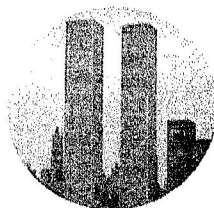
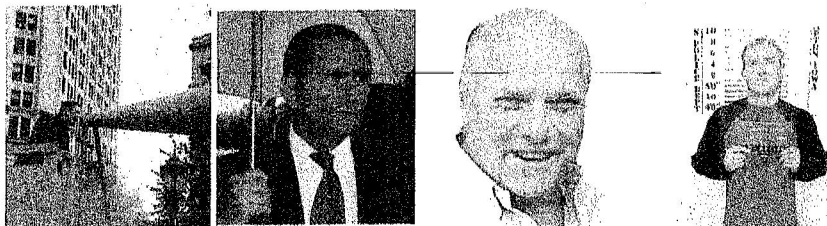
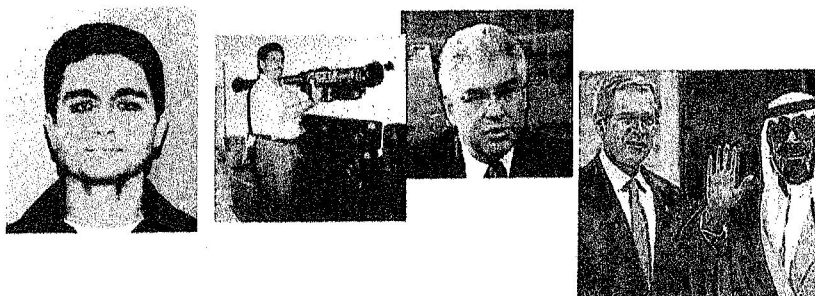


THE BIG WEDDING



9/11, THE WHISTLE-BLOWERS, & THE COVER-UP



SANDER HICKS

acters since the end of World War II. ONI worked with the U.S. Italian Mafia, including S. C. Luciana, a.k.a. Lucky Luciano, to fight communism in Italy, gather intelligence for the Allied Invasion of Sicily, and control the ports in the U.S. during wartime. After Luciana was pardoned from jail for his work with ONI (and CIA precursor, the Office of Strategic Services), he went back to Italy and became a kingpin in the heroin trade. Around this time, ONI also worked with Chinese mafia to take control of the opiate trade, helping to form the "Golden Triangle" which traded heroin and various forms of currency and contraband between Thailand/Burma, Laos/Vietnam, and China's Yunnan Province.

In Al Martin's experience with the Iran/Contra operation "Black Eagle," crooks and highly intelligent con men were always part of the team. "Black Eagle" was "narcotics trafficking, massive fraud, and weapons deals" with con man extraordinaire Lawrence Hamil at the center. Martin remembers, "Hamil [was] not just a simple con man, a government-connected swindler and money launderer, as people seem to think. He was very deeply involved in all sorts of political deals at the same time."⁵⁵

THE JUNKYARD DOG

"There were certain things in the note...clues to get people to contact others to contact me." Vreeland says, as he orders a double Bacardi and Coke.

"I mean, like the reference to the 'M-234 RAGS.' Those weapons were sold to Malaysia. I wrote that to get Eva Teleki to contact me. She had been involved in the sale. She contacted Leo Wanta and said, 'This guy needs our help.'"

Wanta is a former U.S. Department of Treasury operative and former Somali Ambassador to Switzerland, among other things. The M-234 Ring Airfoil Grenade is an attachment for an M-16 machine gun that creates an anti-riot, crowd-control stun effect. I contacted Teleki, who denied selling anything to Malaysia. But she did speak highly of Vreeland, confirming that he is a former officer of the ONI. Both Teleki and Vreeland have formal business relationships with Leo Wanta.

On February 13, 2002, a former U.S. Attorney named Tom Henry wrote Vreeland a letter. Henry, who is Leo Wanta's legal advisor, put Vreeland through a series of tests attempting to see

⁵⁵ <http://www.almartin.com/ur11.html>

if he could recognize certain "passwords or security code names." Vreeland aced it. Henry's letter concluded, "On best information and belief I am of the opinion that my clients would endorse that you gathered the information that you have shared with my client while acting in the capacity of an 'intel op' agent of the U.S. Government." In the past, Henry has worked with the Department of Justice in the Ford Administration before moving on to become a consultant on business matters in China.

Wanta describes himself as Ronald Reagan's former "taskmaster" and has an extensive resumé of his own. It includes work for the CIA, Department of Treasury, and the NSC, as well as deals involving foreign currencies, arms, and precious metals. Wanta worked on the 1988 Bush Presidential campaign. His collected correspondence includes notes from George Herbert Walker Bush, the Nixon White House, and various senators. After the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, it was Wanta who was sent in to repossess Stinger anti-aircraft missiles from the Mujahedeen. According to Claire Sterling's book *Thieves' World*, Wanta was the central figure in an operation to destabilize the Russian Ruble with White House approval in the late '80s/early '90s. The attack on the currency hastened the crumbling of the Soviet Union. In our original April interview, Vreeland quipped, "I know people who know George Bush Sr. personally." He was talking about Wanta. Tom Hanneghan, a powerful Los Angeles Democrat and commodities trader speaks of Wanta with both criticism and credibility, "He worked for the U.S. intelligence agencies. He helped bring down the Soviet communist government. He's a brilliant engineer, lots of technical skills. He did a great job. He probably gathered too much knowledge for his own sake."

Wanta told me he was Ronald Reagan's favorite "junkyard dog." He remembers, "Reagan had no faith in DC politicians, he liked his 'junkyard dogs.'" According to Wanta, Reagan praised him for his ability to get special tasks executed quickly, without going through normal channels.

In 1988, Wanta was in the news for trying to sell thirty thousand automatic pistols to Manuel Noriega. Wanta explained to me that this was a part of a scheme to enable the U.S. to identify every member of the Panamanian military. Shortly thereafter, on December 20, 1989,⁶⁶ Bush invaded Panama, swiftly arrested Noriega, put a pro-U.S. regime in control of the Panama Canal, and left an estimated three thousand civilians dead.

⁶⁶ George Gedda, Associated Press, April 9, 1988: "Proposed Gun Deal Exposed by Panamanian Officer." First lines: "A rebel member of Panama's Defense Forces has smuggled out a memo detailing the efforts of military strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega to buy thousands of pistols from an American arms dealer. The memo, marked 'urgent' and 'confidential,' was sent to Noriega on April 1 by Leo Wanta, president of AmeriChina Global Management Group Inc., an arms exporting firm based in Appleton, Wis."



Ambassador Leo E. Wanta

Wanta's net worth in 1992 was \$432 billion, according to tax documents prepared in anticipation of Wanta's plans to move back to the U.S., pay federal income taxes from offshore business deals, and retire. This \$432 billion was not exactly all cash, according to Wanta—a lot of it was tied up in "prime bank guarantees," a kind of certified deposit that Wanta would purchase from top "credit-worthy" banks and trade at a profit, on behalf of the U.S. Treasury Department. Under the aegis of Aneko Credit PTE, LTD, in Singapore, Wanta engaged in a complex form of private banking, comparable to arbitrage but cash-based, high-speed, and highly volatile. Wanta accumulated \$22 million each day that a prime bank guarantee was purchased at a par value of \$100 million. When Wanta wanted to retire, it was not to be. In early June of 1993, Leo Wanta was appointed the Somali ambassador to Canada and Switzerland, in what he says was an effort to help make Somalia a safe launching ground for the U.S. military. According to reports from Wanta, Henry, and Vreeland, Wanta traveled to Switzerland with notorious financier Marc Rich between June 30 and July 3, 1993. According to Wanta, during their trip to Switzerland, Wanta helped to negotiate the financing for "UN Contract 4," a back channel deal that he claims worked with various sources of international capital to funnel funds to buy peace in the Middle East. Each side of the Rabin/PLO Agreement would get \$5 billion. (Although UN Contract 4 was not ratified, it was a precursor to the Oslo Peace Accord that was signed in a dramatic White House ceremony in September, 1993.) According to Wanta, the Clinton White House, acting through attorney Vince Foster, asked that \$250 million be placed into the Swiss account of the Children's Defense Fund as a charitable byproduct of the deal.

When Marc Rich received a controversial pardon from President Clinton, it was widely reported that Rich had worked as a spy for Israel. Articles in the *LA Times* and the *New York Post* cited evidence from the House Oversight Committee that claimed Rich performed numerous secret missions for the Israeli government, including helping secure back-channel financing for an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal. Wanta remembers that Rich was also looking out for number one. "Marc Rich was doing a tremendous amount of things against what we were doing in Russia and Switzerland. He was doing deals with Iraqis, Iranians, Swiss banks." In 2001, Marc Rich was living in exile in Switzerland, facing American charges for racketeering, wire fraud, illegally selling oil to the Iranians, and owing \$48 million in back taxes. On January 20, 2001, hours before he would leave

office, Clinton pardoned him. Israel's then-Prime Minister Ehud Barak had called Clinton the night before asking for the pardon and stating it was "important...financially."⁵⁷

Back in 1993, in Switzerland, Wanta says he had orders to arrest Rich, and, if that failed, to assassinate him. According to the story from both Vreeland and Wanta, the ONI had snipers nearby when Wanta and Rich were on a ferry to a casino in France, traveling across Lake Geneva from Lausanne. The sniper from ONI couldn't get a clear shot off, and was told to stand down. According to their story, that sniper was Delmart Vreeland.⁵⁸

Something went awry after Switzerland. Three weeks later, Vince Foster was found dead in Fort Marcy Park, just outside DC in Arlington, VA. The death was swiftly ruled a suicide by the park police, despite their paltry experience with suicide investigations. (And as I'll point out below, the anomalies in Foster's death were glossed over by future 9/11 Commissioner Richard Ben-Veniste, and future Director of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff.)

The day prior to the discovery of Vince Foster's body, FBI director William Sessions was fired. His temporary replacement, Floyd Clarke, let the bumbling park police run the non-investigation of Foster's death, despite the victim being the First Lady's best friend and confidante. Sessions later stated outright that Clarke believes he was fired to hamper a Foster death investigation. Three independent criminal evidence experts hired by *Strategic Investor* newsletter studied the Foster suicide note and declared it a forgery.

Wanta was arrested by Swiss authorities and deported on the flimsy pretext of State of Wisconsin tax evasion charges. Wanta was extradited without a warrant and flown from Switzerland in leg, arm, and neck shackles. The Wisconsin prosecutor levied tax evasion charges for 1989 through 1991, although Wanta had not lived in the U.S. since 1985. He was convicted and imprisoned after a swift trial, despite the fact that the IRS stated he did not owe any federal taxes from the same period.

When Wanta's case came before Wisconsin court in Madison, there was outright ridicule of him in the media. Dennis Ullman, the lead tax collection agent for Wisconsin on the case, was friendly with Cliff Miller of the *Appleton Post*, according to sources close to the Wanta case. Miller stories treated Wanta like a lunatic with delusions of a glorious past. But any journalist with a Lexis/Nexis account could see that Wanta

actually was the "global businessman" he claimed to be. The older news clip about Noriega and the arms deal were all part of the public record. But in 1993, consistent jabs in the Madison newspapers destroyed Wanta in the court of public opinion. Wanta was not allowed to hire his own attorney, and his court-appointed one, John Chavez, didn't believe his story. Leo Wanta's sanity was often questioned in court, but he was never found incompetent to stand trial. Wanta's international friends relate that the experience took its toll on him, both mentally and physically.

Right before his trial, Wanta was denounced as a "snake oil salesman" and an "egregious thief" in *Thieves World* by Claire Sterling. The problem is, the late Claire Sterling was closely connected to the CIA, according to multiple sources. Sounds like the ambassador pissed off somebody at the top. Maybe it has something to do with the two thousand tons of Soviet gold he was attempting to move on international markets, right after the fall of the U.S.S.R.

Today, Ambassador Wanta remains under house arrest in Wisconsin. Wanta claims that when he was arrested, he was forced to leave behind about \$200 billion in prime bank guarantees. "Lawfully earned funds," Wanta says, that international banks and governments have been allowed to "use free of charge" since he's been detained (when you total up the interest and the capital that can accumulate through smart use of \$200 billion, Wanta says, it comes out to about \$27.6 trillion). After Wanta and his counsel, Henry, confirmed to their satisfaction that Vreeland was in fact an intelligence operative, they hired Delmart Vreeland to help recover some of the money.

In a late night, three-way conversation between us, Vreeland recently blurted out to Wanta, "Who has controlled me in the last eight months?"

Wanta gruffly stated, "ONI."

"Where would they get orders from?"

"Cheney."

If that's true it might help explain why the vice president has never rescinded his claim that Iraq was involved in 9/11. Maybe he got it straight from Delmart Vreeland. Or vice versa.

Admonished later by Vreeland for saying too much about Switzerland, Leo Wanta replied, "I'm in constant pain; rheumatism, arthritis, I have not received proper medical care. I'm not afraid anymore."

57 See the Clinton/Barak Transcript of a conversation right before the pardon, at <http://www.cnn.com/2001/ALLPOLITICS/08/20/rich.pardon/index.html>

58 At the time, Vreeland wanted the Marc Rich sniper job off the record. But Leo Wanta was happy to talk about it on record. It seemed fishy—I decided to call Vreeland up and "ambush" him with a set of technical questions about precision riflery. I asked "What shoulder weapon were you using in the Wanta situation?" / "Winchester" / "What caliber was it?" / "370" / "What scope make and magnification?" / "Starlight." / "Mag?" / "Yes" / "Lens?" / "6x6" / "What rounds did you use?" / "Basic copper tops, 280 grain." / "Was it a hot load or a sub sonic load?" / "Hot." Vreeland stated that his firing accuracy is 98 percent. An expert on snipers confirmed that Vreeland knew his guns.