

Why the Government Communications Security Bureau must be Closed Down

The GCSB spies for Washington and there are few benefits for New Zealand

* The main function of the GCSB is spying for the United States. The files released by Edward Snowden show that billions of communications are being intercepted and the spies access all the common sites such as Google and Facebook. NZ is totally compliant to US intelligence demands. Our security data is now stored in US systems.

* The spying of the GCSB has little to do with 'security' or 'terrorism' - business and diplomatic manipulation is the aim. Leaders of countries such as Angela Merkel and international representatives such as U.N. personnel are regularly spied on. Much of the 'Five Eyes' spying is to ensure commercial and political control by Washington.

* When the partners in the 'Five Eye's spy system - US, UK, Canada, Australia, and NZ - do track 'terrorists', this results in indiscriminate arrests and torture, or drone attacks where children and other civilians have been killed or hideously injured. Probably this strategy has actually engendered much more hostility to the US and it potentially makes NZ a target. It is likely that GCSB personnel, directly or indirectly, have been involved in the tracking of 'terrorist' targets.

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Annual membership: \$20, payable to ABC, Box 2258, Christchurch 8140. See <http://www.converge.org.nz/abc/joinabc.html> for details of how to pay online
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* There is no such thing as 'oversight' or 'control' of the GCSB. When it was revealed that the GCSB was illegally spying on Kiwis, the law was changed to make this legal. This organisation undermines democracy and abuses hard-won human privacy rights.

* John Key has consistently evaded questions about GCSB activities. Bill English signed a document to prohibit any information re the GCSB and Dotcom being made public. Previous oversight of the GCSB completely failed to reveal the criminal activities of the GCSB or allow any proper supervision by Parliament. The revamped legislation of 2013 will be no better. Warrants signed by the PM and his appointed court official will remain a formality. There is no control over the number of interceptions possible under a single warrant. Collecting metadata means huge numbers of people will be listed on 'suspect' lists - guilt by association. If a Prime Minister wished to spy on his political rivals, no-one would be any the wiser.

***David Lange was angry to discover that he had been lied to about the purpose of the Waihopai spy base he gave the go-ahead to.**

***Geoffrey Palmer admitted Cabinet Ministers were not allowed to know that the Waihopai base was going to double in size.**

***Jenny Shipley guaranteed that no New Zealanders were being spied on, which the Kitteridge Report revealed to be untrue.**

***Tony Blair said: "You don't know everything that is happening, that the security services are doing. I don't know about them."**



Currently, New Zealand is being steadily drawn back into a de facto ANZUS situation where the military becomes a tiny component of Pentagon strategy.

But New Zealand's most significant contribution to American wars, including the ones in Iraq and Afghanistan, has been spying by the Waihopai electronic intelligence gathering base, located in the Waihopai Valley, near Blenheim. It is controlled by the US, with New Zealand (including Parliament and the Prime Minister) having little or no idea what goes on there, let alone any control.

Since 1988, the Waihopai spy base near Blenheim has been operated by New Zealand's **Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB)** in the interests of the

foreign powers grouped together in the super-secret **5 Eyes** spying system. Its satellite interception dishes intercept a huge volume of communications. It spies on our Asia/Pacific neighbours, and forwards the material on to major partners in the UK and USA. The incredible amount of data being intercepted by the **US National Security Agency (NSA)** has recently been revealed by Edward Snowden, and more revelations show the GCSB's sister organisation in Australia is tracking people for US drones to obliterate (along with high numbers of civilian casualties). New Zealand is an integral, albeit junior part, of a global spying network that is a law unto itself.

On 31 January 2003, Katharine Gun and many of her colleagues at the UK Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) were forwarded a request from the US government for a "surge" in spying at the United Nations. The US was ordering the *intensification of espionage at the UN headquarters in New York to help persuade the Security Council to authorise war in Iraq*. The aim, according to the email, *was to give the United States "the edge" in negotiations for a crucial resolution to give international authorisation for the war*. Many believed that, without it, the war would be illegal. This is the kind of international manipulation with which 'our' GCSB is involved.

The Echelon/Five Eyes spy system is publicly declared to search for terrorist plots, drug dealers' plans, military threats and so on. But the system is being used for large-scale commercial spying, international economic espionage and diplomatic surveillance which provides information that allows Washington to control and manipulate international economics and politics.

