

## 237 BA

<b>bncdoc.id</b>	AN0
<b>bncdoc.author</b>	Rusbridger, James
<b>bncdoc.year</b>	1991
<b>bncdoc.title</b>	The intelligence game.
<b>bncdoc.info</b>	The intelligence game. Sample containing about 36678 words from a book (domain: world affairs)
<b>Text availability</b>	Worldwide rights cleared
<b>Publication date</b>	1985-1993
<b>Text type</b>	Written books and periodicals
<b>David Lee's classification</b>	W_non_ac_polit_law_edu

<237/c>	was well enough to sit the entrance examination to France's elite School of War where he won a place in March 1988. Like the Crabb affair, this fiasco teaches quite a few lessons. First, the operation was pointless because the destruction of the ship did not affect Greenpeace's continued opposition to the tests. Second, it was badly planned and not enough thought was given to how the team would make their escape from a remote island like New Zealand. Third, it would have been better to use freelancers whose connection with the DGSE could have been denied, whereas both Mafart and Prieur made telephone calls to DGSE numbers in France when first arrested. And fourth, having been caught out it would have been wiser to brazen it out immediately, as do the Israelis, rather than go through the tedium of Tricot's inquiry. Although the project was a disaster, costing France £10 million, and counter-productive in giving Greenpeace much-needed publicity about France's nuclear tests, it at least gave the DGSE some confidence that if in the future it accepted another Henry II-type command it would have the backing of its politicians. But not every intelligence agency is as fortunate as was the DGSE. In America all presidents are acutely afflicted by the Henry II syndrome because so much American foreign policy is controlled by their intelligence organisations. As a result, many actions that presidents allow to happen are covert and frequently illegal, usually concealed under a cover of wanting to help another country defeat Communism. Even President Jimmy Carter, who came to office in a house-cleansing operation after the shambles of Richard Nixon's resignation, indulged in a variety of covert operations around the world, including the supply of weapons by the CIA from America and other sources to Afghan rebel forces fighting against the Russians. By the time President Reagan came to office on 20 January 1981 he had plenty of reasons for wishing to emulate Henry II. Carter's presidency had ended disastrously. In November 1979 the Iranians had taken over the American Embassy in Teheran and held the staff hostage for 444 days, only releasing them 30 minutes after Carter had left office. During the long drawn out hostage crisis the American people had watched impotently, wondering how it was that a nation with the supposed military capability to wipe Russia off the map at the push of a button could do nothing. Then in the spring of 1980 came the disaster of the rescue mission, with agonising pictures of wrecked helicopters and charred bodies across the pages of every newspaper and on every television channel. One of the first things Reagan did upon becoming president was to name Iran as an enemy of America and to ensure that
 <p>Key:  <a href="#">Footprint</a>  <a href="#">ConEn1</a>  <a href="#">Footprint</a>  <a href="#">ConEn2</a>  <a href="#">Footprint</a>  <a href="#">ConEn3</a></p>	<p><b>no trade of any kind</b></p> <p>went on between the two countries, either directly or indirectly, imposing draconian penalties for anyone caught <b>doing so</b>. On the face of it such legislation seemed unnecessary; after all, who in America would want to <b>trade with a country like Iran</b>? Although Reagan's knowledge of foreign affairs was non-existent, to the point where if he was not prompted he often had no idea which country he was talking about, he needed little convincing by the American intelligence agencies that</p>

now was the time for America to start waging a secret war against its enemies. To Reagan there were only three sorts of enemies: Communists, Libyans and Iranians. This made things much simpler for his advisers because they knew exactly the sort of information Reagan wanted to hear. Within three months of taking office he had authorised secret funding for moderate Christian Democrats and military officers in El Salvador. By the end of 1981 Reagan had authorised the covert supply of weapons and other military equipment through the CIA to help the Contras overthrow the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. In theory this action was to stop arms shipments from the Sandinistas being sent to El Salvador to support the left wing rebels there. In practice it was a straightforward piece of CIA terrorism designed to overthrow by force a legitimately elected government that America did not like. The person in charge of coordinating these covert activities between the White House and the intelligence agencies was Colonel Oliver North of the US Marine Corps. Those working around Reagan soon discovered that he was a very lazy president. He could not be bothered to read anything longer than a single sheet of paper, and even that with great difficulty, and got so bored when any detail was explained to him that he often fell asleep. Like any actor who has to play many different parts, all Reagan wanted were a few good lines written for him on cue cards that he could quote without having to tax his own abilities. Reagan was therefore a perfect example of an elderly Henry II. He wanted things done but was neither interested in nor concerned with the way they were achieved. Although the American Embassy hostage crisis in Iran had been settled, the situation in the Middle East grew steadily worse. Aside from the stalemated Iran-Iraq war, Lebanon continued to tear itself apart in continuous internecine struggles. On 6 June 1982 Israel invaded Lebanon in order to drive out Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) terrorists from the southern part of the country, who they claimed had also attempted to murder the Israeli ambassador in London three days earlier. In fact the ambassador had been attacked by members of the Abu Nidal faction, who had long severed connections with the PLO,