

11/09/00

## **Intelligence Report: International Arms Trafficker Viktor But(t)**

The UN Monitoring Panel on Angola and Interpol have both designated Viktor But(t) as a major international arms trafficker, as well as having ties to Russian Organized Crime.

Published reporting from 1998 and 1999 state that Viktor But(t) has been very active in trafficking firearms, especially in Africa. He is listed as a major sanction buster in Angola, Liberia, Libya and the Sudan. Reports state that he owns close to 20 companies, all of them of course involved in his trafficking business. His companies have operated out of Belgium, South Africa, Rwanda, Liberia, the Central African Republic (C.A.R.), and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). It is also reported that his trafficking routes traverse through Sofia and Burgas, Bulgaria, Oostende, Belgium, Kigali, Rwanda, Monrovia, Liberia and the UAE (Sharjah, Ajman, Dubai and Ras al Khaimah).

Viktor Anatoliyevich But(t), a.k.a. Victor Bout or Vadim Aminov, was born on 01/13/1967 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. It is reported that he currently resides in the UAE. His known relatives are Sergei Butt, his suspected younger brother and business partner, and his wife Alia Butt, also a business partner. Other associates of Viktor Butt are listed below.

### **ASSOCIATES:**

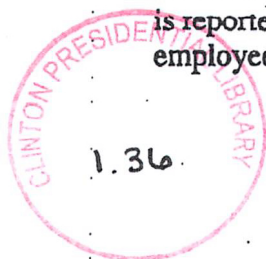
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Ronald DeSmet – A Belgian national. His DOB is FOIA B6 He is associated with Transavia Network (TAN) in Oostende, Belgium. Viktor Butt and Ronal DeSmet took over the parent network for Transavia Network (TAN) in 1996/97.

→ | Sergei Vladimirovich Denissenko – Associate of Viktor Butt, based in Sharjah, UAE. He is also a business partner of Richard A. Chichakli in San Air General Trading LLC a Plano, Texas registered company. San Air General Trading LLC is a subsidiary of San Air General Trading FZE in Sharjah, UAE.

Andrei Kasalkov – An associate of Viktor Butt, based in Sharjah, UAE. He is the manager for Southern Gateway a South African based airline.

Ali Hijazi – Associate and co-worker with Viktor Butt in UAE. He is reported by Interpol to have ties into the majority of Butt's companies.

Sanjivan Ruprah – Associate and co-worker of Viktor Butt. Interpol reports that he is tied to Executive Outcomes, a South African and U.K. based mercenary organization. He is reportedly in charge of Kenyan operations for Semba Airlines. He is also listed as an employee of Branch Energy, which is the international name for Executive Outcomes.



CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

**Michael Harridine** – A British citizen and associate of Viktor Butt. Interpol sources report that he served as the joint chairman of Liberian Airways in 1997/98 and that he owns International Air Management U.K. and Aircraft Air Bureaus Ltd.

**Viktor/Vladimir Grazhnov** – A business associate of Viktor Butt. He is reported by Interpol sources as also being an associate of the Cherny brothers. He is reported as possibly being the link between Cherny and Butt. He is possibly the Vladimir listed in the business registration for San Air General Trading LLC in Plano, Texas.

**Richard (Ruammar) Ammar Chichakli** – He is a U.S. citizen. His DOB is 03/28/1959 and he is currently registered as a resident of the State of Texas. His Texas driver's license number is 07844152 and his current Texas residence is located at 225 Syracuse Place, Richardson, Texas 75081. He is currently listed as the Commercial Manager of the Sharjah International Airport Free Zone Authority in Sharjah, UAE. Richard Chichakli is also listed as the chief financial officer for Air Cess (Holdings) Ltd., AIRPASS and San Air General Trading FZE in Sharjah, UAE. He is a current business partner in R&G International Inc, registered in Richardson, Texas, with his wife as the director of the company. Richard Chichakli served in the U.S. Army in the early to mid 1990s. He held military occupational specialties as an interrogator, counter-intelligence officer, aviation operation specialist, air traffic controller and avionics mechanic. He served in various units, to include service in the Gulf War. His last assignment was at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky.

#### ASSOCIATED BUSINESSES:

**CET Aviation Enterprises FZE** – a.k.a. CET Aviation and Centrafrican Airlines. It is a Viktor Butt owned company and is based in Ras al Khaimah Free Trade Zone, Ras al Khaimah, UAE. Interpol reports that the company is also registered in the Central African Republic (CAR).

**Transavia Airlines** – Another Viktor Butt owned company. The company is located at PO Box 9362, Sharjah Free Trade Zone, Sharjah, UAE, tel.: 971 (6) 5522833, fax: 971 (6) 556600.

**Transavia Travel Agency** – This Viktor Butt owned company is operated by his wife Alia and associate Ali Hijazi. The company is located at PO Box 9362, Sharjah Free Trade Zone, Sharjah, UAE, tel.: 971 (6) 5522833, fax: 971 (6) 556600.

**Stealth Telecom Ltd.** – a.k.a. Stealth Communications it is a Viktor Butt owned company located at PO Box 2157, Dubai Free Trade Zone, Dubai, UAE and PO Box 775 Sharjah Free Trade Zone, Sharjah, UAE. The company is tied to Stealth Telecom Africa in Kigali, Rwanda. It is listed in the Sharjah Free Trade Zone register as a company which performs import, export and trading of radio communications and security equipment, electrical items, computer systems and related accessories.

**ENM Arab Systems** – A Viktor Butt owned business located in Dubai Free Trade Zone, Dubai, UAE. Oleg Orlov is the manager of the company.

**Aviatrak and Airbils** – These two businesses are reported by Interpol to be closely associated with Viktor Butt. Both businesses are located in Kazakhstan.

**San Air General Trading FZE** – A Viktor Butt owned company, a.k.a. S.A. General Trading Ltd. and San Air General Trading LLC. San Air General Trading FZE is located in the Sharjah Free Trade Zone, Sharjah, UAE. S.A. General Trading Ltd. is located at PO Box 932-20C, Ajman Free Trade Zone, Ajman, UAE. San Air General Trading LLC is registered at 701 E. Plano Pkwy, Suite 112, Plano, TX 75074.

**Air Petersburg Aviation Services (AIRPASS)** – Viktor Butt owns this company and it is registered in the Sharjah Free Trade Zone, Sharjah International Airport, UAE. Interpol reports that this company was registered in South Africa and was forced to close, by the South African Government, and move business operations to the UAE.

**Air Cess (Holdings) Ltd.** – Viktor Butt owns this company and it is registered at Sita SHJTLCR, PO Box 21807, Block "O", Sharjah Free Trade Zone, Sharjah International Airport, Sharjah, UAE, tel: 06-5571414, fax: 06-5571439. Air Cess was originally formed in South Africa, then moved to the UAE. AIRPASS was formed out of Air Cess. Interpol reports that AIRPASS/Air Cess help establish Metavia in South Africa. Deirdre Ward of Metavia formed a consortium with Viktor Butt and AIRPASS to expand its capacity. Air Cess is listed in the Sharjah Free Trade Zone register as an airline and providing aircraft services and maintenance.

**Al Doronv** – Interpol reports this as a Viktor Butt owned front company located at PO Box 26959, Sharjah Free Trade Zone, Sharjah, UAE.

**Agroplast** – Interpol reports this company as associating with Viktor Butt and is allegedly trafficking arms. It also has possible ties to a Canadian Firm (with possible same name).

#### **OTHER ASSOCIATED PERSONNEL/BUSINESSES:**

**Van Dereshuisen** – South African National Trafficking Firearms.

**Ties Eilers** – South African, manager/director of Argent Trading (registered in South Africa and Zimbabwe).

**Nick Acton** – South African, manager/director of Argent Trading (registered in South Africa and Zimbabwe). He is also the manager/director of NN Air Services a Zambian registered business.

**Olivier Piret** – A Belgian national, he is reported by Interpol as boasting that he is Viktor Butt's number 2 man.

**Romavia** – A Romanian airlines headquartered in Bucharest, Romania.

**NN Air Services (Zambia)** – NN Air Services strategically acquired the Zambezi Lodge in Zambia's North Western Province. It is currently closed, and was closed because it is no longer used as a rendezvous between UNITA rebel movement leaders and Zambian gun runners. Published reports from 1999 state that the Zambezi Lodge was purchased for gun running purposes. It began to lose business after accusations of gun running by the Angolan Government intensified in the spring of 1999. The Zambezi District Council leased the Zambezi Lodge to NN Air Services, which is run by Nick Acton, a South African businessman, in the early 1990s. Acton also wanted to buy the Zambezi Airstrip as well, but the government turned down the request. According to reports Nick Acton's business partner was MMD Member of Parliament for Chipili, Ntongo Chindoloma.

**Attachments**

- 1 – Viktor Butt and Associates Chart
- 2 – Richard A. Chichakli's business resume