

'True Confessions': Bin Laden Goes To Hollywood

by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

No sooner had Osama bin Laden's latest video been broadcast on international television, than the word went out: "That proves it: Bin Laden did it!" After President George Bush expressed his certainty, German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder rushed to reiterate his "unlimited solidarity" by proclaiming the tape provided the "ultimate proof" of bin Laden's responsibility for the Sept. 11 attacks.

U.S. 2004 Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche's immediate response to the tape's release was short and to the point: The whole thing is crap. One does not need to argue the fine points of inconsistencies in the tape, to come to this determination. LaRouche had already given the ultimate proof that neither bin Laden nor other such terrorist operatives were the masterminds, on Sept. 11 itself: LaRouche stated that the operation could not have been planned and carried out except with the participation of high-ranking, U.S. rogue elements in the military and intelligence apparatus. Nothing has emerged to change this determination, and no amount of video footage of bearded men talking about airplanes, can change it.

LaRouche's analysis has become hegemonic internationally; virtually no one in high political office or in intelligence circles, believes the bin-Laden-did-it story. That is why the video was released: as a desperate attempt to silence the growing number of voices protesting against the official line.

'A Fake Would Be Easy To Make'

The best commentary on the glaring inconsistencies, came in the Dec. 19 *Washington Times*, which reported on the acknowledgment, by an unnamed U.S. official, that the video mentioned nothing that was not already known, from CNN or other mass media. In fact, bin Laden got some items wrong in the video. The official commented: "The guy is . . . evil . . . so the fact that he's lying and making up details to fill in gaps in his knowledge shouldn't surprise anyone." In sum, said the official, "He was not fully informed about his own operations."

The video itself is ludicrous. As experts have testified, it could very well be a fake. In an article in the Dec. 15 London *Guardian*, Steven Morris pulled together the relevant expert opinion. In the article, entitled, "U.S. Urged To Detail Origin Of Tape," Morris wrote that doubts are growing over the authenticity of the video, and reported that special-effects



The idea that the bin Laden video proves anything, is a fraud on more than one level; he was apparently "not familiar with his own operations," as one official admitted.

experts say that a "fake would be relatively easy to make." On this basis, the U.S. government is coming under increasing pressure to provide details about the background to this "confession," Morris reported.

For many, the official U.S. story of how the video was found in a house in Jalalabad, eastern Afghanistan; then reviewed in Washington; then processed and released, "is too convenient," he writes. There are charges circulating, that the "bin Laden" in the video is a "look-alike," and/or that "images of him had been manipulated." Further, many find it surprising, that "a man with the ability to organize the attacks on America would be naive enough to confess on tape."

Henry Hingson, a former president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in the United States, is also quoted: "In this day and age of digital wizardry, many things can be done to alter its veracity."

Morris reports: "Sean Broughton, director of the London-based production company Smoke and Mirrors and one of Britain's leading experts on visual effects, said it would be relatively easy for a skilled professional to fake a video of bin Laden.

"The first step would be to transfer images shot on videotape on to film tape. Distortion or 'noise' and graininess would be removed. A 'morphing package' would then be used to manipulate the image on a computer screen.

"Using such a package it is possible to alter the subject's mouth and expressions to fit in with whatever soundtrack is desired. The final step is to put the 'noise' and

graininess back on and transfer the doctored images on to videotape.”

The *Guardian* reports that Smoke and Mirrors recently issued an ad for a U.S. insurance company, in which “the technique was used to place Bill Clinton’s head on an actor’s body for comic effect.”

Broughton said that it would not be so hard to fake the video, but it would be more difficult to fool top experts: “There are perhaps 20 people in America who would be good enough to fool everybody. To find someone that good and make sure they kept quiet would probably be pretty difficult.”

Finally, the demand cited by the article, that the United States release more details about the tape, is raised: “Bob Crabtree, editor of the magazine *Computer Video*, said it was impossible to judge whether the video was a fake without more details of its source. ‘The U.S. seems simply to have asked the world to trust them that it is genuine.’ ”

Confessions ‘Serve A Precise Logic’

In addition to the expert opinion which the *Guardian* cites, *Réseau Voltaire*, an intelligence newsletter produced in France, also raised questions about the video. *Réseau Voltaire* was the first publication, after LaRouche’s Sept. 11 statements, to outline the theory of an attempted coup d’état in the United States. Following the issuance of the new video, *Réseau Voltaire* wrote in its “Information Note, Number 240-241,” that it was a cover-up. *Réseau Voltaire*’s editorial, “The Bin Laden Alibi,” notes various inconsistencies in the tape, and argues that the “confessions of bin Laden serve a precise logic: Stop the pursuit of an investigation, dispense with the search for proof, and supply an alibi to his accomplices, by attributing to him the sole responsibility.”

Among the inconsistencies: The religious strictures of the “Taliban and Wahabites forbid the use of films for entertainment,” and would not allow filming “a friendly meeting of this nature.” Bin Laden and associates had heretofore explicitly denied any responsibility for Sept. 11; were he to change his mind, he would have “orchestrated his claim to responsibility and assumed his role as the evil one, for us, and the hero, for others.” Instead, he let himself be filmed making confessions, from which he gains no benefit. *Réseau Voltaire* comments: “The scene reminds one of an American comic strip, where the bad guy brags about his crimes, punctuating his statements with sardonic laughter.” A further inconsistency is that individuals in the film make no mention of the “inside crimes,” in which, according to the Sept. 27 issue of *Réseau Voltaire*, the assailants had called the U.S. Secret Service, and used the authentication codes for Air Force One and the White House.

The newsletter continues, “More than ever, the links that connect Osama bin Laden to one faction of the U.S. Chiefs of Staff must be clarified.” *Réseau Voltaire* summarizes the

official links with bin Laden in the anti-Soviet campaign, which then became unofficial in the 1990s. *Réseau Voltaire* says that bin Laden was “in a coalition with the extremist fringe of the U.S. military apparatus and joined their fight against the Clinton Administration.”

‘No Proof’

Réseau Voltaire supplies a useful chronology of events since Sept. 11, regarding bin Laden’s supposed innocence or guilt, documenting how bin Laden and his spokesmen consistently denied having anything to do with it, until now. Other statements, from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and French President Jacques Chirac, on Sept. 19, showed their insistence that proof be supplied. What was later presented as “proof,” were: British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s “report,” of Oct. 4; Pakistani Foreign Minister Imran Khan’s declaration, the same day, that “proof” had been given his government; U.S. Ambassador to the UN John Negroponte’s assertions on Oct. 7 that the U.S. government had “clear and indisputable information” (which, however, was never presented to the UN Security Council); and the London *Daily Telegraph*’s Nov. 10 story about a new bin Laden video showing his responsibility (which was never made public). Now, lo and behold, we have the new videotape.

Réseau Voltaire concludes: “Contrary to the assertions” of U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, who had claimed that the videotape confessions confirmed bin Laden’s guilt, “they do not invalidate the existence of accomplices in the American military apparatus.”

Another journalistic intervention, also from someone close to intelligence circles, was published in the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* on Dec. 14. “Osama proves to be the manipulator who is manipulated,” states a front-page editorial by Mideast specialist Guido Olimpio. Olimpio writes: “Yet, [bin Laden] does not reveal, as a serial killer would do, the unknown detail, one element of the great conspiracy which he has not read in the press or heard on the radio. Osama proves to be the manipulator who can be manipulated.” The video, “provided it is authentic,” Olimpio writes, “does not clear the field of the many doubts of the past months. . . . His reconstruction of the attack is not convincing.” Everything said on the tape, “has been written again and again since the massacre. Bin Laden seems to follow a draft. . . . But if he goes into such detail, why does he not add something unknown? One name, a particular of the operation, to demonstrate that he knows that which the CIA is looking for.”

What does the video prove? Only the extent of the deception under way. One should seriously consider the story of the famous “Hitler diaries,” which were published and grabbed up worldwide as the true, inside story. Leading historians in Britain and elsewhere, put their reputations on the line, swearing the diaries were authentic . . . until they were proven to be a total forgery.