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Forensic Intelligence

Saturday, November 27, 1999

Admiral William J. Crowe, Jr. 1250 Martha Custis Drive Alexandria, VA 22302-2016

Global Options 1615 L Street, N.W., Suite 1350 Washington, D.C. 20036

Ref: BioPort and the Anthrax Vaccine ["never, repeat never"]

Dear Admiral Crowe:

A number of issues raised in your statement of October 12, 1999, to the House Committee on Government Reform warrant discussion. Here I confine myself to the penultimate paragraphs on the "peripheral issue" of "the vague and rather misinformed criticisms of my [Crowe's] association with BioPort," the sole supplier of anthrax vaccine to the Department of Defense.

You stress, "I never, repeat never, solicited any official of this Administration to install or promote a mandatory inoculation program." This, however, is only one of the possibilities raised by critics of your "association" with BioPort. Another, to which you do not refer in your statement, is that you and/or your involvement were critical in securing BioPort's July 1999 contract modification which increased the price of the anthrax vaccine to \$10.64 per dose (from \$3.50 charged by MBPI as a state agency) and provided an interest-free advance of \$18.7 million.

Questions have also been raised concerning your possible involvement, as U.S. ambassador to the Court of St. James (U.K.), in the El-Hibris' earlier foray into defense biologics (including anthrax vaccine), i.e., the privatization via "management buyout" of the U.K. government-owned Porton (renamed Speywood), and in the El-Hibris' Russian and Polish telecommunications initiatives.

You may well simply repeat the "never, repeat never" refrain. However, this is disingenuous when you fail to explain the origins of your relationship to BioPort. Specifically, your associate and spokesman, Jay Coupe, has indicated that, although you "haven't invested a penny," you hold 22.5 percent of Intervac LLC shares, implying a 13 percent interest in BioPort.

If you "haven't invested a penny" in Intervac/BioPort, then what services have you provided to your partners (either before or after their acquisition of MBPI, whether or not related to MBPI/BioPort) or what knowledge/expertise do you bring to their enterprise (of vaccines and/or anthrax, DoD contracting, ...) which warranted their granting to you of a 22.5 percent share of Intervac (implying a 13 percent interest in BioPort)?

I will be interested in your response, a response to which the public and its representatives are also entitled. Should you have questions concerning this request, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Dresch

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xc: Congressman Dan Burton, Chairman, House Committee on Government Reform Thomas D. Williams, *Hartford Courant*