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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

FEB 22 2018

Case No. F-2016-13538

Segment: DIA-0001

John J. Greenewald, Jr.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

I refer to your request dated September 14, 2016 to the Defense Intelligence Agency, which was referred to the Department of State on September 27, 2016, for the release of certain material under the Freedom of Information Act (Title 5 USC Section 552). Of the relevant documents retrieved in response to your request, one was considered to be of primary interest to the Department of State, and was therefore referred to us for appropriate action.

We have determined that it may be released in full. All released material is enclosed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric F. Stein".

Eric F. Stein, Director
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosure:
As stated.

Print Message(s)

RELEASE IN FULL

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E.O. 12356: N/A

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Homme, Senior Reviewer

BODY

TAGS: KAMR, PROP PREL, AIDS, TBIO, XX, UR
SUBJECT: AIDS DISINFORMATION: RECENT SOVIET MEDIA
PLAY; INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCES

REFS: (A) STATE 162737 (B) STATE 222514 (C) STATE
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1, SUMMARY, THIS CABLE IS INTENDED TO ALERT POSTS TO
RECENT PLAY OF THE AIDS DISINFORMATION CHARGES IN SOVIET
AND OTHER MEDIA (PARAS 2-8), A DISCUSSION OF THE USSR'S

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MANAGEMENT OF THE AIDS THREAT--THE USSR ON AUGUST 25 INTRODUCED WHAT ARE DESCRIBED AS THE WORLD'S STRICTEST ANTI-AIDS LAWS--ALSO IS PROVIDED (PARAS 9-14) AND MAY BE SHARED WITH LOCAL CONTACTS. INFORMATION ON A VARIATION OF THE AIDS DISINFORMATION CHARGES--ALLEGATIONS THAT THE US IS DEVELOPING "RACE"SPECIFIC" BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AND USING THIRD WORLD PEOPLES AS GUINEA PIGS FOR MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS TOO DANGEROUS TO BE CONDUCTED ON AMERICAN CITIZENS--APPEARED IN INDIA RECENTLY AND IS PROVIDED FOR POSTS' BACKGROUND (PARAS 15-19). POSTS HAVE BEEN DOING A GOOD JOB OF REPORTING APPEARANCES OF THE DISINFORMATION AND ARE REQUESTED TO CONTINUE TO DO SO, END SUMMARY.

RECENT SOVIET MEDIA APPEARANCES

2, CHARGES THAT THE US "CREATED" THE AIDS VIRUS CONTINUE TO SURFACE IN SOVIET PRINT AND WIRE SERVICE MEDIA BUT WITH A NEW ANGLE, IN ONE CASE, THE SOVIETS TIE THE FALSE CHARGES IN WITH ALLEGED US BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE ACTIVITIES DATING BACK TWO DECADES, BUT EXPLICITLY DISASSOCIATE EAST GERMAN "PROFESSOR" JACOB SEGALONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE PURVEYORS OF THE FALSE CLAIMS--FROM THIS CONNECTION, IN TWO OTHER CASES, THE REVIVED ALLEGATIONS ARE ACCOMPANIED BY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF US CRITICISM OF THE SOVIET CHARGES, AND CITE THE OPINIONS OF SOVIET SCIENTISTS DISPUTING THE ARTIFICIAL-SYNTHESIS THEORY,

3. THE NEW WAY IN WHICH THE CHARGES ARE BEING PRESENTED REPRESENTS IN PART AN EFFORT TO LEGITIMIZE LONGSTANDING SOVIET CLAIMS OF US BIOLOGICAL WARFARE ACTIVITIES BY PROVIDING DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN AUDIENCES WITH AN OSTENSIBLY "BALANCED" DISCUSSION OF THE ORIGINS OF THE AIDS VIRUS, SOVIET PROPAGANDISTS MAY ALSO BE MAKING A BACK-HANDED ATTEMPT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEIR CLAIMS NOT ONLY ARE REJECTED BY THE USSR'S HEALTH BUREACRACY BUT ALSO CARRY NO WEIGHT IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC/MEDICAL COMMUNITY, WHATEVER THE CASE, THE CONTINUED APPEARANCE OF THE CHARGES IN SOVIET MEDIA UNDERSCORE USSR PERSISTENCE IN PERPETUATING THE DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN IN THE FACE OF INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OF THE DISTORTIONS, AND DESPITE RECENT CPSU POLITBURO APPROVAL OF PLANS TO STEP UP INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION WITH WESTERN EXPERTS TO FIND A CURE FOR THE DISEASE (PARA 10), THE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT THE CHARGES APPEARING IN SOVIET MEDIA ARE UNLIKELY TO GO AWAY ANYTIME SOON,

4, IN JUNE, THE SOVIET FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ENGLISH-LANGUAGE MONTHLY "INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS" (NO, 6, 1987) CARRIED A LENGTHY ARTICLE LINKING ALLEGED US ARMY BACTERIOLOGICAL

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AND CHEMICAL WARFARE EXPERIMENTS CONDUCTED IN 1968 AT THE DUGWAY TESTING GROUND NEAR SKULL VALLEY, UTAH, TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AIDS VIRUS. THE 1968 TESTS IN WHICH A BW AGENT ALLEGEDLY WAS RELEASED IN AEROSOL FORM FROM A US MILITARY AIRCRAFT--KILLED SOME 6 500 SHEEP WITHOUT AFFECTING PEOPLE, CATTLE OR OTHER ANIMALS IN THE SAME AREA, THE ARTICLE--THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH APPEARS BASED ON A BOOK ENTITLED "VECTOR" BY ONE HENRY SUTTON, DESCRIBED AS AN AMERICAN NOVELIST--CLAIMS THAT THE AGENT USED IN THE 1968 SPRAYING WAS VISNA ONE OF THE TWO VIRUSES WHICH JACOB SEGAL SAYS WERE COMBINED AT FT.

DETRICK (THE OTHER WAS HTLV-I) TO "CREATE" THE HUMANIMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS, THE ARTICLE CITES SEGAL, SEALE AND STRECKER AS AMONG THOSE WHO CLAIM US MILITARY COMPLICITY IN CREATING THE AIDS VIRUS' BUT, CURIOUSLY, SAYS THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, THEY HAVE DISCOUNTED THE EVENTS AND FACTS CONNECTED WITH" THE SKULL VALLEY ACCIDENT, (COMMENT: SEALE AND STRECKER ARE BOTH ACTIVE IN ANTI-VIVISECTION ACTIVITY IN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE US, RESPECTIVELY. END COMMENT,)

5. THE JULY EDITION OF THE MONTHLY LENINGRAD JOURNAL "DIALOG" (A LOCAL AGITPROP ORGAN) PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE BY NOVOSTI COMMENTATOR VLADIMIR SADAKOV WHICH REPEATED THE

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BODY

CHARGE THAT AIDS WAS MADE IN A US LABORATORY, SADAKOV.....
ALSO CITES DR, VIKTOR ZHDANOV THE USSR'S TOP AIDS
EXPERT, ON THE NATURAL ORIGINS OF THE DISEASE (ZHDANOV
TOLD "PRAVDA" ON JUNE 29 THAT AIDS FIRST APPEARED IN
GHANA IN 1963), AND NOTES THAT STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
CHARLES REDMAN DENOUNCED THE CLAIMS AS THOSE OF "SOVIET
PROPAGANDA ORGANS." (SADAKOV'S ARTICLE APPEARS TO BE
MAKING THE ROUNDS IN THE REGIONAL SOVIET PRESS; IT
APPEARED JUNE 10 IN THE KIEV "RABOCHAYA GAZETA,") ALSO
IN JULY, A NOVOSTI ITEM BY PROFESSOR PYOTR NIKOLAYEV
ACKNOWLEDGED A DEBATE BETWEEN THOSE WHO CLAIM AIDS IS

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MAN-MADE AND THOSE WHO DECLARE THE VIRUS TO BE OF NATURAL ORIGIN, (NIKOLAYEV IS THE AUTHOR OF A LATE-MARCH 1987 NOVOSTI ITEM, THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH WAS REPEATED ON THE CBS EVENING NEWS, ACCUSING THE US OF CREATING AIDS,) NIKOLAYAEV NEVERTHELESS REPORTS THAT RESEARCHERS DO NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF AIDS HAVING RESULTED FROM A NATURAL VIRUS BEING MANIPULATED OR "IMPROVED UPON," ONE OF THESE IS A VIRUS WHICH CAUSES A SEVERE ANEMIA IN HORSES, THE "CARELESS HANDLING" OF WHICH BY US ARMY SCIENTISTS AT THE DUGWAY TESTING GROUND ALLEGEDLY RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF 50,000 WILD HORSES (NIKOLAYEV PROVIDES NO DATE FOR THIS INCIDENT),

6, THIS MONTH, THE SOVIET DAILY "SOVYETSKAYA ROSSIYA" (AUGUST 7) CARRIED AN ARTICLE BY POLITICAL COMMENTATOR YURIY KORNILOV WHICH CITED THE "THEORETICAL SUBSTANTIATIONS" OF SEGAL, SEALE AND STRECKER TO BACK UP THE CHARGE THAT AIDS WAS MADE IN A US MILITARY LABORATORY, KORNILOV ALSO ADDED A NEW TWIST TO THE STORY: HE CITED AN ARTICLE ALLEGEDLY APPEARING IN THE FRENCH MAGAZINE "SCIENCE EN VIE" (KORNILOV PROVIDED NO DATE) WHICH LINKED A DISEASE THAT "STRIKINGLY RESEMBLES AIDS" TO THE POISONING DEATHS ALLEGEDLY CAUSED BY PLUTONIUM AND TRITIUM LEAKING FROM FOUR BOMBS WHICH DID

NOT EXPLODE IN A JANUARY 21, 1968 CRASH OF A US B-52 NEAR THULE, GREENLAND. (THE EDITOR OF "SCIENCE EN VIE" TOLD US EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT HE COULD NOT RECALL HIS MAGAZINE EVER HAVING PUBLISHED SUCH A STORY,) TASS PICKED UP KORNILOV'S CHARGES AUGUST 8,

7, SIGNIFICANTLY, AN "EDITORIAL OFFICE NOTE" CONCLUDING THE ARTICLE (AND OSTENSIBLY NOT AUTHORED BY KORNILOV) DEFENDED SOVIET PUBLICATION OF ANTI-AMERICAN CHARGES AND SOUGHT TO PROVIDE A RATIONALE FOR THEIR CONTINUED APPEARANCES IN SOVIET MEDIA, THE "NOTE" DECLARED THE CAUSE OF AIDS TO BE "HITHERTO UNCLEAR," BUT SAID THAT A NUMBER OF "FOREIGN SPECIALISTS DO NOT EXCLUDE THE IDEA THAT THE AIDS VIRUS IS THE CREATION OF HUMAN HANDS AND THAT ITS APPEARANCE CAN BE LINKED TO SOME EXTENT WITH SECRET RESEARCH BEING CONDUCTED BY THE UNITED STATES INTO THE CREATION OF NEW TYPES OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS OR WITH THE PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS." THE "NOTE" STATED THAT THE SOVIET PRESS "WAS ONLY INFORMING THE READERS ABOUT THE FOREIGN SPECIALISTS' PROPOSALS AND VERSIONS," AND SAID IT WAS "NATURAL" THAT THESE AND OTHER

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"SUPPOSITIONS" CONCERNING THE ORIGINS OF THE AIDS VIRUS WERE "BECOMING KNOWN TO SOVIET PUBLIC OPINION,"

8, APPEARANCES ELSEWHERE. THE AIDS CHARGES ALSO CONTINUE TO SURFACE AROUND THE WORLD, RECENTLY APPEARING IN CUBA (JUNE 8), KENYA (JUNE 21), SENEGAL (JULY 1), IRAN (JULY 8) MEXICO (JULY 26), GRENADA (AUGUST 1), AND KUWAIT (AUGUST 9), A COMPLETE NOVOSTI REPRINT OF KORNILOV'S ARTICLE SURFACED IN BOLIVIA AUGUST 13 AND IN THE URUGUAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY "LA HORA" AUGUST 21.

SOVIET MANAGEMENT OF THE AIDS THREAT

9 "PRAVDA" (AUGUST 14) RECENTLY REVEALED THAT THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE SPREAD OF AIDS HAVE BECOME THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE SOVIET PARTY, ACCORDING TO THE DAILY THE CPSU POLITBURO MET AUGUST 13 AND APPROVED "SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES,,, FOR THE PREVENTION OF AIDS IN THE USSR AND FOR THE DEEPENING OF INTERNATIONAL INTERACTION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THIS DISEASE,"

10, THE "PRAVDA" ACCOUNT SUGGESTS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE CONFRONTING AIDS ON TWO DISTINCT LEVELS, WHILE PROPAGANDISTS CONTINUE TO BLAME THE US FOR "ENGINEERING" THE VIRUS, THE SOVIET HEALTH BUREACRACY (A) IS UNDERTAKING EXTENSIVE MEDICAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

MEASURES WHICH UNDERSCORE THE KREMLIN'S CONCERN THAT AIDS IS A SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE WITH BROAD SOCIAL AND

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ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS, AND (B) IS SEEKING RESEARCH COLLABORATION WITH FOREIGN EXPERTS TO FIND A CURE FOR THE VIRUS,

11, MOSCOW'S PROPAGANDA EXPLOITATION OF THE AIDS THREAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY A SERIES OF MEASURES--ALL DISCUSSED OPENLY IN SOVIET MEDIA AND APPEARING IN THE AFTERMATH OF A BRIEFING OF CPSU SECRETARIES BY SOVIET MEDICAL EXPERTS IN EARLY FEBRUARY (THE BRIEFING WAS NOT MENTIONED IN THE SOVIET PRESS)--WHICH UNDERSCORE OFFICIAL CONCERN ABOUT THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE AND ITS

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IMPORTATION INTO THE USSR FROM ABROAD;

12. FOR EXAMPLE, THE USSR HEALTH MINISTRY IN LATE FEBRUARY REPORTED STEPPED-UP PRODUCTION OF DISPOSABLE SYRINGES. IN MARCH A TOP SOVIET AIDS EXPERT TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HEALTH KITS WERE BEING PRODUCED AND A "NETWORK" OF AIDS DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORIES DEVELOPED (300 SUCH LABS ARE EXPECTED TO BE OPERATING A YEAR FROM NOW), THE SOVIETS HAVE SET UP AIDS TELEPHONE HOTLINES, AND BLOOD BANKS ARE BEING CHECKED THROUGHOUT THE USSR, WIDESCALE TESTING OF HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS IN MOSCOW--50,000 AS OF JUNE--ALSO HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN (NATIONWIDE, ALMOST ONE MILLION SOVIETS HAVE BEEN TESTED), MEANTIME, BLOOD TESTS ARE BEING GIVEN TO FOREIGN STUDENTS AND OTHERS WISHING TO STUDY IN THE USSR (TASS RECENTLY REPORTED THAT 30 SUCH STUDENTS TESTED HIV-POSITIVE AND HAVE BEEN DEPORTED),

13, RECENTLY, DR, VALENTIN POKROVSKIY, PRESIDENT OF THE USSR ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, TOLD THE SOVIET FOREIGN-LANGUAGE WEEKLY "NEW TIMES" (25, JUNE 29, 1987) THAT "SERIOUS CRITICISM" CAN BE LEVELLED AT THE SOVIET MEDICAL PROFESSION: AIDS RESEARCH HAS NOT BEEN ORGANIZED OFFICIALLY AND "PROPER FACILITIES" FOR CONDUCTING IT DO NOT EXIST' POKROVSKIY CALLED FOR THE JUDICIARY, AS WELL AS THE MILITIA AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS, TO "JOIN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST AIDS," POKROVSKIY TOLD MOSCOW TELEVISION (AUGUST 16) THAT 130 CASES OF HIV-INFECTION HAD BEEN REGISTERED IN THE USSR; 19 OF THOSE INFECTED ARE SOVIET CITIZENS, AND ONLY ONE HAS DEVELOPED AIDS.

14, THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE A COMPLEX SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEM ON THEIR HANDS WAS UNDERSCORED WHEN, ON AUGUST 25, THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET PASSED LEGISLATION PROVIDING A FIVE-YEAR JAIL TERM FOR CARRIERS OF THE AIDS

VIRUS WHO HAVE SEXUAL CONTACT WITH ANOTHER PERSON, EVEN IF THE INFECTION IS NOT PASSED ON, THE LAW, WHICH APPLIES TO SOVIETS AND FOREIGNERS LIVING IN THE USSR, ALSO SUBJECTS THOSE WHO KNOWINGLY TRANSMIT AIDS TO UP TO EIGHT YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND EMPOWERS THE POLICE--UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY--TO APPREHEND SUSPECTED CARRIERS AND FORCE THEM TO BE HOSPITALIZED FOR TESTING (TASS AUGUST 25, 1987), SOVIET MEDIA WARNINGS TO DOMESTIC AUDIENCES TO LIMIT CONTACTS WITH FOREIGNERS ESPECIALLY AMERICANS AND AFRICANS, HAS HELPED

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GENERATE XENOPHOBIC SENTIMENT AND NO DOUBT HELPED PREPARE DOMESTIC PUBLIC OPINION FOR ADOPTION OF THE STRICT LEGISLATION.

INDO-US BILATERAL VACCINE PROJECT LINKED TO AIDS, BW

15. AN INFLAMMATORY AND POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE VARIATION ON THE AIDS/US BIOLOGICAL WARFARE CHARGE HAS SURFACED IN INDIA. WE ARE PROVIDING THE GIST OF THE NEW CHARGES BELOW FOR POSTS' BACKGROUND IN THE EVENT THEY SURFACE LOCALLY,

16, ACCORDING TO AN AUGUST 16 ARTICLE DISTRIBUTED BY THE PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI), A JOINT INDO-US "VACCINE ACTION PROJECT" (VAP) WILL ENABLE THE US TO TEST SEVERAL GENETICALLY-ENGINEERED VACCINES ON INDIAN CITIZENS, AND WILL ALLOW THE US ACCESS TO INDIAN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA, SERA, AND BLOOD SAMPLES,

17, THE VAP ACCORD APPARENTLY HAS GENERATED CONTROVERSY AMONGST INDIAN DOCTORS AND SCIENTISTS, WHO FEAR THAT SUCH DATA WILL PROVIDE AMERICAN SCIENTISTS WITH THE GENETIC MAKEUP, AS WELL AS IMMUNITY AND ANTIBODY PROFILE, OF THE INDIAN POPULATION. THE PTI STORY POINTEDLY NOTES SUCH INFORMATION HAS "POTENTIAL USES (FOR) BIOLOGICAL WARFARE,"

18, THE PTI ITEM REPORTS"-FALSELY THAT NOT A SINGLE CASE OF AIDS HAS BEEN REGISTERED IN INDIA (IN FACT, NINE CASES HAVE BEEN REGISTERED AS OF JULY 29, ACCORDING TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION STATISTICS); PTI ALSO

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FALSELY CLAIMS THAT CERTAIN GENETIC TRAITS INHERENT IN INDIANS PRECLUDE THE LATTER FROM CONTRACTING AIDS, IT STRONGLY IMPLIES THAT THE VAP WILL ALLOW THE US TO TEST AND POSSIBLY DEVELOP GENETICALLY ENGINEERED SUBSTANCES TO WHICH THE INDIAN POPULATION HAS NO IMMUNITY.

19. PTI ASSERTS THAT ONE OF THE PROPOSED VACCINES TO BE TESTED IN INDIAKNOWN AS THE WISTAR VACCINE--WAS

"MANUFACTURED" BY COMBINING PIECES OF GENETIC MATERIALS FROM TWO EXISTING VIRUSES, ONE OF WHICH WAS TESTED

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UNSUCCESSFULLY ON CATTLE IN ARGENTINA LAST YEAR, THIS IS PRECISELY THE WAY IN WHICH SEGAL ET, AL. CLAIM THE US "CREATED" THE AIDS VIRUS: ONE OF VIRUSES SAID TO HAVE BEEN CUT AND SPLICED WAS VISNA, WHICH IS HARMFUL ONLY TO SHEEP, MOREOVER, WISTAR CAN BE FREEZE-DRIED, STORED IN POWDER FORM AND DISPERSED IN THE FORM OF AEROSOL. ACCORDING TO THE SOVIETS, VISNA WAS TESTED UNSUCCESSFULLY IN UTAH IN 1968 VIA AN AEROSOL SPRAY (PARA 4 ABOVE).

20. COMMENT, THE PTI STORY, WHICH APPEARED IN MAJOR INDIAN DAILIES, INCLUDING THE PROSOVIET "PATRIOT " MIXES FACTUAL INFORMATION ON THE VAP WITH INNUENDO, SPECULATION AND DISINFORMATION, IT CLEVERLY EXPLOITS INDIAN SENSITIVITIES BY PLAYING ON A HOST OF PROPAGANDA THEMES, INCLUDING US DEVELOPMENT OF "RACE-SPECIFIC" BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS; CREATION OF THE AIDS VIRUS; AND EXPLOITATION OF THIRD WORLD PEOPLES AS GUINEA PIGS FOR MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS TOO DANGEROUS TO BE CONDUCTED ON AMERICAN CITIZENS, THE PTI STORY IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN DERIVED FROM A MORE BALANCED ARTICLE ON THE VAP PUBLISHED RECENTLY IN "NATURE" MAGAZINE, USAID IS DEVELOPING A FACT SHEET ON THE VAP TO COUNTER THE PTI CLAIMS, WHITEHEAD

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