Is Obama, Who Is Inseparable from John Brennan, a British-Saudi Asset?

by Tony Papert

Yesterday, upon the stair, I met a man who wasn't there. He wasn't there again today....

—Hughes Mearns

Feb. 11—How is it that John Brennan alone among top Administration officials has said virtually nothing, and has escaped any serious questioning on the Sept. 11, 2012 attack in Benghazi which killed four Americans including Ambassador Stevens? As Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, that terrorist attack was at the very center of Brennan's responsibility—as he himself emphasized, by travelling to Libya immediately afterwards for secret meetings.

Brennan's predecessor in that job, Frances Townsend, told <u>CNN</u> Sept. 28, 2012, that, "We've seen John Brennan come out after the bin Laden raid, and, frankly, in response to the underwear bomber and all these other terrorist attacks. It's really odd. We've seen—no—we have not seen him present publicly at all, or speak publicly at all [on Benghazi]. And he's really the President's most senior substantive advisor on these sorts of issues.

"Frankly, I don't know what role he has played, but it's a fair question, why isn't he talking publicly about it?..."

Indeed, some have written that Brennan was the one who changed the intelligence community "talking points" given to UN Ambassador Susan Rice on Benghazi—while somehow, none of the other witnesses can remember or reconstruct how it was that they were changed. If other intelligence community officials did cover up for Brennan in this way, it is because, as Obama's once-CIA Director Michael Hayden commented, "John Brennan's the actual national intelligence director," the *capo di tutti capi* of

all the intelligence agency heads, rather than the toothless James Clapper, the nominal director (see Micah Zenko, www.foreignpolicy.com, Sept. 18, 2012).

Similarly, Americans were stunned to find out, at a hearing on Feb. 7, that Obama learned of the Benghazi attack at about 5:00 p.m. on Sept. 11, in a meeting with Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Martin Dempsey, but then never bothered to recontact either of them on that then-ongoing attack! Obama just didn't give a damn! Dempsey added, however, that he himself had remained in contact with White House staff. What staff? Almost certainly Brennan, but neither Dempsey nor Brennan has been asked that question. And if they were in contact, what passed between them?

Is Brennan a British-Saudi Asset?

Despite all the secrecy that surrounds him, there are ample grounds already in the public domain, to consider John Brennan a controlled asset of the Saudi monarchy, and therefore of the British-Saudi empire, which launched the original Sept. 11 attacks of 2001, through their BAE Systems company. Start with two allegations by Michael Scheuer, who was head of the CIA's bin Laden task force from 1996, almost from its inception, until 1999, and associated with it again, from 2001, until he quit in 2004.

Scheuer wrote that one of the unit's first actions was to ask Brennan, then-station chief in Saudi Arabia, to get basic information and documents about bin Laden from the Saudis. When there was no response, the unit sent frequent messages to Brennan asking him to get this data. Brennan finally responded that he would no longer pass these requests to the Saudis because they were annoyed by them.

Scheuer writes that he and his colleagues were actu-



White House/Pete Souza

According to Administration officials, John Brennan (right) serves as "a priest whose blessing has become indispensable to Obama," who meets with Brennan several times a day. The two are shown here in January 2010.

ally never certain that Brennan had ever communicated any of their requests to Saudi intelligence.

Scheuer says that he gave this documentation to the Congressional 9/11 Commission, redacted to protect sources and methods, where it is easily available to Congress and media via the Freedom of Information Act.

Scheuer secondly charged that Brennan quashed a May 1998 plan to kill or capture bin Laden, with the argument that the bin Laden problem should be left to the Saudis. Brennan was forced to admit that this was true, in his public Senate testimony at his confirmation hearing for the post of CIA Director on Feb. 7 (see www.foreignpolicyjournal.com for Feb. 6, 2013).

On Sept. 12, 2011, former Sen. Bob Graham was interviewed by host Dylan Ratigan on MSNBC, concerning the Saudi-supported "support network" for the 9/ll hijackers, which extended from San Diego, Calif., to Sarasota, Fla., with other centers in New Jersey, Virginia, and Arizona. Graham described his efforts to obtain release of the suppressed 28 pages from the Congressional 9/11 report concerning the Saudi role, and Graham said that he had talked to the White House and to Obama's counterterrorism advisor John Brennan, asking him to get the 28 pages released.

To this day, Brennan has failed to do so.

The Yemen File

Before going further, here are a few basics of what is known of Brennan's biography from an official CIA report, and the questionnaire he completed for the Senate Intelligence Committee. A fluent Arabic speaker, Brennan, born in 1955, attended Fordham University, where he spent his junior year abroad, learning Arabic at the American University in Cairo. He joined the CIA in 1980, and did analysis in the Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis in the Directorate of Intelligence, from 1984 to 1989. What the CIA biography omits, but was supplied by another knowledgeable source,

is that during some or all of those five years of analysis, Brennan was not located at Langley, but in Saudi Arabia, where he then served as CIA station chief, 1996-99.

Much of his more recent career has been the subject of the daily press over the week ended Feb. 9. It was Brennan who negotiated with the Saudis for a secret CIA drone base, which has been operating out of Saudi Arabia, from which the drones flew which killed Anwar al-Awlaki in Yemen, along with a second U.S. citizen, and then al-Awlaki's 16-year-old son and a companion.

On Aug. 8, 2012, Brennan conducted a seminar at the Council on Foreign Relations (purportedly) on U.S. policy toward Yemen. In a lengthy discussion, Brennan, who claimed 30 years' experience with Yemen, immediately revealed himself as a master of the entirety of U.S. relations with Yemen—not only the drone killings, but every detail of foreign aid, and the full panoply of relations. Any reader of the transcript of that seminar will realize that Brennan is the "Viceroy" of Yemen, in the same way that Paul Bremer was Viceroy of Iraq during the George W. Bush Administration. But is he Washington's viceroy or somebody else's?

After his opening remarks, the CFR moderator, PBS



Although President Obama learned of the Benghazi attack while it was ongoing, he reportedly showed no interest, failing to ask for updates, or to inquire about the condition of the Americans, including the Ambassador, who were under attack. Shown: the U.S. consulate following the attack.

correspondent Margaret Warner, noted the contradiction that Brennan had said that one of our most important partners in Yemen is Saudi Arabia. But, "to what degree," she asked, "will Saudi Arabia allow the flourishing of a more vibrant, democratic model in Yemen with the kinds of institutions you cite; you know, flourishing political parties, opposition press, or free press, at least?" None of which are allowed in Saudi Arabia, of course.

Brennan appeared somehow to miss the irony, responding, "Saudi Arabia has done more for Yemen than any other country in the world.... So—and whenever I go out to Yemen, I invariably will go to Saudi Arabia, sometimes before as well as after my visits there."

What does this mean?

Although the Obama-Brennan drone-killing program is supposedly secret, it seems clear that the greater part of the slaughter is done in two locations: Yemen and the FATA area of Pakistan. But what is Yemen? It is and has long been an unofficial colony of its neighbor Saudi Arabia, albeit with tremendous opposition among many Yemenis against the Saudis.

Who, then, are the many Yemenis whom Brennan has killed and is killing with his Saudi-based drones? Were they all boarding flights to the U.S. to conduct terror attacks? Of course not. They were in factional battles within Yemen, against Brennan's Saudi bosses and their Yemeni allies, as Micah Zenko has

written on www.foreignpolicy.com.

Symbiosis

Administration officials say that Brennan serves as "a priest whose blessing has indispensable become Obama." The President meets with him several times a day, Brennan popping up from his windowless office in the White House basement. Zenko reported on Sept 11, 2012. He has been a close advisor to Obama since November 2008. and Homeland Security Advisor and Deputy National Security Advisor for Counterterrorism, with the rank of Assistant

to the President, from the first day Obama entered office.

In Daniel Klaidman's 2012 book *Kill or Capture:* The War on Terror and the Soul of the Obama Presidency, he describes the first meeting between Obama and Brennan, a few days after the November 2008 Presidential elections. "Brennan liked what he'd heard from Obama during the campaign.... The two spent an hour together... and quickly established a bond. They talked about how their travels as young men in the Muslim world had helped shape their worldviews.... Terrorism dominated their conversation.... Their views were so complementary that Obama found himself finishing Brennan's sentences."

The most obvious point of their close bonding today is their shared passion for the drone-murder campaign, but within the overall context presented above, Klaidman's account points to much, much more.

Questions for John Brennan On the Benghazi attack:

1. In June 2012, you and President Obama were responsible for the drone assassination of the second in command of core al-Qaeda in Pakistan, Abu Yahya al-Libi, who was also a member of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG), and whose older brother Abd al-Wahab al-Qayid is a founding member of the LIFG and an official in the Libyan Interior Ministry. What

measures did you take to protect Ambassador Stevens against retaliation?

- 2. The book *Benghazi: The Definitive Report*, says that you ran an assassination program with Obama's approval, outside of the authority of the Pentagon or the CIA, and that the attack on Benghazi was a blowback against assassinations carried out under your orders. Besides Abu Yahya al-Libi, were any other al-Qaeda members or leaders assassinated in the Summer of 2012 in Libya or Northern Africa?
- 3. The above-mentioned book also says that operatives of the Delta Force were deployed by Obama, under the cover of being analysts in Libya, but actually provided training in weapons and tactics to the opposition. This contradicts Obama's claim that there were no troops on the ground during the overthrow of Qaddafi. Obama used this claim to justify not having to abide by the War Powers Resolution and the Constitution. To your knowledge were there Delta Force operatives on the ground during the overthrow of Qaddafi?
- 4. As chief of counterterrrorism, what did you do on Sept. 11 after the terrorist attack on our mission in Benghazi had occurred?
- 5. Did you speak to the President on Sept. 11 about the attack?
- 6. Did you see the Aug. 15 memo from Ambassador Stevens in which he said the mission could not survive a sustained coordinated attack, or were you aware of the contents of this memo?
 - 7. If so, did you brief the President on it?
- 8. Did you see the State Department e-mails from Embassy Tripoli, describing the initial attack on the mission as a heavily armed assault by approximately 20 men?
- 9. Did you see the subsequent e-mail identifying Ansar al-Sharia as the group behind the attack?
- 10. What was your role in the decision to have UN Ambassador Susan Rice represent the administation on five national television interview shows on Sunday, Sept. 16, 2012?
- 11. Why did you not say anything publicly about Benghazi, given that it was your area of responsibility?
- 12. What role did you play in preparing Rice for the interviews?
- 13. What role did you play in reviewing and altering the intelligence community talking points provided by the CIA and the DNI?

On the coverup of the original 9-11:

- 14. President Obama, during his 2008 campaign, and in an Oval Office meeting in February 2009 with families of the original Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, promised to declassify the 28-page chapter from the Congressional 9/11 probe. Did President Obama consult with you on his decision to block release of that chapter?
- 15. Did you know the content of the chapter and its identification of Saudi funding for the 9/11 attacks?
- 16. Did you know Omar al-Bayoumi or Osama Basnan, the two Saudi General Intelligence Directorate (GID) officers who facilitated the operations of two West Coast 9/11 hijackers, al-Hazmi and al-Midhar?
- 17. What government position did you hold at the time of the original 9/11 attacks and the period between the attacks and the completion of the 9/11 Commission report?
 - 18. Were you consulted in this process?
- 19. Were you in contact with any officials of the Saudi GID during this period?



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