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# Secret service 'targets' military writer

William Goodwin

A RESEARCHER on intelligence and military issues has been sent a memo showing that he may be under surveillance by the secret services.

Armen Victorian, who writes for the journal *Lobster*, which investigates intelligence matters, discovered the document among papers supplied to him by the American government under the US Freedom of Information Act.

Mr Victorian, 43, who came to England from Iran after the 1987 revolution, has used the Act to access thousands of documents on US and British intelligence work and weapons research. His Nottingham home is packed with papers. He hasn't had time to open them all, he says.

Last year he revealed that Britain had tested LSD on troops in the Golan, after finding references to the tests in US documents. More recently, he has clashed with John Alexander, head of non-lethal weapons at the US Defense Department's Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico and a Nato adviser.

Mr Victorian revealed Alexander's research into weapons designed to injure rather than kill. These include microwave weapons, low-frequency sound waves which induce nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain, a substance which emits intense light to cause blindness, and superacoustic acids to damage military hardware.

Alexander wrote a confidential memorandum to officials who administer the Freedom of Information Act, asking for Mr Victorian's requests for information to be refused. The memo accuses Mr Victorian, who changed his name from Henry Azadehel in 1988, of illegally obtaining Alexander's military records and using a false identity to obtain documents under the Act.

He has convicted felon who has been involved in smuggling. His name has been widely reported in British press. At the time he says he obtained a false identity to obtain documents under the Act.

*The Observer - Jan 4, 1995*

takes it directly into the terrain of fellow fortnightly controlled circulation titles *Conscience Store*, published by William Reed, and *Asian Business*, published by Asian Business Publications.

little bit more upfront about its audience, having long targeted other retailers as the number of independent grocers' de-riser.

Mimi Theba, editor of *Asian Business*, said: "Much of the organisation of the relaunched magazine has been influenced by *Asian Business* and that's quite flattering

They've always been the leader in the field but we're chasing hard.

She added: "From our point of view it's just stimulating to have so many people creatively working in the field. It's not frightening in any way - it just makes us work that bit harder."

Editor Andrew Stuart said the move reflected

## Government monitoring of journalists questioned

A CONFIDENTIAL memo obtained by a researcher using the US Freedom of Information Act has raised questions about the covert monitoring of journalists who investigate the British and American governments, writes Bill Goodwin.

The memo was discovered by Armen Victorian, who writes about intelligence matters and military research for the intelligence journal *Lobster*.

Written by John Alexander, head of non-lethal weapons at the US defence department's Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, the confidential memo suggests that Victorian may be the victim of a harassment campaign by the secret services.

Victorian, who exposed Britain's testing of LSD on troops and US research into new weapons technologies in the pages of *Lobster*, is known to Alexander from his work on US research into weapons designed to injure rather than kill.

The memo urges Freedom of Information officials in the USA to blacklist Victorian from any further requests under the Act, and accuses Victorian, who changed his name from Henry

Azadehel in 1988, of misrepresenting himself to obtain information.

Alexander wrote: "I have discussed these matters with members of the CIA and the NSA [National Security Agency]. I considered going to the State Department and having them ask the British government to inter-ene... I have learned that the CIA has asked both British intelligence and the police to assist in resolving problems with Azadehel."

Victorian has since complained of harassment by the British security services to the British Security Service Tribunal. He claims that his home has been broken into eight times since 1989 and that important papers have been stolen from his office. He shows visitors a collection of letters from the Royal Mail apologising for packages which have gone missing. He says that his car has been followed and he believes his clutch cable was deliberately cut on one occasion.

Robin Ramsay, editor of *Lobster*, said: "Armen is being set up and harassed in a very obvious and crude way. He has done remarkable things using the American Freedom of Information system. It does not surprise me that they want to shut him down."



NOTTINGHAMS

Your Ref.

Our Ref.

26th August 1994

Your Crime Reference: RB 07901/4  
Your Reporting Officer: Pc 564 Smedley

Dear Mr Victorian,

I was sorry to hear that your home was the subject of a b  
I too know what it feels like to be the victim of crime and not too upsetting for you.

RADFORD 1  
RADFORD 1  
RADFORD  
NOTTINGH  
NG7 5GX

TEL. NO. 06

Mr. Victorian, A.J. who came to England from Iran after the 1987 revolution, has used the Act to obtain thousands of documents on and weapons research. His Nottingham home is packed with thousands of papers, which he has open them all, he says.

Last year he revealed that Britain had tested LSD on troops in the Falklands after finding references to the tests in US documents. More recently, he has clashed with John Alexander, head of non-lethal weapons at the US Defense Department's Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico and a Nato adviser.

Mr Victorian revealed Alexander's research into weapons designed to injure rather than kill. These include microwave weapons, low-frequency sound waves, carbon-fibre launchers, pain, vomiting and abdominal pain, (rubidium) which emit intense light to cause blindness, and superacoustic acids to damage military hardware.

Alexander wrote a confidential memorandum to officials who administer the Freedom of Information Act, asking for Mr Victorian's requests for information to be refused. The memo accuses Mr Victorian, who changed his name from Henry Asadabadi in 1988, of illegally obtaining Alexander's military records and documents under the Act.

He has convicted felon who has been involved in smuggling. His exploits have been widely covered in the British press. Alexander wrote to Mr Victorian.

Mr Victorian says he obtained Alexander's records legally under the Act and that the smuggling conviction concerned nothing more sinister than importing or selling an Avia observation plane.

Mr Victorian, Director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information, said the memo was extremely worrying, particularly when you look at the implications of British intelligence and police involvement. It will send a signal that journalists and researchers are being made to doubt in this area their freedom of access to information which are quite different from investigating other types of studies.

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Editor Andrew Stuart  
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## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Your Ref.

Our Ref.

26th August 1994

Your Crime Reference: RB 07901/4  
Your Reporting Officer: Pc 564 Smedley

Dear Mr Victorian,

I was sorry to hear that your home was the subject of a burglary on 31st July. I too know what it feels like to be the victim of crime and I hope the experience was not too upsetting for you.

RADFORD RC  
RADFORD RC  
RADFORD  
NOTTINGHAM  
NG7 5GX  
TEL. NO. 0602

no valuable items  
were stolen except  
computer disks and  
documents, and research  
papers, in each  
breaking entry.

AV