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BRITISH POLICE ARREST HEAD OF IED-DETECTION FIRM ON FRAUD CHARGES

BRITAIN HAS BANNED THE EXPORT OF A BOMB-DETECTION DEVICE PROCURED BY IRAQ. BRITAIN'S BUSINESS INNOVATION AND SKILLS DEPARTMENT HAS BANNED THE SALE ABROAD OF ADE651, TOUTED BY THE IRAQI INTERIOR MINISTRY AS AN EFFECTIVE DEVICE AGAINST CAR BOMBS. THE BRITISH DEPARTMENT HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE DEVICE WAS INEFFECTIVE.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT SAID "TESTS HAVE SHOWN THAT THE TECHNOLOGY USED IN THE ADE651 AND SIMILAR DEVICES IS NOT SUITABLE FOR BOMB DETECTION".

ON JAN. 25 AND JAN. 26, BAGHDAD WAS AGAIN STRUCK BY A SERIES OF SUICIDE ATTACKS. AT LEAST 55 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN THE IRAQI CAPITAL.

IN A STATEMENT ON JAN. 22, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONFIRMED ALLEGATIONS BY THE U.S. MILITARY THAT ADE651 WAS INCAPABLE OF DETECTING EXPLOSIVES. INSTEAD, THE DEVICE WAS DESIGNED TO PREVENT THEFT.

THE HAND-HELD DEVICE, WHICH CONSISTS OF A SWIVELING ANTENNA, HAS BEEN MANUFACTURED BY BRITAIN'S ATSC. BRITISH POLICE HAVE ARRESTED THE DIRECTOR OF ATSC, JAMES MCCORMICK, ON CHARGES OF FRAUD.

(MY COMMENT: I WOULD ADD AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF COUNTS OF MURDER TO THE INDICTMENT).

BRITISH POLICE SAID "GIVEN THE OBVIOUS SENSITIVITIES AROUND THIS MATTER, THE FACT THAT AN ARREST HAS BEEN MADE, AND IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE INVESTIGATION, WE CANNOT DISCUSS IT ANY FURTHER AT THIS TIME".

IRAQ HAS BOUGHT MORE THAN 1,600 "ADE651'S" FOR THE SECURITY FORCES FOR OPERATIONS IN BASRA, BAGHDAD AND MOSUL. IRAQI INTERIOR MINISTER JAWAD BOLANI HAS INSISTED THAT THE DEVICES HELPED PREVENT NUMEROUS CAR BOMBINGS.

BOLANI SAID "THEY MANAGED TO PREVENT AND DETECT MORE THAN 16,000 BOMBS THAT THREATENED LIVES, AND MORE THAN 733 CAR BOMBS WERE DEFUSED".

(MY COMMENT: IF THAT WERE TRUE, YOUR BUSINESS PARTNER WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR FRAUD).

BOLANI SAID THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE ADE651 STEMMED FROM UNFAMILIARITY BY TESTERS. "NOT ALL THOSE WHO USE THE INSTRUMENT ARE FULLY TRAINED," BOLANI SAID "THE INSTRUMENT'S EFFICIENCY DEPENDS ON THE TRAINING OF THE USER."

(MY COMMENT: TRAINING CANNOT HELP PEOPLE USE DEVICES THAT DON'T FUNCTION TO DETECT BOMBS IN THE FIRST PLACE).

THE MINISTER SAID THE DEVICE HAS BEEN A TARGET OF A DEFAMATION CAMPAIGN BY WESTERN COMPETITORS.

(MY COMMENT: THEY WOULD ALSO BE A TARGET OF DEFAMATION BY ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED BY ROADSIDE BOMBS - IF THEY WERE STILL ALIVE).

IRAQ HAS PAID BETWEEN $16,500 AND $60,000 FOR EACH ADE651.

(MY COMMENT: NOW I THINK WE HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF THE REASON FOR THE "TARGET OF DEFAMATION" EXCUSE. THIS GUY, BOLANI, WAS GETTING FILTHY RICH OFF THESE BOGUS DETECTORS.

THINGS MAY CHANGE - BUT PEOPLE NEVER DO.

HEY! THAT SHOULD GO IN "FAMOUS QUOTES." AND IT WILL - JUST AS SOON AS I BECOME FAMOUS).

IN 2009, THE U.S. MILITARY DEEMED THE DEVICE USELESS AND URGED THE IRAQI INTERIOR MINISTRY TO RETURN THE EQUIPMENT. A SENIOR IRAQI OFFICIAL SAID THE MINISTRY WAS WARNED IN 2008 THAT ADE651 COULD NOT DETECT EXPLOSIVES. THE OFFICIAL, INTERIOR MINISTRY INSPECTOR-GENERAL AQEEL TURAIHI, CHARGED THAT THE CONTRACT FOR THE DEVICE APPEARED FRAUDULENT. HE SAID A GOVERNMENT PANEL WAS SCHEDULED TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE DEVICE ON JAN. 26.

"WE WILL BEGIN TO GATHER EVIDENCE TO FIND OUT HOW THIS EQUIPMENT WAS SOLD TO IRAQ," IRAQI PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE HADI AL AMERI SAID. "IF THE FIRM [ATSC] WAS RESPONSIBLE, WE WILL SEEK COMPENSATION THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY."

(MY COMMENT: YOU MIGHT ALSO WANT TO CONSIDER "HANGING" YOUR INTERIOR MINISTER BOLANI FOR MURDER. THIS IS ONE TIME WHEN I WOULDN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT THE RELIGIOUS METHOD OF EXECUTION - STONING).

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THE SCIENCE SEGMENT

A NEW STUDY HAS SHOWN THAT ECHOLOCATION EVOLVED SEPARATELY, BUT THROUGH THE SAME GENETIC CHANGES, IN BOTH DOLPHINS AND BATS

SCIENTISTS AT QUEEN MARY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON HAVE SHOWN THAT THE REMARKABLE ABILITY IS SHARED BY THESE VERY DIFFERENT ANIMALS AT A MUCH DEEPER LEVEL THAN ANYONE PREVIOUSLY REALISED – ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE MOLECULAR LEVEL. WRITING IN CURRENT BIOLOGY , THEY DESCRIBE HOW DOLPHINS AND BATS HAVE BOTH EVOLVED THE SAME SPECIALISED FORM OF INNER-EAR HAIR CELLS THAT ALLOW THEM TO USE SOPHISTICATED ECHOLOCATION: DETECTING UNSEEN OBSTACLES OR TRACKING DOWN PREY BY MAKING A HIGH FREQUENCY NOISE AND LISTENING FOR THE ECHO THAT BOUNCES BACK.

STEPHEN ROSSITER OF QUEEN MARY'S SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL SCIENCES SAID, "THE NATURAL WORLD IS FULL OF EXAMPLES OF SPECIES THAT HAVE EVOLVED SIMILAR CHARACTERISTICS INDEPENDENTLY, SUCH AS THE TUSKS OF ELEPHANTS AND WALRUSES". HOWEVER, IT IS GENERALLY ASSUMED THAT MOST OF THESE SO-CALLED 'CONVERGENT TRAITS' HAVE ARISEN BY DIFFERENT CHANGES IN THE ANIMAL'S DNA. OUR STUDY SHOWS THAT THIS VERY COMPLEX ABILITY - ECHOLOCATION - HAS IN FACT EVOLVED BY IDENTICAL GENETIC CHANGES IN BATS AND DOLPHINS."

 ACCORDING TO ROSSITER, THE DISCOVERY REPRESENTS AN "UNPRECEDENTED" EXAMPLE OF CONVERGENCE BETWEEN TWO VERY DIFFERENT ANIMALS, AND SUGGESTS THAT FURTHER STUDIES MIGHT UNEARTH MORE GENETIC SIMILARITIES BETWEEN SPECIES THAN SCIENTISTS WOULD HAVE SUSPECTED.

 ROSSITER AND COLLEAGUE JAMES COTTON TEAMED UP WITH SHUYI ZHANG FROM EAST CHINA NORMAL UNIVERSITY TO SEQUENCE THE PRESTIN GENE, WHICH DESCRIBES A KEY PROTEIN FOUND IN THE INNER-EAR HAIR CELLS OF ALL MAMMALS. THE RESEARCHERS DISCOVERED THAT THIS GENE SHOWS THE VERY SAME CHANGES IN BATS AND DOLPHINS, THE RESULTS ALSO CLEARLY SHOW HOW GENETIC CHANGES HAVE BUILT UP OVER TIME.

 THE PRESTIN PROTEIN IS KNOWN TO DRIVE THE VIBRATION OF THE HAIR CELLS IN RESPONSE TO SOUND. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE GENETIC CHANGES OBSERVED IN BATS AND DOLPHINS ALLOW MORE RAPID VIBRATIONS AND, THEREFORE, THE HIGHER FREQUENCY HEARING THAT IS NEEDED FOR ECHOLOCATION. ROSSITER ADDED; "THE FACT THAT IT IS THE VERY SAME GENETIC CHANGES THAT OCCURRED TWICE IN NATURE SUGGESTS THAT THERE MIGHT BE A LIMITED NUMBER OF EVOLUTIONARY ROUTES TO HIGH FREQUENCY HEARING IN MAMMALS".

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ABROAD

INDONESIA MAY TEAR DOWN OBAMA STATUE

UNDER PRESSURE FROM A 55,000-MEMBER-STRONG FACEBOOK GROUP, INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES ARE CONSIDERING TEARING DOWN A STATUE OF BARACK OBAMA AS A BOY, LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER IT WAS ERECTED IN A JAKARTA PARK NEAR OBAMA’S CHILDHOOD HOME. A PARKS OFFICIAL SAID, “WE’VE BEEN DISCUSSING ... WHETHER TO TAKE IT DOWN, MOVE IT ELSEWHERE OR RETAIN IT”. “WE’RE FINDING THE BEST SOLUTION.”

OBAMA, WHO LIVED IN INDONESIA FOR 4 YEARS BEGINNING IN 1967, “HAS YET TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE INDONESIAN NATION,” THE FACEBOOK PAGE SAYS. “WE COULD SAY OBAMA ONLY ATE AND SHIT IN MENTENG. HE SPENT HIS SUBSEQUENT DAYS LIVING AS AN AMERICAN.”

(MY COMMENT: TRANSLATION - GIVE US MONEY, OR WE WILL REMOVE OUR FAILED ATTEMPT TO BRIBE YOU).

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MOSCOW — HUNDREDS MADE SICK BY "HOLY WATER"

MORE THAN 100 RUSSIAN ORTHODOX BELIEVERS HAVE BEEN HOSPITALIZED AFTER DRINKING HOLY WATER DURING EPIPHANY CELEBRATIONS IN THE EASTERN CITY OF IRKUTSK.

(MY COMMENT: I WONDER WHY JESUS WOULD DO SUCH A THING? WHO SAID GOD DOESN'T HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR?).

A TOTAL OF 117 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 48 CHILDREN, WERE IN THE HOSPITAL COMPLAINING OF ACUTE INTESTINAL PAIN AFTER DRINKING WATER FROM WELLS IN AND AROUND A LOCAL CHURCH LAST WEEK.

204 PEOPLE REQUIRED SOME MEDICAL TREATMENT AFTER CONSUMING THE WATER, THE SOURCE OF WHICH WAS A STAGNANT LAKE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHAT CAUSED THE ILLNESS.

(MY COMMENT: WELL, IF IT WERE "HOLY WATER" THEN WE KNOW WHO CAUSED IT - WHY ARE YOU PLAYING "STUPID?").

MANY RUSSIANS CONSIDER ANY WATER OBTAINED ON EPIPHANY – WHICH THEY CELEBRATE ON JAN. 19 – TO BE HOLY.

(MY COMMENT: GOD AGREES WITH THEM - THAT IS HOLY WATER. SO WHY THE CONFUSION. OBVIOUSLY, GOD WAS SENDING A MESSAGE, AND HE DID IT BY CLEANING OUT THEIR BOWELS).

THE WATER IS TYPICALLY BOTTLED FOR CONSUMPTION LATER. TAP WATER IN MOST OF RUSSIA IS UNDRINKABLE.

(MY COMMENT: SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT VACATION SPOT TO ME. A FAVORITE VACATION DESTINATION HERE IN AMERICA IS MEXICO. THEY TOO ARE KNOWN FOR HAVING UNDRINKABLE TAP WATER. SOUNDS LIKE MEXICO IS IN FOR A LITTLE COMPETITION).

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FAMOUS QUOTES

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU (1889–1964) 74 YEARS.

HE WAS AN INDIAN STATESMAN WHO WAS THE FIRST, AND THE LONGEST-SERVING, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, HAVING SERVED FROM 1947 UNTIL 1964. A LEADING FIGURE IN THE INDIAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT, NEHRU WAS ELECTED BY THE CONGRESS PARTY TO ASSUME OFFICE AS INDEPENDENT INDIA'S FIRST PRIME MINISTER, AND LATER WHEN THE CONGRESS WON INDIA'S FIRST GENERAL ELECTION IN 1952. AS ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, HE WAS ALSO AN IMPORTANT FIGURE IN THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF THE POST-WAR ERA.

THE SON OF A WEALTHY INDIAN BARRISTER AND POLITICIAN, MOTILAL NEHRU, NEHRU BECAME A LEADER OF THE LEFT WING OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS WHEN STILL FAIRLY YOUNG. RISING TO BECOME CONGRESS PRESIDENT, UNDER THE MENTORSHIP OF MAHATMA GANDHI, NEHRU WAS A CHARISMATIC AND RADICAL LEADER, ADVOCATING COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE FROM THE BRITISH EMPIRE. IN THE LONG STRUGGLE FOR INDIAN INDEPENDENCE, IN WHICH HE WAS A KEY PLAYER, NEHRU WAS EVENTUALLY RECOGNIZED AS GANDHI'S POLITICAL HEIR. THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE, NEHRU WAS ALSO AN ADVOCATE FOR FABIAN SOCIALISM AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR AS THE MEANS BY WHICH LONG-STANDING CHALLENGES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COULD BE ADDRESSED BY POORER NATIONS.

"THE SPECTACLE OF WHAT IS CALLED RELIGION,

OR AT ANY RATE ORGANISED RELIGION,

IN INDIA AND ELSEWHERE,

HAS FILLED ME WITH HORROR

AND I HAVE FREQUENTLY CONDEMNED IT

AND WISHED TO MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP OF IT.

ALMOST ALWAYS IT SEEMED TO STAND FOR

BLIND BELIEF AND REACTION, DOGMA AND BIGOTRY, SUPERSTITION, EXPLOITATION AND THE PRESERVATION OF VESTED INTERESTS."

(I DON'T USUALLY COMMENT ON FAMOUS QUOTES BUT THIS ONE DESERVES A BRIEF STATEMENT: IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU GO IN THE WORLD, OR WHAT THE RELIGION IS - AS NEHRU HAS JUST DEMONSTRATED - THE PURPOSE OF RELIGION IS ALWAYS THE SAME).