



FOX SPECIAL REPORT WITH BRIT HUME

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BRIT HUME, FOX ANCHOR: Welcome to Washington. I'm Brit Hume. The Pentagon now says the Taliban has been, in effect, gutted as a fighting force, as the war over Afghanistan has clearly entered a new phase. The bombing over the last 24 hours has been up close and powerful, with lethal weapons not previously used, brought into play.

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EXCERPT
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HUME: All right, Bret, thanks very much.

There's now a disturbing indication that Robert Hanssen, the FBI man accused of spying for the Russians in what officials said at the time of his arrest was a massive security breach, ended up helping Osama bin Laden.

As correspondent Carl Cameron reports, Hanssen sold the Russians an extremely sensitive piece of U.S. technology, and the indications are that they, in turn, sold it to bin Laden's Al Qaeda terrorist network -- Car.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

CARL CAMERON, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT

(voice-over): Fox News has learned that government officials suspect Osama bin Laden may have highly sophisticated U.S. government software, that has been used by several governments, including the United States, for classified intelligence and law enforcement information.

Bin Laden allegedly purchased it from Russian sources, after Russia got it from convicted spy and former FBI agent Robert Hanssen, who was nabbed earlier this year.

Hanssen lived in a quiet Virginia neighborhood outside Washington until his arrest. Sources say to avoid the death penalty, for what some have described as the worst U.S. intelligence breach in decades, he confessed to giving Russia vast amounts of information, including, sources say, a software program developed by the Inslaw company in Washington.

The software program is called Promis. Sources tell Fox that U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies have used and constantly modified Promis software to manage caseloads, track and store classified information, and keep it secure for decades.

But the concern is that bin Laden or Al Qaeda could get on-line and use it to monitor the worldwide criminal investigation and hide themselves, to monitor the worldwide financial investigation and hide their money, or monitor government operations of the governments that use the software.

As a senior agent in the FBI's counterterrorism bureau, sources say Hanssen was tasked with helping allies like Germany and England with the installation and use of their versions of the Promis program. Numerous countries now, however, are tightening their cyber security. Germany stopped using Promis software just last week. Great Britain began closing it down just a few months ago. Canada has actually investigated potential tampering with its Promis programs, and Israel has used it on and off for years, too.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

CAMERON: And the United States has been constantly updating the encryption and coding of its software for a number of months. And after the Hanssen case, the FBI, the Justice Department and various different intelligence operations all say, Brit, that they took a wide array of steps in order to improve the security of the information.

It's interesting to note that shortly after the attacks, when the U.S. crackdown on bin Laden's finances began, bin Laden in Afghanistan granted an interview to a near eastern journalist, and he was talking about the efforts to freeze his money. And he said -- quote -- "Al Qaeda's youths are highly educated and are as aware of the cracks in the financial and the computer systems of the world as they are in the lines in their hands."

HUME: What does that mean?

CAMERON: Well, it means that bin Laden is believed to have access to his money, even with the international effort to freeze it. And as for U.S. intelligence information, all we can get from the U.S. government is that they are no longer using Promis software. But they won't not say exactly when they stopped it, though it's presumed, right after the Hanssen case.

HUME: Well, in order for al Qaeda or Osama bin Laden to do anything with this software, they have to have some sort of an Internet connection, and they have to be able to hack their way into U.S. government and other databases, in order to get contemporary data for the software to be of any value, correct?

CAMERON: So as soon as the U.S. government stopped using Promis, presumably, that made it virtually impenetrable by bin Laden. But the idea that he would be in a cave and not able to log on doesn't necessarily apply, because we know that there are al Qaeda operatives around the world who could log on.

HUME: All right, Carl. Thanks very much.

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***Software Likely in Hands Of Terrorist by Jerry Seper ***
The Washington Times, Published 6/14/01

Accused spy Robert P. Hanssen gave secret U.S. software to his Russian handlers that later went to terrorist Osama bin Laden, allowing him to monitor U.S. efforts to track him down, federal law enforcement officials said. The sophisticated software gives bin Laden access to databases on specific targets of his choosing and the ability to monitor electronic banking transactions, easing money-laundering operations for himself or others, according to the sources. **Believed to be an upgraded version of a program known as "Promis" developed in the 1980s by a Washington firm, the software originally was designed by Inslaw Inc. to give U.S. attorneys the ability to keep tabs on their caseloads. The program has since been heavily modified and revised.** The sources, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, believe Mr. Hanssen, a former FBI agent now awaiting trial on federal espionage charges, delivered upgraded versions of the software to his Russian handlers, who then sold it for \$2 million to Bin Laden, now being sought in the bombing of two U.S. embassies in Africa.

Federal prosecutors have declined comments on the Hanssen case. But the government charged in its complaint against the former FBI agent that he made extensive use of the bureau's computerized case management systems - Field Office Information Management Systems (FOIMS) and Community On-Line Intelligence Systems (COINS) - as part of his espionage activities for his Russian handlers. The government also said Mr. Hanssen gave his handlers a technical manual on the U.S. intelligence community's secure network for online access to intelligence databases. The sources said FOIMS and COINS are believed to be upgraded versions of the Promis software program. Inslaw President William A. Hamilton said he had no specific information on the Hanssen case, but noted that government sources told the firm a modified version of the Promis software had been deployed in the mid 1980s as the "standard on-line database software for the gathering and dissemination of intelligence information by U.S. intelligence agencies, the intelligence components of the U.S. armed forces and U.S. law enforcement agencies." "The technical manual the FBI alleges Hanssen gave to the Soviet Union may, therefore, have been related to the use of Promis as the standard software of the U.S. intelligence community," Mr. Hamilton said, noting that Mr. Hanssen was a "computer savvy FBI agent" who reportedly was instrumental in introducing the FOIMS system into his foreign counterintelligence division.

Inslaw battled the Justice Department for more than a decade over a \$10 million, three-year contract to install the Promis program. A federal court initially ruled the department used "trickery, fraud and deceit" to steal the Promis program, but that ruling later was overturned in the government's favor. The House Judiciary Committee, following a three-year investigation, ruled in 1992 there was "strong evidence" the Justice Department had conspired to steal the Promis program. Washington attorney Plato Cacheris, who represents Mr. Hanssen, was not available yesterday for comment. Mr. Hanssen pleaded not guilty May 30 to federal charges of passing highly classified U.S. secrets to the Russians over a 15-year period. He faces trial tentatively scheduled for Oct 29 and could be sentenced to death if convicted. Arrested by FBI agents Feb. 18 as he tried to leave a package of classified documents at a secret drop-off location in a park near his Vienna, Va., home, he was indicted by a federal grand jury May 16 on charges of selling U.S. intelligence secrets to the Soviet Union and Russia beginning in October 1985. Fourteen of the 21 counts carry the death penalty. The indictment said Mr. Hanssen "betrayed his country for over 15 years and knowingly caused grave injury to the security of the United States." It said he conspired with agents from the Soviet KGB and its successor intelligence agency, the SVR, to deliver to Moscow "information relating to the national defense of the United States."

The 27-year FBI counterintelligence agent is accused of giving his Russian handlers classified information concerning satellites, early-warning systems, means of defense or retaliation against large-scale attacks, communications intelligence and major elements of defense

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strategy. Bin Laden, now believed to be in Afghanistan, is a self-proclaimed international terrorist being sought in the bombing of two U.S embassies in Africa that killed 224 persons, including 12 Americans. The 41-year-old fugitive millionaire was indicted in November by a federal grand jury in New York in the simultaneous explosions Aug. 7 at the U.S embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dares Salaam, Tanzania. U.S authorities believe he directed the attacks as part of a campaign aimed at changing U.S foreign policy by killing U.S civilians and military personnel worldwide. His organization, known as al-Qaeda, is believed to have targeted U.S. embassies and American soldiers stationed in Saudi Arabia and Somalia. The organization also is accused of housing and training terrorists and raising money to support its cause. Copyright 2001 News World Communications, Inc.

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HEADLINE: CANADA LINK 'UNBELIEVABLE';
TORONTO POLICE CHASE DOWN NUMEROUS FBI LEADS ON AL-QAIDA SUSPECTS

BYLINE: TOM GODFREY, SUN MEDIA

DATELINE: TORONTO

BODY:

Toronto police have been working overtime probing dozens of FBI-generated leads following the arrest of a Parkdale refugee claimant who is alleged to be a lieutenant of Osama bin Laden.

Officers said Nabil Al-Marabh left a huge trail of evidence in Toronto, and U.S. police are interested in his ties with the suicide pilots and their accomplices.

"There was a lot of activity taking place," one senior Toronto cop said yesterday.

"It is unbelievable."
U.S. police said Al-Marabh is among their top five suspects of 1,200 detained in the U.S.

Police said they've questioned dozens of bin Laden supporters in the Toronto area since Al-Marabh's arrest in Chicago for his alleged role in the U.S. attacks. A number of suspects have been placed under surveillance and their phones tapped.

An Al-Marabh associate, Hassan Almrei, 27, of Mississauga, has been detained as a threat to national security.

Police said they've checked and cross-referenced hundreds of pages of phone and financial records, searched dozens of licence plates and credit card purchases as part of their hunt for al-Qaida operatives here.

The Toronto investigation, which has taken officers from other duties, has prompted police Chief Julian Fantino to call for the creation of an anti-terrorism task force.

Even police association boss Craig Bromell said there should be a unit to hunt terrorists. "There are a lot of people to chase down," he said.

U.S. police said many of the suspected al-Qaida terrorists were nabbed through the use of a state-of-the-art computer software program called **Promis**.

SOFTWARE AIDED ARRESTS
The system interfaces with any database and can provide information on credit card, banking, pension, tax, criminal and immigration records.

Police can input an alleged terrorist name or credit card and the software will provide details

of the person's movements through purchases or phone records.

In other developments, the U.S. Federal Aviation Authority has given the green light to Air Canada to begin flying to Washington's Dulles airport on Monday with two armed Mounties on each flight.

Officers said the Mounties will remain on the Air Canada jet in Washington. The jet also has to be guarded at Toronto's Pearson airport.

Meanwhile, Peel police have arrested a Toronto man who allegedly assaulted an elderly man and an airline attendant on a Cathay Pacific flight from Hong Kong on Thursday.

Insp. John Byrne said a man started yelling "we will die" and began running towards the cockpit. He was grabbed by the flight crew.

Hai-Phong Ong, 22, of Bloor St. W., has been charged with mischief and two counts of assault.

GRAPHIC: 1. photo by REUTERS; WALKING IN THE FACE OF DEVASTATION; A group of New York City firefighters walk at Ground Zero yesterday in New York. A memorial service planned for Nov. 18 has been cancelled amid rising tensions between the city's administration and firefighters. The number of firefighters allowed to search for bodies at the site was originally cut from 102 to 25, but after protests, the city agreed to allow 50 firefighters on the site. The concession did little to ease tempers.; 2. photo of NABIL AL-MARABH

LOAD-DATE: November 11, 2001