



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**  
**OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY**  
Washington, D.C. 20503

5 February 2002

epic.org  
Chris Hoofnagle  
1718 Connecticut Avenue NW # 200  
Washington D.C. 20009

Subject: FOIA Request

Dear Ms. Hoofnagle:

We received from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) a referral letter concerning a request you made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The DEA asked that we review three documents and to use FOIA Exemption 6 to withhold from disclosure the name of a Federal Marshall located in one of the documents.

Please note that we reviewed the documents and release them in full other than our application of Exemption 6 noted above. If you disagree with this decision, you may file a written appeal within 30 days to Office of National Drug Control Policy, Attn: General Counsel, Washington D.C. 20503, or you may fax your appeal to (202) 395-5543.

Sincerely,


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel R. Petersen". The signature is stylized and written over a horizontal line.

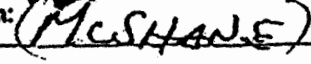
Daniel R. Petersen, Esq.  
Office of Legal Counsel

Office 954-921-3393

Fax 954-921-3521

# Russian Eurasian Crime Task Force - Odessa Group - HIDTA

To:  Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

From: (McSHANE)  Date: 10/26/99


Re: ONDC P Pages: 2 w/COVERS

CC: \_\_\_\_\_

Urgent     For Review     Please Comment     Please Reply     Please Recycle

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 HERE IS THE MEMO T RECD REF.

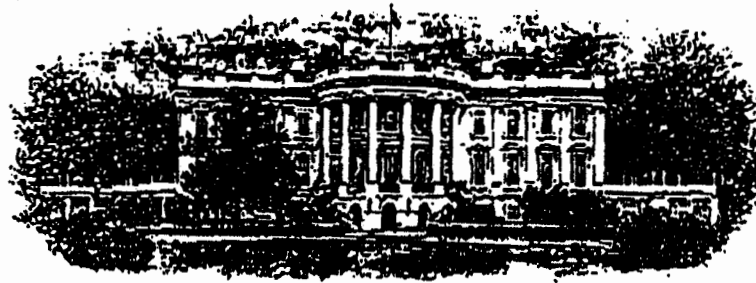
AUTO TRACK -

THANKS

MIKE

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY  
Washington, D.C. 20503



BUREAU OF STATE AND LOCAL AFFAIRS  
HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS PROGRAM

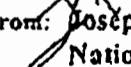
Number of Pages (including cover): 1

Date: June 17, 1999

To: All HIDTA Directors

Fax No.:

Office No.:

From:  Joseph Peters  
National HIDTA Director

Fax No.: 202-395-6841

Phone: 202-395-6755

Subject: Use of Database Technologies, Inc., "Autotrack"

Comment:

In the recent past, based upon internal reviews and significant concerns, both the FBI and DEA have suspended the use of all services provided by Database Technologies Inc, in the form of their "Autotrack" system. Based upon these facts, all HIDTA are to suspend use of Autotrack's services until the FBI and DEA resolve the concerns. Formal contracts should be honored, but not renewed pending resolution.

To reiterate an obvious tenet, all information retrieved from any electronic database service should be verified by other independent means to ensure the source, content, and/or accuracy of the information furnished.

We will monitor this situation and advise of new developments and/or changes. Please direct questions to Mike Hinkle 202-395-6689.

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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July 3, 1999, Saturday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 680 words

HEADLINE: DEA, FBI suspend online contracts with database company

DATELINE: BOCA RATON, Fla.

BODY:

The Drug Enforcement Administration and the FBI suspended their contracts with one of the nation's largest database companies partly because of the reputation of the company's founder and major stockholder, a newspaper reported Saturday.

DBT Online, based in Boca Raton, compiles public records worldwide and provides dossiers on investigative targets for about 1,500 police agencies. The DEA and FBI halted their contracts with the company in May, partly over concern that Henry Edward Asher, founder of DBT, was once suspected of having ties to Bahamian drug smugglers.

The agencies also were concerned that the company could potentially monitor activities in ongoing cases, The Miami Herald reported.

No evidence has been found that any cases have been compromised and DBT executives say such a prospect is impossible because of its intricate security measures.

The DEA and FBI told their agents May 18 to stop using the service.

"In the fall of 1998, a routine internal inspection of the DEA Miami field office raised significant concerns regarding the use of Database Technologies (Autotrack)," a statement issued by the DEA in Washington said.

"A substantive internal review has been conducted regarding DBT and Autotrack. Based on these concerns, all offices using Autotrack were instructed to immediately discontinue the use of the service."

Through his Miami lawyer, Asher denied any criminal activity and said unfair disclosures to The Herald were timed to affect the value of his \$ 148 million in company stock.

"An 18-year-old unsubstantiated allegation that shows up in a secret government file does not become true because it is illegally given to The Miami Herald," said Asher's attorney Gene Stearns. "Hank Asher has cooperated with law enforcement officials in every way and has at no time misrepresented any information or misled any government agency." Asher, 49, has never been arrested, charged or convicted of any crime.

According to DEA records, he was suspected by the DEA in the early 1980s of flying illegal drugs from the Bahamas to the U.S.

And Internal DEA memos first raised concerns about the use of DBT Online in 1994, when the company was known as Database Technologies.

Since then, two top Miami DEA supervisors retired and became vice presidents of the company.

Special agent in charge James Milford and former Assistant Special Agent in Charge Al Coward were instrumental in moving the DEA from a \$ 1.50-per-minute use fee to a \$ 10,000-per-month unlimited use contract with DBT. Both later retired and became vice presidents with DBT.

In May 1996, Coward retired from the DEA and went to work for Asher at DBT as a vice president. The job lasted five months.

Milford, who went on to become deputy DEA administrator in Washington, retired in December 1997 and went to work at DBT as a vice president. He still holds that position.

Internal investigators interviewed Coward in February in an effort to determine what he knew about Asher's past when he recommended the DEA contract.

Coward declined to discuss Asher with The Herald without permission from the DEA, but did say that DBT was chosen because it offered a valuable service that was sufficiently secure for law enforcement purposes.

He said his hiring at DBT had nothing to do with favorable treatment while he was with the DEA.

Milford said Friday that no one at the DEA informed him of Asher's background.

"And I never knew about it, until just recently," he said.

Milford said, and DEA in Washington confirmed, that he did nothing wrong.

"No one is questioning Jim Milford's integrity here," said Terry Parham, DEA spokesman.

The company announced Friday that Asher had agreed in writing to sell his majority ownership in an effort to save DBT's law enforcement contracts, which account for 25 percent of the company's \$ 60 million in yearly revenues.

Three board members with ties to Asher resigned and agreed to sell their stocks as well.

DBT Online has about 19 million shares of stock outstanding; the price closed Friday at \$ 32 7/8 per share.