



# Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases

No. 57 Summer 2015

Raising public awareness, scrutiny and accountability of US Visiting Forces and their Agencies in the UK and world-wide

Brief look at local, national and international news:

## Dear friends

Once again....the annual Independence FROM America national demonstration is happening.... **DEFINITELY NOT TO BE MISSED!**



National demonstration at NSA/NRO Menwith HILL near Harrogate HG3 2RF

**Saturday 4th of July 2015 - 4pm to 9pm**

Outside the main entrance to the base



SPEAKERS



SPEAKERS – several  
FOOD BY 1-12 CAFE BRADFORD  
AMAZING LINE UP OF ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS  
PLAY AREA FOR YOUNG CHILDREN  
STALLS BY VARIOUS CAMPAIGNS  
PUBLIC READING OF DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FROM AMERICA  
....and much more!



MENWITH HILL is occupied and controlled by the US authorities and their Agencies. It is secretive, unaccountable and illegal – the largest US intelligence gathering and surveillance base outside the United States.

WHERE IS IT?  
On the A59 Harrogate to Skipton road and nine miles from Harrogate.

Organised by the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases - CAAB

Contact: Linds Percy and Brigid-Mary Oates: CAAB 01423 884076 / 07949897904  
percy@phonecoop.coop also on Facebook and Twitter: @C\_A\_A\_B

It is a great opportunity to come to NSA/NRO Menwith Hill to see, hear and learn about this most secretive and unaccountable US base (and other US bases here and world wide) as to what they are up to! And to listen to some fine speakers, artists and musicians etc etc. The base is generally very quiet these days and not nearly as busy as it was in the 1990s and 2000/2001.



Photographer Unknown

Today the base has a feeling of redundancy. The school closes at the end of the summer term, there has been a reduction of 500 US military and civilian personnel, 66 houses have been demolished and at some stage various buildings are to be bulldozed eg Irskine House (administration block) and also the Ministry of Defence police post at the main gate.

<http://www.harrogateadvertiser.co.uk/news/council/66-homes-to-be-bulldozed-at-menwith-1-6244735>

However last year a planning application was approved for yet another radome. To date construction hasn't yet started. So 'they' are not on their way out yet!

As you are no doubt aware Menwith Hill is the largest intelligence gathering and surveillance North American base outside the US. They operate illegally – see article about the recent Senate vote in this newsletter which curbs the massive data collection by the NSA. So why are the UK government allowing illegal activities to continue....? (see article by Simon Jenkins).

It's impossible to produce a newsletter of 8 pages (due to cost) giving anything but a taste of the huge and complex issues involving 'all things' to do with US hegemony, US military policy and the US military industrial complex. For more information, the CAAB website is a good resource and gives some up to date news, information, videos, articles and links: [www.caab.org.uk](http://www.caab.org.uk). We are always pleased to receive constructive comments or suggestions.

This edition is going to slightly different from previous newsletters. We are concentrating on Edward Snowden (the NSA whistle blower) and the effects he has had in changing the world. At great personal cost he revealed thousands of documents in 2013 showing how the NSA have for years spied on all of us. There have been some interesting and encouraging developments recently concerning the activities of the NSA (all thanks to Edward Snowden).

## HERE IS A SUMMARY BY ALAS YUMAS (2 JUNE 2015) OF WHAT THE NSA HAS BEEN UP TO AND WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SENATE.

- The Senate passed the [USA Freedom Act without any amendments](#), on a vote of 67-32, and sent the bill to Barack Obama to sign into law. The bill will end the mass collection of Americans' phone records by the NSA, restore some expired powers to security agencies, place record storage in private companies' hands, create a public-interest advocate for the secret Fisa court that oversees surveillance programs, and require the court to notify Congress when it reinterprets law.
- The NSA set in motion plans to restart its mass collection of American phone records, in accordance with the six-month "transition" period prescribed in the bill. The powers are scheduled to formally end in December.
- The Senate emphatically rejected three pro-surveillance amendments proposed by majority leader Mitch McConnell, denying his attempts to change the terms of Fisa court and record retention provisions in the bill.
- Privacy and reform activists hailed the bill as a "milestone" achievement, the first reform of surveillance programs in more than a decade. Many also warned however that the bill is "just the beginning", including the ACLU's deputy legal director, who said: "The bill leaves many of the government's most intrusive and overbroad surveillance powers untouched, and it makes only very modest adjustments to disclosure and transparency requirements."
- Senators who voted against the bill described it as a reckless rescission of important national security tools, and said it would "put the country at risk" of a terrorist attack.

Article by Simon Jenkins of the Guardian 3 June 2015

## EDWARD SNOWDEN STARTED A GLOBAL DEBATE SO WHY THE SILENCE IN BRITAIN?

The US Congress passed a Freedom Act this week, partially curbing its power to harvest bulk data on the lives of America's citizens. A congressional tussle has been going on between libertarians and securocrats ever since the Edward Snowden whistleblowing of 2013. That argument, and the act itself, vindicate Snowden's disclosures, whatever their legality.

Meanwhile Britain's government moves relentlessly in the opposite direction. It wants to revive the "snooper's charter" bill, which failed in the last parliament. Among other things, this would give police and secret services more surveillance powers and, David Cameron hopes, ban server encryption that could impede surveillance.

[The NHS sells medical records; HMRC loses files. The surveillance state is chaotic.](#) In addition the government has refused to publish the Sheinwald report on security oversight. This is said to recommend a treaty marrying British and US surveillance regimes, for the sensible reason that electronic data is now a trans-border concept. Since this weakens the case for a British snooper's charter, the Cabinet Office has suppressed the report. Nothing more clearly illustrates the mesmeric hold this body has over British ministers.

For most lay people, this is a zone of total incomprehension. Sceptics of state power oppose more surveillance. Others just shrug and agree with the former foreign secretary William Hague (and Orwell's Big Brother) that "those with nothing to hide have nothing to fear."

No serious democrat could ignore the Snowden revelations. They showed eavesdropping on an industrial scale by bureaucracies operating free of legal or democratic accountability. Nor were they ignored. President Obama set up a commission, which published a 300-page report. Congress held hearings. The director of national intelligence, James Clapper, admitted the substance of Snowden's charges. There were resignations, 30 bills to regulate the National Security Agency and now a statute. The constitution's fourth amendment, defending private property, and papers was clear "that no warrants shall be issued but upon probable cause".

Britain just cannot understand America's commitment to privacy of communication. Parliament's reaction to Snowden was to rant at his "treachery". The intelligence and security committee cringed before Britain's security bosses last year, like novice monks before a college of cardinals. At no point did they challenge the services' scope or methods. There was no discussion of proportionality or value for money. It was deference to state power at its most craven.

The security services clearly need updated powers, but they have made a dreadful job of getting them. Technology has moved on from steaming letters open and tapping phones. The data haystack must be at least accessible to the authorities for a needle to be found.

Yet this is just the start of the debate. Securocrats, in my experience, regard civil liberty as the enemy of their freemasonry. They see no balance between their explicit desire to gather ever more data and vague liberal ideas of personal privacy (except their own). All data validates itself. As a Snowden informant said: "We collect everything, because we can."

The purpose of military intelligence was traditionally to guard the nation against some existential threat. Since the end of the cold war (and probably long before) there has been no such threat to Britain, which is why the national security lobby grasped so eagerly at Tony Blair's "war on terror".

Terrorism does not menace state security, except in a delusional mind. It poses the threat of a crime. Pretending a terrorist act is an act of war is dangerous. It grants every murderer the status he craves, that of a soldier fighting a mighty power. He wants his nail bomb and gun to menace an entire nation. Nor is he alone. Money launderers, drug dealers and child molesters are now cited alongside terrorists in the demonology of state paranoia.

Anecdotal evidence suggests data harvesting makes little contribution to national defence. Even in the category of terrorism, the Obama commission found little evidence that data banks had themselves directly improved national security.

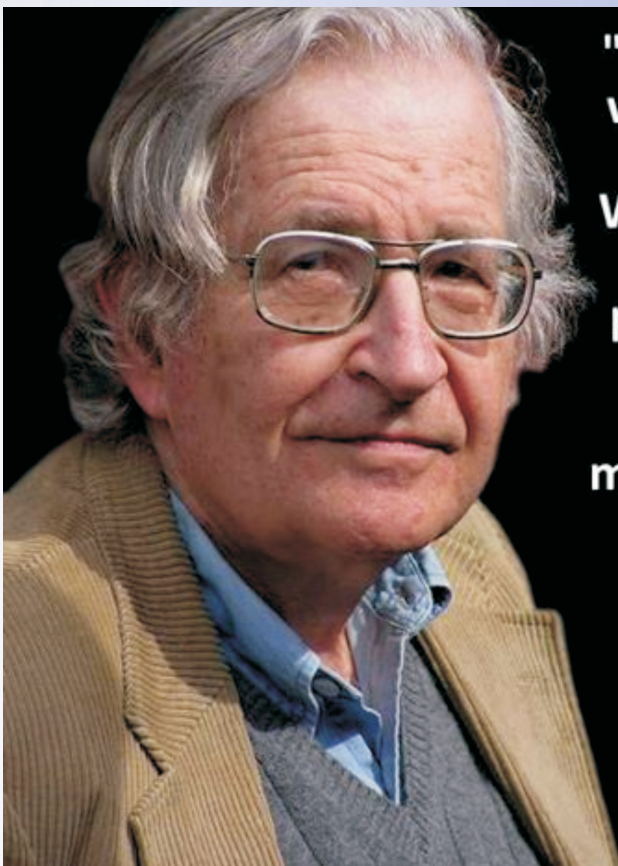
Almost all terrorist outrages, from the Boston marathon bombing to the killing of Lee Rigby, were committed by those known to the police, and therefore within an existing

surveillance regime. The west's armed forces are losing one war after another to AK-47s and roadside bombs. To spend billions trawling emails is like Cardigan's troops fiddling with their braid on the eve of Balaclava.

There must be a way through this other than by parliamentary rows and secret reports. Surveillance is needed if criminals are to be caught; but data already being garnered, authorised or not, by the state and private corporations is both dangerous to citizens and insecure. Someone in government is already bugging defence lawyers and journalists' contacts. The NHS sells medical records to drug firms. HMRC loses files, and the police pass material to the press. As Snowden himself proves, the surveillance state is undisciplined and chaotic.

Just as there is no right to untrammelled freedom, so there is no right to unmonitored state intrusion. I do not want my movements, contacts and conversations daily scanned by an algorithmic mole, and then possibly sold or leaked to a web harvester. I do not want to be on a no-fly list, no reasons given, as now happens in America.

That is why transparent, informed debate, coupled with an international oversight protocol, is so vital. But at root lies a simple constitutional principle: that a warrant to intrude, like a warrant to arrest, must carry just cause independently authorised. Liberty in these matters, said Obama last year, "cannot depend on the good intentions of those in power. It depends on the law." Americans understand that. Britons do not. More fool them.



**"First question is 'As individuals what can we do?' -- the answer is: practically nothing! What could be done and always has been done in history is by people who are organized. The labor movement, civil rights movement, women's movement, anti-war movement, environmental movement. These can do things. And that's one of the reasons why powerful systems are so intent on atomizing people."**

**Noam Chomsky**

## **EDWARD SNOWDEN: NSA REFORM IN THE US IS ONLY THE BEGINNING**

In an exclusive interview from Moscow, Snowden cautions that more needs to be done to curb NSA surveillance two years after his disclosures.

## EDWARD SNOWDEN

"When you monitor everyone, you understand nothing."

The National Security Agency in Fort Meade Maryland USA.



## ALAN RUSBRIDGER, JANINE GIBSON AND EWEN MACASKILL 25 May 2015

Edward Snowden has hailed landmark shifts in Congress and the US courts on NSA surveillance but cautioned that much more needs to be done to restore the balance in favour of privacy.

He also warned this was only the beginning of reform of the [NSA](#), saying there are still many bulk collection programmes which are "even more intrusive", but expressed hope that the Senate would act to curb the NSA, saying retention of the status quo is untenable.

In an hour-long interview with the Guardian in Moscow, the NSA whistleblower said the moves by the federal court and the House of Representatives marked the first time since the 1970s there had been a reduction rather than expansion in the powers of the surveillance agencies.

"In our modern era, that is without precedent," he said.

"The idea that they can lock us out and there will be no change is no longer tenable. Everyone accepts these programmes were not effective, did not keep us safe and, even if they did, represent an unacceptable degradation of our rights."

The interview came in the wake of a US federal appeals court ruling that the NSA programme of bulk collection of phone records revealed by Snowden is illegal.

## BUILDING A BIGGER HAYSTACK OR BLUNTING THE NEEDLES - ARTICLE BY IAN BELL (MANAGER OF CAAB TWITTER) FOR REINST8 20 MAY 2015

The salient function of security agencies should be to protect citizens from harm from internal and external criminal activity, particularly violent acts. Our security services must focus on real threats to our safety. The Charlie Hebdo attackers, Lee Rigby's killers, and the London Bombers were all known to the security services but were not prevented from carrying out their horrendous crimes. The political response to these outrages has been to increase surveillance on us all; building a bigger haystack rather than blunting the needles.

Revelations by Edward Snowden have shown GCHQ and the US National Security Agency (NSA) to be working hand in hand to cooperate in mass surveillance, spying on ordinary citizens and institutions. US bases at Menwith Hill and Croughton are implicated. These bases in the UK are nominally RAF but occupied and controlled by the US military, a legacy of WWII, so I choose to refer to them according to the main agency in occupation. The UK government has stated that operations at US bases on British soil have always been and continue to be, carried out with its knowledge and consent yet there is no mechanism to ensure accountability to the UK parliament.

It has been known since the 1990's that one of the functions of NSA/NRO Menwith Hill is the interception of domestic communications. Although there has been a reduction in military personnel, Menwith Hill continues to expand. USAF Croughton has been named as a base spying on leaders of EU countries. Recent news of a \$317 million upgrade of Croughton indicates expansion of activities at the base, and will make it the largest intel hub outside mainland United States.

Oversight of UK security services is wholly inadequate. Currently, scrutiny of the work of MI5, MI6 and GCHQ is the exclusive preserve of parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC). The all-party Commons home affairs committee concluded regulation of Britain's intelligence agencies is so weak and ineffective that it undermines their credibility and that of parliament. The last government initiated a review by the Royal United Services Institute but this is very narrow in scope, and RUSI is made up almost entirely of former service employees who are not likely to offer objective criticism.

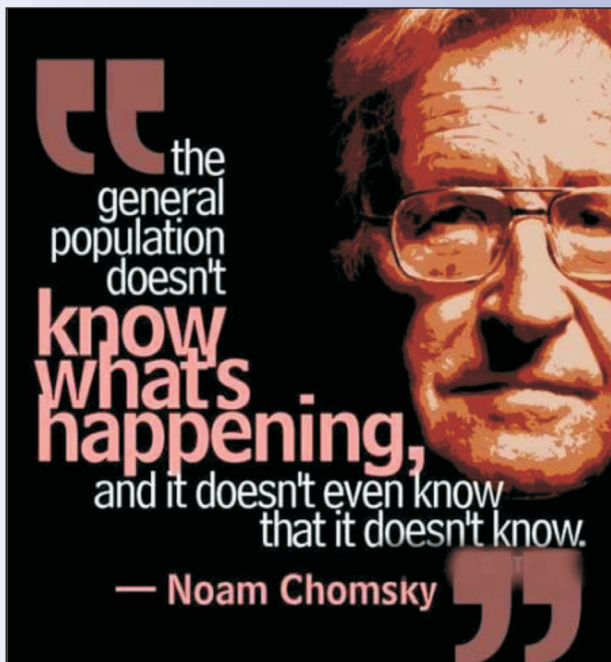
There is an urgent need for a full parliamentary inquiry into the operation of national security services in the UK. It is essential that the ISC is scrapped in favour of a meaningful and credible independent committee which has oversight of the activities of UK security agencies, and can ensure the US visiting forces do not act in ways that are incompatible with British interests which they clearly do at present. There should be a mechanism to ensure reasonable cause to suspect criminal behaviour

before information can be gathered and this should not be to achieve political, economic and cultural advantage, control and domination, possibly working against interests of people in UK. Scrutiny must ensure security services act in a way that is compatible with democracy, and according to the spirit of the law when working together with non-UK agencies. It needs to keep pace with 21st century technology. The role of the private sector should be included since British Telecom has been implicated in the collection and storage of data made available, which a judgment by the European Court of Justice suggests is illegal.

Last year, I started a petition [<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/call-for-a-full-parliamentary-inquiry-into-the-operation-of-national-security-services-in-the-uk>] on this issue for The Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB) [[www.caab.org.uk](http://www.caab.org.uk)]. The petition appeared to be popular on social media but has achieved only 420 signatures. I accept there are those who do not agree with the demand for a parliamentary enquiry but think the real reason for the poor response is fear. Individuals are concerned that affiliating with this issue will cause them to become a target of the surveillance state. This demonstrates the chilling effect of intrusion into our privacy by the agencies that are meant to protect us. It stifles dissent so is a threat to our democracy.

**I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Lindis Percy, Joint Coordinator of CAAB, to this article.**

Ian Bell – Manager of CAAB Twitter account



Read more at <http://www.quoteswave.com/picture-quotes/435677#mPMwbDzYgtkjkOaZ.99>

**REVIEW of two books concerning Edward Snowden** by Christine Dean (Christine has been involved with Menwith Hill since 1980). For 8 years Christine was CAAB Treasurer and now CAAB Fund Raiser and Merchandise Manager).

For any readers who have demonstrated at Menwith Hill (or any other NSA base), or at GCHQ Cheltenham, these books will give you every argument you need to convince your friends and family that all we have claimed about activities at these secret places has been absolutely true. In fact, for years we have probably underestimated the extent of global spying.

The American journalist and former constitutional law and civil rights attorney Glenn Greenwald in 'No Place to Hide' has written a 'compelling, disturbing, powerful, shocking.....' "vigorously executed and important book" (The Observer).

Guardian journalist, Luke Harding, describes 'the inside story of the world's most wanted man in "The Snowden Files".'

Both books leave us in no doubt as to the courage of Edward Snowden who said: "I don't want to live in a world where everything I say, everything I do, everyone I talk to, every expression of creativity or love or friendship is recorded".

If you can read the books before you see "CitizenFour" (Edward Snowden IS CitizenFour), all the better for, together with Laura Poitras' incredible film, they make a total understang of "this most secret abuse of power by the intelligence agencies". Christine Dean

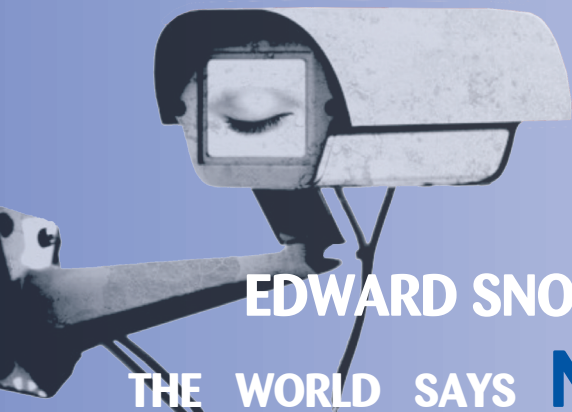
## CAAB is to host a showing of the Oscar awarding winning film CITIZENFOUR

(if the required number of tickets are sold by 21 June) on Wednesday 1 July 2015 at the Picture House BRADFORD (in the National Media Centre).

Tickets can be bought on line at:  
<https://www.ourscreen.com/film-details/172089>  
or phone: **0871 9025747**.

**This showing will only happen if a certain number of tickets are bought by 21 June.**

CAAB has already hosted this film in Leeds and York. Menwith Hill features in this film.



# EDWARD SNOWDEN: THE WORLD SAYS **NO** TO SURVEILLANCE

BY EDWARD J. SNOWDEN

JUNE 4, 2015

MOSCOW – TWO years ago today, three journalists and I worked nervously in a Hong Kong hotel room, waiting to see how the world would react to the revelation that the National Security Agency had been making records of nearly every phone call in the United States. In the days that followed, those journalists and others published documents revealing that democratic governments had been monitoring the private activities of ordinary citizens who had done nothing wrong.

Within days, the United States government responded by bringing charges against me under World War I-era espionage laws. The journalists were advised by lawyers that they risked arrest or subpoena if they returned to the United States. Politicians raced to condemn our efforts as un-American, even treasonous.

Privately, there were moments when I worried that we might have put our privileged lives at risk for nothing – that the public would react with indifference, or practiced cynicism, to the revelations.

Never have I been so grateful to have been so wrong.

Two years on, the difference is profound. In a single month, the N.S.A.'s invasive call-tracking program was declared unlawful by the courts and disowned by Congress. After a White House-appointed oversight board investigation found that this program had not stopped a single terrorist attack, even the president who once defended its propriety and criticized its disclosure has now ordered it terminated.

This is the power of an informed public.

Ending the mass surveillance of private phone calls under the Patriot Act is a historic victory for the rights of every citizen, but it is only the latest product of a change in global awareness. Since 2013, institutions across Europe have ruled similar laws and operations illegal and imposed new restrictions on future activities. The United Nations declared mass surveillance an unambiguous violation of human rights. In Latin America, the efforts of citizens in Brazil led to the Marco Civil, an Internet Bill of Rights. Recognizing the critical role of informed citizens in correcting the excesses of government, the Council of Europe called for new laws to protect whistle-blowers.

Beyond the frontiers of law, progress has come even more quickly. Technologists have worked tirelessly to re-engineer the security of the devices that surround us, along with the language of the Internet itself. Secret

flaws in critical infrastructure that had been exploited by governments to facilitate mass surveillance have been detected and corrected. Basic technical safeguards such as encryption – once considered esoteric and unnecessary – are now enabled by default in the products of pioneering companies like Apple, ensuring that even if your phone is stolen, your private life remains private. Such structural technological changes can ensure access to basic privacies beyond borders, insulating ordinary citizens from the arbitrary passage of anti-privacy laws, such as those now descending upon Russia.

Though we have come a long way, the right to privacy – the foundation of the freedoms enshrined in the United States Bill of Rights – remains under threat. Some of the world's most popular online services have been enlisted as partners in the N.S.A.'s mass surveillance programs, and technology companies are being pressured by governments around the world to work against their customers rather than for them. Billions of cellphone location records are still being intercepted without regard for the guilt or innocence of those affected. We have learned that our government intentionally weakens the fundamental security of the Internet with “back doors” that transform private lives into open books. Metadata revealing the personal associations and interests of ordinary Internet users is still being intercepted and monitored on a scale unprecedented in history: As you read this online, the United States government makes a note.

Spymasters in Australia, Canada and France have exploited recent tragedies to seek intrusive new powers despite evidence such programs would not have prevented attacks. Prime Minister David Cameron of Britain recently mused, “Do we want to allow a means of communication between people which we cannot read?” He soon found his answer, proclaiming that “for too long, we have been a passively tolerant society, saying to our citizens: As long as you obey the law, we will leave you alone.”

At the turning of the millennium, few imagined that citizens of developed democracies would soon be required to defend the concept of an open society against their own leaders.

Yet the balance of power is beginning to shift. We are witnessing the emergence of a post-terror generation, one that rejects a worldview defined by a singular tragedy. For the first time since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, we see the outline of a politics that turns away from reaction and fear in favor of resilience and reason. With each court victory, with every change in the law, we demonstrate facts are more convincing than fear. As a society, we rediscover that the value of a right is not in what it hides, but in what it protects.

Edward J. Snowden, a former Central Intelligence Agency officer and National Security Agency contractor, is a director of the Freedom of the Press Foundation.

**USA spent millions on Bude spy station, says Snowden** - **Western Morning News** Andy Greenwood August 03, 2013.

The United States paid £15.5 million towards the

redevelopment of a secret spy base in Cornwall, according to latest documents exposed by former US intelligence analyst Edward Snowden.

The papers released by Mr Snowden to The Guardian revealed the US National Security Agency (NSA) has paid £100 million to GCHQ over the last three years to access and influence British intelligence gathering.

The total included millions to overhaul its station at GCHQ Bude, near Morwenstow in North Cornwall, which eavesdrops on internet traffic carried by transatlantic cables.

“Securing external NSA funding for Bude has protected (GCHQ’s core) budget,” the papers said.

### **MPs urged to use caution before increasing Government surveillance laws.**

Payments, the newspapers said, were set out in documents which made clear that the Americans expected a return on the investment.

“GCHQ must pull its weight and be seen to pull its weight,” a strategy briefing by the electronic listening post said.

In a 2010 document the Cheltenham-based agency acknowledged that the US had “raised a number of issues with regards to meeting NSA’s minimum expectations” and GCHQ “still remains short of the full NSA ask”.

In the documents GCHQ describes Britain’s surveillance laws and regulatory regime as a “selling point” for the Americans, the newspaper claimed.

Previous leaked documents from Mr Snowden suggest a programme run by GCHQ – titled “Mastering the Internet” – got under way in 2007 and resulted in an experimental research project, run out of the station near Bude, the following year.

It was designed to assess the uses of a so-called “internet buffer” – the interception and filtering of internet traffic coming into and out of the UK. The project is thought to have developed into the current operation codenamed Tempora under which GCHQ is able to tap into cables and store internet and communications data for up to 30 days.

“Interesting” content is said to be stored for three days and metadata, such as information about who an email is from and to, for up to a month.

Many of the transatlantic fibre-optic cables carrying the digital traffic land in Cornwall, including one at Widemouth Bay.

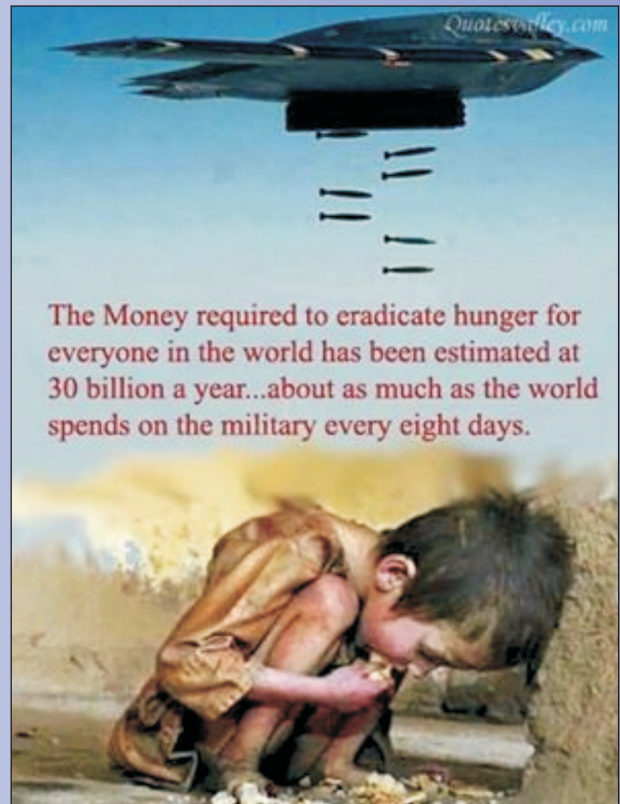
Details of the NSA payments were set out in GCHQ’s annual “investment portfolios”. They showed the NSA gave GCHQ £22.9 million in 2009 rising to £39.9 million the following year. The US government paid another £34.7 million to GCHQ in 2011-12.

A Cabinet Office spokesman told The Guardian: “In a 60-year alliance it is entirely unsurprising that there are joint projects in which resources and expertise are pooled, but the benefits flow in both directions.”

**Because of the General Election we were unable to submit any Parliamentary Questions. Normal service has been resumed and Fabian Hamilton who was reelected as Member of Parliament for Leeds North East has kindly agreed to continue asking PQs on behalf of CAAB.**



# STOP PRESS!



Three B-52s arrived at USAF Fairford (Gloucestershire) on 5 June 2015 followed by two Stealth B-2 bombers – said to be on ‘military exercises’ which will include exercising up to the Balkans. The cost must be phenomenal. This is worrying given the ratchetting up of tension between the US and Russia. Military Times reports (below) is in line with conversations Lindis Percy had with plane spotters when she witnessed and protested against these hideous war fighting machines on 7 June. She was arrested, after walking for up to one of the parked B-52s and after being on the base, unchallenged for over an hour. It was in

board daylight. The base is on 'severe' alert status. Lindis was reported with a view to 'prosecution' under the Serious Crime and Police Act 2005. Jeremy Wright (Attorney General) has six months to decide whether to bring a prosecution or not.

<http://www.militarytimes.com/story/military/2015/06/06/b-52-bombers-deploy-to-europe-for-military-exercises/28598701/>

## THANK YOU SO MUCH TO EVERYONE

who generously contributed to the appeal we made in the last newsletter to enable Brigid-Mary Oates (Joint Coordinator CAAB) to go to Kyoto Japan to represent CAAB at the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space at the end of July this year. We will publish her report after the conference.

**MONEY MATTERS:** There are several ways of supporting CAAB financially (CAAB website) It is now possible to donate to CAAB by using the Paypal account which has been set up to make it much easier to donate money for the work of CAAB.

CAAB Account No: 50095311 Sort Code: 089229 The Cooperative Bank , 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP

**Donate by Post:** Please send a cheque, payable to "CAAB", to

CAAB Honorary Treasurer, Judith Rushby, 31 Blossomgate, Ripon, HG4 2AJ

**Donate Using BACS:** BACS payments are also welcome to our account with the Co-operative Bank:

Sort Code: 089229.

Account Number: 5009531100

### WHO'S WHO AT CAAB?

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