

Germany 'ready' to charge UK and US agencies over data Spying

by Tony Paterson via sam - Belfast Telegraph *Monday, Jul 1 2013, 2:22am*

international / prose / post

Take it with a grain of salt -- something doesn't add up! It was German (and Russian) hackers that originally exposed "echelon" -- a universal bugging program conducted by the USA over 20 years ago. At the time it was illegal for U.S. spy agencies to bug Americans locally so they did it from installations in Australia, the UK and Canada to mention a few. So why is Germany so 'put out' now when universal communications spying by the US has been revealed/known for decades?

Furthermore, suspect Assange, who (on record) subscribes to the absurd US government account/report on the 9/11 attack, is referring to Snowden as a hero, for what, being stupid? A man with Snowden's reputed skills could have easily dumped data in Assange's lap ANONYMOUSLY and remained a valuable asset of the underground hacker community. Anonymity remains the cardinal rule for all hackers and data leakers.

Far too many things in the Snowden 'case' do not add up, especially openly offering himself to the Chinese in HK -- double agent, anyone? Though the Chinese were far too shrewd to take the bait, they simply debriefed him and dumped him.

The original American plan seems to have gone askew (typical) and the Americans are now panicking and threatening everyone to return their agent before he is completely exposed -- too funny!

Conduct searches on 'echelon' and 'carnivore' and satisfy/educate yourself about universal data spying conducted by the USA on EVERYONE including its own citizens, DECADES past. So 'now' everyone is shocked -- give my toothless grandmother a break!

Irish media article follows:

Germany ready to charge UK and US intelligence over alleged bugging operations

Germany is preparing to bring charges against US and British intelligence amid fresh allegations that the services spied far more extensively than thought on German phone and internet traffic and bugged European Union offices in America.

A report alleging a major and continuous US National Security Agency spying operation in Germany was published by Der Spiegel magazine yesterday, prompting outrage from Berlin MPs still reeling from reports about extensive British surveillance in their country.

The German Justice Minister, Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenburger, demanded an immediate explanation and said the behaviour of the intelligence services was "reminiscent of the actions against enemies during the Cold War". "It defies belief that our friends in the US see the Europeans as their enemies," she said.

The leak, which Der Spiegel said came from fugitive ex-CIA analyst Edward Snowden, claimed that the NSA tapped into half a billion German phone calls, emails and SMS messages each month. Reports last week revealed extensive tapping of German phone and internet traffic by British intelligence under its so-called Tempora programme. The information was said to be shared with the NSA.

A spokesman for the Federal Prosecutor said the office was preparing to bring charges against “persons unknown” in relation to the reports.

There was also widespread and mounting anger at official European Union level yesterday following disclosures that the NSA had spied on EU computer networks at its offices in New York and Washington and that it had also bugged the premises. Martin Schulz, head of the European Parliament, demanded “full clarification” from the US and said that if the disclosures proved true they would have a severe impact on US-EU ties.

It also emerged that the UK Government had invited German MPs and justice officials to attend a video conference at British Embassy in Berlin today during which the issue of spying would be addressed.

Der Spiegel said the NSA’s German phone and internet surveillance operation was the biggest in the EU. On 7 January 2013 it tapped into some 60 million German phone calls in a single day.

The magazine said that Canada, Australia, Britain and New Zealand were exempt from NSA surveillance but Germany was regarded as a country open for “spy attacks”.

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