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## Background Paper

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## South Africa - Victor Bout, UN Sanctions-buster

*Back to Grant TPS2*  
*Scanned and redacted*  
*for release under E.O. 13526*

Victor Anatoliy Bout (pronounced BOOT, also known as Bout and Bout) and his associates continue to figure prominently in a host of UN sanctions-busting arms deliveries to numerous African recipients. In recent months, Bout and his organization have used their base in the United Arab Emirates and their large fleet of Russian-built aircraft to deliver helicopters and sophisticated weaponry to Liberia (and the RUF in Sierra Leone), begun exploring possible transactions in illicit diamonds in Kigali, Rwanda and continued to provide logistical and materiel support for both sides in the Angolan conflict. Bout's dealings in diamonds and illicit arms have contributed significantly to continued high levels of bloodshed in Central and Western Africa.

After a review of available intelligence, it appears Bout's organization has violated the following UNSC Sanctions Resolutions.

- UNSC 778 - Liberia arms embargo by making arms sales and possible conduit for diamonds from Sierra Leone
- UNSC 864 - arms embargo on UNITA in Angola
- UNSC 1171 - arms embargo on the Revolutionary United Front
- UNSC 1298 - arms embargo on Ethiopia/Eritrea

Since August, the NSC, State, <sup>1.4(c)</sup> and domestic law enforcement have substantially increased USG efforts to gather intelligence on Bout's operations. Under Secretary Pickering has chaired an inter-agency meeting to review the range of intelligence, visa denial, diplomatic, and law enforcement options and continues to follow closely our international effort against Bout.

AF DAS Whitney Schneidman, in conjunction with NSC National Coordinator Richard Clarke's office, has engaged the government of South Africa, notably with Deputy Foreign

(@Africa?)

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Classified by Charles Snyder, AF/RA Director

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Minister Pahad, on Butt. During 1997-1998, Butt operated extensively out of Swaziland and is believed to have bribed Swazi civil air authorities for licenses and registration for as many as 50 transport aircraft. The licenses were revoked in 1998. Aircraft belonging to Butt have also flown missions between Luanda and Johannesburg as recently as July-August 2000.

Deputy FM Pahad and others assure us that they are committed to a thorough investigation of Butt's activities and to exploring potential legal actions against him, including a possible request for his extradition from the United Arab Emirates. Schneidman and a support team hope to travel to South Africa in mid-December to advance the effort. Raising the issue with President Mbeki and Foreign Minister Zuma, acknowledging cooperation and encouraging additional action against Butt will energize the South Africans further and can strengthen bilateral cooperation in mutual support of an important U.N.-mandated goal.

*That's funny,  
thought because I  
DOS participation  
point was the whole  
Maybe Lee should  
back off and may not "u  
up to carrying  
witness bags.*

Grant thinks:

This is bullshit. A poorly-written document that is not nearly as strong or cogent as it could have been if Prince Schneidman had shared a draft with his loyal support team.

Now that I have cooled off... I think this paper shows a lack of respect for the NSC's role and for that of our office. It is not a well-prepared or convincing paper. It is not a team document that outlines a team effort - It is a blow my own horn document. Does not outline our strategy or why it is important that MKA raise, or what she is asking for (i.e., tangible progress by prosecutors to help build a case).

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## Albright Trip: Victor Butt, UN Sanctions Buster

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Cleared by: AF: S Rice  
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