist organizations such as al Qaeda." The article later stated that the CIA review followed criticism that the Defense Department and other parts of the Bush Administration manipulated intelligence to make the case for war in Iraq.

(U) The above allegation has been the topic of news media coverage in the United States during recent months. The issue was recently escalated when the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency publically discredited documentary information that purported the Government of Iraq (GOI) sought uranium for its weapons of mass destruction program from individuals in Niger.

(U) According to media reports, an unnamed individual had provided an Italian journalist with documents that purported the GOI's attempts to obtain the uranium. The source reportedly received 15,000 Euro dollars for the information. Italian authorities (not further identified to the FBI) reportedly were aware of the transaction, and may have provided the material to the American Embassy in Rome.

(U) ~~(S)~~ [Redacted]

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(U) ~~(S)~~ [Redacted]

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(U) ~~(S)~~ Legat has been requested to [redacted]  
[redacted]

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(S) [redacted] Legat is to coordinate its efforts with the  
[redacted] Deputy Chief of Mission  
(DCM).

(U) ~~(S)~~ For the further information of Washington Field,  
on 05/28/03, Assistant Legat (ALAT) advised he is coordinating  
the FBI inquiry with [redacted] (S)

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(U) By email message dated 05/30/03, ALAT advised of  
his meeting with the DCM on 05/29/03. The DCM's response to ALAT  
[redacted]

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(U) ~~(S)~~ For the further information of Washington Field  
by email message dated 05/30/03 [redacted]  
[redacted] (S)

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[redacted] When information  
volunteered, it must immediately be considered with suspicion.

(U) ~~(S)~~ FBI Headquarters believes it necessary to  
interview the above, USDS employee. The interview is critical,  
as it will shape the direction of the FBI investigation. The  
interview will also allow the FBI direct linkage to the actual  
material for analysis, and the parallel construction [redacted] (S)  
[redacted] In this way, the FBI can proceed without commingling  
our work with [redacted] Presently, ALAT is making  
arrangements for the interview. (S)

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(U) ~~(S)~~ For the further information of Rome and Washington  
Field, FBI Headquarters has been coordinating captioned matter

[Redacted]

(S)

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[Redacted]

(S)

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(U) ~~(S)~~

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(S)

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(U) Captioned matter has now been initiated, and FBI Headquarters believes a reasonable basis has been established for further investigation in an attempt to develop or refute the hypothesis. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

(U) Washington Field is [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

(U) [Redacted]

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(U) The POC is SSA [Redacted] at [Redacted]. Thereafter, the POC will be Unit Chief [Redacted] at [Redacted].

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LEAD(s) :

Set Lead 1: (Action)

WASHINGTON FIELD

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

(U) Assume office of origin and promptly advise   of POCs.

Set Lead 2: (Action)

ROME

b7E

AT ROME, ITALY

(U) Continue inquiries as discussed in this EC, and keep  full apprised of developments.