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1278,083
ready paid to Ministers.

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 obtain a hoard of documents on US and British intelligence work and weapons research. His Nottingham home is packed with papers. "I haven't had time to open them all," he says.

Last year he revealed that Britain had tested LSD on troops in the Sixties, 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, vibrations which emit intense light to cause blindness, and supersonic 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 Azadadel in 1988, of illegally obtaining Alexander's military records and using a false identity to obtain documents under the Act.

"He is a convicted felon who has been involved in smuggling. His exploits have been widely covered in the British press," Alexander wrote.

Mr Victorian says he obtained Alexander's records legally under

...is directly into the ... of fellow journalists ... circulation ... published by ... by Asian Business Publications ... Kieron Boyce of Centre ... RBP title was now just being

... about its audience, having long targeted other retailers as the number of independent grocers ... M. J. Theobald, editor of *Asian Business*, said: "Much of the organisation of the re-launched 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 him. 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

Azadadel 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 interfere... I have learned that the CIA has asked both British intelligence and the police to assist in resolving problems with Azadadel."

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."



NOTTINGHAM

RADFORD 1
RADFORD 1
NOTTINGH
NG7 5GX

26th August 1994
TEL. NO. 06

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.

the Observer - Jan. 4, 1995

...supposedly, 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
obtain hundreds of documents on
the British intelligence work
and weapons research. His Not-
tingham home is packed with
papers. Victorian had time to
open them all, he says.
Last year he revealed that Brit-
ish had tested LSD on troops in
the Suez Canal after finding refer-
ences to the tests in US docu-
ments. 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 Alexan-
der's research into weapons de-
signed to injure rather than kill.
This centre includes microwave
weapons, low-frequency sound
waves, high-frequency plasma,
acoustic and 'subsonic' pain,
'cryogenic' which emit intense
light to cause blindness, and
superheated acids to damage mil-
itary hardware.
Alexander wrote a confidential
memorandum to officials who
administer the Freedom of Infor-
mation Act, asking for Mr Vic-
torian's requests for information
to be refused. The memo accuses
Mr Victorian, who changed his
name from Henry Alexander in
1988, of illegally obtaining Alex-
ander's military records and
using a false identity to obtain
documents under the Act.
He is a convicted felon who
has been involved in smuggling.
His exploits have been widely
covered in the British press. Al-
though he wrote for
Mr Victorian says he obtained
Alexander's records legally under
the Act and that the smuggling
conviction concerned nothing
more sinister than importing or-
chids, an activity which too
often results in prosecution.
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 powerless to do in this area
since their records are likely to
have 'exemptions' which are
quite different from investigating
other types of studies.
Mr Victorian has since com-
plained to being harassed by the
British intelligence services in
the past.

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...added: "From our
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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Your Ref.

Our Ref.

26th August 1994

RADFORD RD
RADFORD RD
RADFORD
NOTTINGHAM
NG7 5GX

TEL. NO. 0602

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.

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

AV