

Snowden Documents Show GCHQ and NSA Spy on Angela Merkel and German Companies

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According to *Der Spiegel Online*, documents show that Britain's GCHQ intelligence service infiltrated German Internet firms and America's NSA obtained a court order to spy on Germany and collected information about the Chancellor in a special database. *Der Spiegel* then asks: "Is it time for the country to open a formal espionage investigation?"

Top secret documents from the archive of Edward Snowden viewed by *Spiegel* show that the British spies conducted surveillance against employees of several German companies, and also infiltrated their networks. One top-secret GCHQ paper claims the agency sought "development of in-depth knowledge of key satellite IP service providers in Germany."

The document states that the goal of the effort was developing wider knowledge of Internet traffic flowing through Germany. The 26-page document explicitly names three of the German companies targeted for surveillance: Stellar, Cetel and IABG.

The document also states that company employees are targets — particularly engineers — saying that they should be detected and "tasked," intelligence jargon for monitoring.

Der Spiegel points out that monitoring companies and their employees along with the theft of customer lists are classic acts of economic espionage. Indeed, such revelations ought be a case for the German Federal public prosecutor's office, which in the past has initiated investigations into comparable cases involving Russia or China.

A secret NSA document has also provided further indications that Merkel was a target. The document is a presentation from the NSA's Center for Content Extraction. The lists appear to contain 122 country leaders. Twelve names are listed as an example, including Merkel's.

The list begins with "A," as in Abdullah Badawi, the former Malaysian prime minister, and continues with the Presidents of Peru, Somalia, Guatemala and Colombia right up to Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko. The final name on the list, No. 122, is Yulia Tymoshenko. The NSA listed the international leaders alphabetically by their first name, with Tymoshenko listed under "Y". Merkel is listed under "A" as the ninth leader, right behind Malawian President Amadou Toumani Touré, but before Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The document indicates that Angela Merkel has been placed in the so-called "Target

Knowledge Database" (TKB), the central database of individual targets. An internal NSA description states that employees can use it to analyze "complete profiles" of target persons.

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