

**DONALD W. KEYSER, U.S. Department of State**

For over three decades, Donald W. Keyser was a high-level official with the Department of State.<sup>1</sup> Most recently, he served as principal deputy assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs – the number two job in the bureau.<sup>2</sup> Previously, Mr. Keyser was deputy director of the State Department’s Bureau of Intelligence and Research. In 2000, while he served in that role, then-Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright suspended him for 30 days and reassigned him because of lax security surrounding a missing top-secret laptop. Mr. Keyser was one of at least six people who were disciplined over the missing computer, which contained thousands of pages of documents about weapons proliferation issues and was never found.<sup>3</sup>

In December 2005, Mr. Keyser pleaded guilty to: unauthorized possession of more than 3,500 classified documents; lying to Department of State investigators about his sexual relationship with an intelligence officer with Taiwan’s National Security Bureau (“NSB”), Isabelle Cheng, a matter pertinent to the issue of whether he engaged in espionage for Taiwan; and lying on a U.S. Customs Declaration form in September 2003 by not listing Taiwan as a country that he had visited when, in fact, he had spent three days there.<sup>4</sup> Mr. Keyser also lied about this trip on State Department security clearance forms, which required him to disclose any foreign travel.<sup>5</sup>

Email records from October 2002 to August 2004 between Mr. Keyser and Ms. Cheng indicate that Mr. Keyser provided extensive information to Ms. Cheng, which was valuable to her work as an intelligence officer for the NSB.<sup>6</sup> The two also met frequently for lunches and dinners,<sup>7</sup> and once traveled to New York together.<sup>8</sup> Although Mr. Keyser claimed he was not assisting Ms. Cheng with her duties as an intelligence officer, on several occasions he passed

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<sup>1</sup> Carol Morello, Arrest Shocks Former State Department Colleagues, *The Washington Post*, September 17, 2004. (Exhibit 1)

<sup>2</sup> Id.

<sup>3</sup> Jerry Markon, Powell Aide Gave Papers to Taiwan, FBI Says, *The Washington Post*, September 16, 2004. (Exhibit 2)

<sup>4</sup> U.S. v. Keyser, Crim. No. 05-543, Memorandum in Support of Motion to Find Defendant in Material Breach of Plea Agreement and to Release Government from Its Plea Obligations, p. 2 (E.D. Va. July 5, 2006) [hereinafter “Gov’t Memo”]. (Exhibit 3)

<sup>5</sup> Markon, *The Washington Post*, Sept. 16, 2004; Jerry Markon, Former State Official Gets 1 Year Over Documents, *The Washington Post*, January 23, 2007. (Exhibit 4)

<sup>6</sup> Gov’t Memo, pp. 7-12.

<sup>7</sup> Id., pp. 29-34.

<sup>8</sup> Id., p. 11.

envelopes with State Department documents to her during their meetings, requesting that the information he provided not be attributed to him.<sup>9</sup> Once he even identified other Americans to Ms. Cheng who he believed were suitable for recruitment by NSB.<sup>10</sup> FBI surveillance of Mr. Keyser, who was married, and Ms. Cheng, who was engaged, revealed that the two engaged in sexual activity.<sup>11</sup>

Mr. Keyser initially claimed he had limited contact with anyone besides Ms. Cheng while in Taiwan in 2003, but later amended this statement, claiming that he met with Ms. Cheng and her boss to discuss U.S. interests and to ensure that the message of U.S. policy toward Taiwan was getting through.<sup>12</sup> Assistant Secretary of State James A. Kelly, Mr. Keyser's superior at the time, said that had he known of Mr. Keyser's plans to visit Taiwan, he would not have permitted the trip because the United States does not maintain formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan.<sup>13</sup>

In July 2004, Mr. Keyser retired from the East Asia bureau, but was still assigned to the State Department's Foreign Service Institute in Arlington, Virginia.<sup>14</sup> On September 15, 2004, he was charged with illegally removing government documents and two counts of false statements.<sup>15</sup> Mr. Keyser entered into a plea agreement with prosecutors in December 2006, promising to cooperate fully with their investigation in exchange for not being charged further for his actions. Prosecutors later sought to void the plea bargain, claiming that Mr. Keyser had not fulfilled his end of the deal.<sup>16</sup> In January 2007, he was sentenced to one year in prison.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Id., p. 11.

<sup>10</sup> Gov't Memo, p 19.

<sup>11</sup> Id., pp. 27-29.

<sup>12</sup> Id., pp. 20-26.

<sup>13</sup> Markon, *The Washington Post*, Sept. 16, 2004.

<sup>14</sup> Id.

<sup>15</sup> Id.; Gov't Memo., p. 1.

<sup>16</sup> Jerry Markon, Alleging Lack of Cooperation, Prosecutors Seek to Void Plea in Classified-Document Case, *The Washington Post*, August 6, 2006. (Exhibit 5)

<sup>17</sup> Markon, *The Washington Post*, Jan. 23, 2007.