

Date: Wed, 31 Mar 2010 15:44:27 -0400

To: "Dr. Baruch Fischhoff - Chair, National Academy Committee on Improving Intelligence" <baruch@cmu.edu>

From: Lloyd Etheredge <lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net>

Subject: 121. A Hierarchical Psychodrama Theory of Terrorism: The Neuroscience Paradigm and the Michigan Militia Case

Dear Dr. Fischhoff and Colleagues:

The attached news story concerning the Michigan Militia illustrates a possible application of the new hierarchical psychodrama theory of terrorism that I suggested in earlier messages. (For example, to understand the entrapments and aroused motivation of teenage males in hierarchical psychodramas that have been causal mechanisms in the Intifada and jihadist movements (memo # 3 on September 26, 2009); also, Tea Party Terrorism and earlier domestic cases of political violence (e.g., Oklahoma City) in the US (memo # 115 on March 5, 2010).) <1>

The new neuropsychology paradigm and the hierarchical psychodrama theory can refine, improve, and integrate a wide range of earlier research on terrorism. It helps us to connect the dots more clearly. <2>

The purpose of this memorandum is to convey my urgent belief that developing this new theory of terrorism, and the neurosciences paradigm, will require a strong recommendation by your National Academy study group to the DNI.

I have submitted a recommendation for new investment and rapid development of the neurosciences paradigm to the President's Council of Advisers on Sciences and Technology (PCAST) [a copy was forwarded with memo # 113 and it also is

available at II. A, on the www.policyscience.net Website]. However, in the past, such traditional domestic government funding agencies as NSF have developed unwritten rules and political cautions against lines of research that might be applied domestically to partisan advantage - and especially if right-wing Republicans might become angry.

My personal view is that vigorous and exciting civic engagement and relevance are fine, so long as the social science is first-rate. However since I already have mentioned potential applications of these ideas to Tea Party terrorism and [along a different route, by identifying and removing unrecognized inhibitions to political participation by lower status groups] to progressive politics and the Democratic Party, I want to alert you that there are historical grounds to mistrust the boldness of NSF, if it is selected to provide the leadership and funding.<3>

My purpose is not to refight earlier, Republican-Era battles about rapid, straightforward, and honest-broker testing of Republican ideas v. a neutralized role of universities - for which I was on the losing side. I simply want to request that your National Academy of Sciences study make a strong recommendation to the DNI to develop, as part of the R&D component of his \$75 billion budget, rapid applications of the new neurosciences paradigm to study terrorism and other forms of political behavior for which improved understanding will contribute to national security.

With my best wishes,
Lloyd Etheredge

<1> Reference copies are on www.policyscience.net at II. D.

<2> Hierarchical psychodramas explain a form of forecasting error and misperception that is far beyond the predictions of cognitive psychology models. For example, the confident belief of the Michigan Militia that their strategy would "incite an antigovernment uprising" in America.

<3> I also have discussed some of these issues in the enclosed letter of March 11, 2010 to Dr. Henry Brady, our current President of the American Political Science Association.

March 29, 2010. New York Times

Militia Charged With Plotting to Murder Officers

By NICK BUNKLEY and CHARLIE SAVAGE

CLAYTON, Mich. _ David B. Stone Sr. and his wife, Tina, made no secret about the fact that they were part of a militia, neighbors say. The couple frequently let visitors in military fatigues erect tents in front of their trailer home at the intersection of rural dirt roads, and the sound of gunfire was routine.

"In Michigan, I don't think it's that big of a deal to be in a militia," said Tom McDormett, a neighbor.

He added: "They would practice shooting, but that's not a big deal. People do that all the time out here."

But last Saturday night, Mr. McDormett watched through binoculars as the police raided the Stones' home, tearing off plywood from the base of their two connected single-wide trailers to search under the floors. By Monday, the Stones were in green prison garb in a federal courthouse in Detroit, two of nine defendants facing

sedition and weapons charges in connection with what Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. called an “insidious plan.”

In an indictment against the nine unsealed on Monday, the Justice Department said they were part of a group of apocalyptic Christian militants who were plotting to kill law enforcement officers in hopes of inciting an antigovernment uprising, the latest in a recent surge in right-wing militia activity.

The court filing said the group, which called itself the Hutaree, planned to kill an unidentified law enforcement officer and then bomb the funeral caravan using improvised explosive devices based on designs used against American troops by insurgents in Iraq.

“This is an example of radical and extremist fringe groups which can be found throughout our society,” Andrew Arena, the F.B.I. special agent in charge in Detroit, said in a statement. “The F.B.I. takes such extremist groups seriously, especially those who would target innocent citizens and the law enforcement officers who protect the citizens of the United States.”

The Hutaree — a word Mr. Stone apparently made up to mean Christian warriors — saw the local police as “foot soldiers” for the federal government, which the group viewed as its enemy, along with other participants in what the group’s members deemed to be a “New World Order” working on behalf of the Antichrist, the indictment said.

Eight defendants were arrested over the weekend in raids in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, the Justice Department said. The authorities arrested the Stones’ eldest son, Joshua M. Stone, 21, shortly before 9 p.m. Monday in Pittsford, Mich., about 20 miles west of his family’s home, an F.B.I. spokeswoman, Sandra Berchtold, said.

A grand jury had secretly returned the indictments against the nine last Tuesday.

A law enforcement official said the plot appeared to be unconnected to recent threats against Democratic lawmakers who voted for legislation overhauling the nation’s health care system. According to the indictment, the group — apparently centered in Lenawee County, about 70 miles southwest of Detroit — has been meeting regularly since at least August 2008.

The group's Web site suggested that it was motivated by apocalyptic religious scenarios more than any secular political fears. A rare mention of earthly politics on the site is a page devoted to discussion of efforts to unite Europe, with a suggestion that one high-ranking European official, Javier Solana, might be the Antichrist.

Chip Berlet, a senior analyst at Political Research Associates, a liberal-leaning nonprofit group that tracks far-right networks, said the Hutaree's philosophy was drawn from a populist strand that fuses fear of a conspiracy to create a one-world government with a belief that a war is imminent between Christians and the Antichrist, as described in the Bible's Book of Revelation.

In April 2009, the Department of Homeland Security produced a report warning of a rising threat of right-wing terrorism, citing factors like economic troubles, the election of a black president and perceived threats to United States sovereignty.

Mark Potok, who leads a program that tracks right-wing groups for the Southern Poverty Law Center, said it first took note of the Hutaree last year amid a surge in new "Patriot" movement groups, race-based hate groups, extremist anti-immigrant groups, Christian militants and other variations.

"We're seeing all kinds of radical right-wing groups grow very rapidly, especially in the militia world," Mr. Potok said.

The indictment said the Hutaree, in anticipation of a war against its enemies, had been engaging in "military-style training," from weapons proficiency drills to "close quarter battle drills" and the use of "ambush kill zones." The small group had acquired guns, ammunition, medical supplies, uniforms, communications equipment and "explosives and other components for destructive devices," it said.

After attacking the police, the members planned to retreat to several planned "rally points" and wait for the authorities to come after them. They were preparing fighting positions as well as "trip-wired and command-detonated" bombs, it said.

"It is believed by the Hutaree that this engagement would then serve as a catalyst for a more widespread uprising against the government," the indictment said.

In addition, Mr. Stone had announced "a covert reconnaissance exercise" in April,

during which “anyone who happened upon the exercise who did not acquiesce to Hutaree demands could be killed,” the indictment said.

The United States attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, Barbara McQuade, said the government raided the group this past weekend because that exercise would have “had the potential of placing an unsuspecting member of the public at risk.”

The Hutaree Web site features the motto “Preparing for the end time battles to keep the testimony of Jesus Christ alive” and a video showing rifle-toting men in camouflage running through woods and firing weapons.

“Jesus wanted us to be ready to defend ourselves using the sword and stay alive using equipment,” the Web site says, adding, “The Hutaree will one day see its enemy and meet him on the battlefield if so God wills it.”

By Monday, the Stones’ house stood empty, its front door ajar and two dogs still tied up in the muddy yard, which was littered with dilapidated furniture, a washing machine and tires.

The Stones’ two sons were among those arrested. Joshua, the eldest, left the local school system after the fifth grade in 1999 to be home-schooled, and the younger son, David B. Stone Jr., 19, had never been enrolled, an official said.

Also charged were Joshua J. Clough, 28, of Blissfield, Mich.; Michael D. Meeks, 40, of Manchester, Mich.; Thomas W. Piatek, 46, of Whiting, Ind.; Kristopher T. Sickles, 27, of Sandusky, Ohio; and Jacob Ward, 33, of Huron, Ohio.

They could face a maximum penalty of life in prison if convicted of the most serious charge, attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction.

Nick Bunkley reported from Clayton, Mich., and Charlie Savage from Washington. Mary M. Chapman contributed reporting from Detroit.

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