

that you have a disgruntled and relatively junior army analyst with access to an extraordinary amount of data and he is able to do a significant amount of harm. Clearly there was a lack of management and one can also wonder why he had access to such a large amount of data in the first place. So there are many lessons to be learned. And unfortunately, **as a result of something like this we'll see the systems go back to the old days of fairly compartmental data and less information flow between agencies.**

■ *Diplomats all over the world refuse to use the documents that were revealed and there hasn't been any significant change in world affairs. So what was it all about? Was there any revolution that the media is so happy to talk about?*

It's my understanding that **quietly behind the scenes in the diplomatic channels this is being viewed as a relatively significant event.** If you think of it in the context of American diplomats that are stationed around the world, they now have to go back to those meetings knowing that all this very embarrassing information has been published. It becomes very very difficult to do your job. Then if you think about it in context of the human aspect, if you're that foreign service officer in Moscow today or in Oman or in Saudi Arabia or wherever, you're going to think twice about what you put in writing for fear that it potentially could be leaked.

■ *What political problems will the world inherit from the previous decade as we enter into 2011?*

It's going to be interesting to see what happens and unfolds in Afghanistan as we continue to reduce our footprint in the country. I think we have tremendous intelligence gaps on the threat in Sub-Saharan Africa, specifically with Jihadi threat in Sub-Saharan Africa. I think Europe has their hands full with more terror plots or more possible Jihadis than they can physically survey. I would also think that we're going to see a continued effort on the part of grass-roots terrorists to target aviation inside the United States or inbound international flights to the United States. Al-Qaida appears to be fixated on aviation like they have for many many years, so I don't see that threat going away anytime soon. ■

Fred Burton was speaking with Yulia Netesova

MINORITY BLACKMAIL



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Exclusively for Yaroslavl initiative

Terrorism is becoming more subtle and diverse, at the same time as the systems critical for the functioning of human society are becoming more complex and vulnerable. The abundance of new forms of terrorism today is due to the fact that ethnic minorities are growing and becoming more and more radical. Terrorism can be perceived as one form of blackmail on the part of a weak minority against a strong population majority.

This is why the challenge of protecting communications and critical systems to society's functioning against damage by small radical groups, which are trying to push some decision or action in their favour, is likely to become more and more pressing. The State does not foresee any solution to this challenge except for that which is obvious and trite: that is, making terrorists stand trial. I think that we should find other means of achieving this. We should not merely be defending communications systems from terrorists, arresting them and putting them to trial – we also need to adopt a more active stance by penetrating these very subcultures and making sure that radicals do not gain the upper hand within them.

The State possesses a great variety of legal means in terms of the formation of subcultures. For example, TV shows are capable of creating specific subcultures, behavioural stereotypes,

modes of thinking, etc. In addition, there is also the State's administrative resource capacity. Some of the representatives of these cultures can be given access to TV channels and they can be provided with deputy mandates, etc. The state possesses a colossal system comprised of specialists, and it can use its humanitarian experts to analyse the situation with respect to subcultures, for instance, in the following way: 'The subculture of heavy-metal fans seems to be moving in the wrong direction. It should be corrected in this or that way...' **Intellectual superiority is the greatest resource held by the State, which is unfortunately not being used to its full capacity.**

The mass media's stance with respect to terrorism is somewhat ambivalent or even 'trivalent'. On the one hand, the press is interested in reporting on calamities. However, on the other hand, no one wants to be blown to pieces. As citizens, they are all opposed to terrorism. Furthermore, the terrorist community is rather closed. It is more advantageous for the media to see radical Islamists come out of their hidings or, in other words, that there is a certain diversity within the community of radical Islamists, to see some of them abandon their bomb-making practices to participate in TV talk shows, where they would be actively arguing amongst themselves on the screen instead. ■