

Prepared Remarks Concerning United States v. Viktor Bout

by

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PRESS CONFERENCE

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GOOD AFTERNOON. TODAY, WE ANNOUNCE THE UNSEALING OF CHARGES AGAINST INTERNATIONAL ARMS DEALER VIKTOR BOUT, AND ONE OF HIS CRIMINAL ASSOCIATES, FOR CONSPIRING TO PROVIDE WEAPONS TO A FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. IN COORDINATION WITH THIS OFFICE AND THE DEA, THE ROYAL THAI POLICE ARRESTED BOUT IN BANGKOK EARLIER TODAY. HE WAS APPREHENDED IN THE FINAL STAGES OF ARRANGING THE SALE OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF HIGH-POWERED WEAPONS TO PEOPLE HE BELIEVED TO REPRESENT A KNOWN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, THE FARC.

TODAY'S ARREST MARKS THE CULMINATION OF A LONG-TERM DEA UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION THAT SPANNED THE GLOBE, AND IT MARKS THE END OF THE REIGN OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST WANTED ARMS TRAFFICKERS.

ACCORDING TO THE COMPLAINT UNSEALED TODAY IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT, IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, BOUT'S ASSOCIATE, ANDREW SMULIAN, BEGAN MEETING WITH TWO MEN WHO CLAIMED TO REPRESENT A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION BASED IN COLOMBIA, KNOWN AS THE FARC. THESE TWO MEN WERE IN FACT CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES BEING DIRECTED BY THE DEA, AND THEY CONVEYED THE FARC'S PURPORTED INTEREST IN PURCHASING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF WEAPONS TO BE USED TO FURTHER THE FARC'S TERRORIST GOALS.

DURING MEETINGS IN THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, DENMARK, AND ROMANIA, SMULIAN DISCUSSED WITH THE TWO CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES THE DETAILS AND LOGISTICS OF THE ARMS DEAL. DURING ONE OF THE MEETINGS, SMULIAN PROVIDED ONE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES WITH A DIGITAL MEMORY STICK THAT CONTAINED AN ARTICLE ABOUT BOUT AS WELL AS DOCUMENTS CONTAINING PHOTOGRAPHS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE 100 SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES AND FOR ARMOR PIERCING ROCKET LAUNCHERS THAT SMULIAN HAD SAID BOUT COULD PROVIDE. SMULIAN EXPLAINED THAT BOUT ALREADY HAD A DELIVERY SYSTEM IN PLACE FOR THE WEAPONS SO THAT THE WEAPONS COULD BE AIR-DROPPED INTO COLOMBIAN TERRITORY. SMULIAN ALSO

ADVISED THE CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES THAT IT WOULD COST \$5 MILLION JUST TO TRANSPORT THE WEAPONS. AND DURING THE MEETINGS, SMULIAN INTRODUCED THE CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES TO BOUT OVER THE TELEPHONE.

THEREAFTER, AFTER A CONVERSATION WITH BOUT, SMULIAN INFORMED ONE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES THAT “THE WEAPONS ARE READY IN BULGARIA.” SMULIAN AND BOUT THEN DISCUSSED WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES THE NEED FOR A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING TO FINALIZE THE DEAL, AND ULTIMATELY THEY ALL AGREED TO MEET IN THAILAND TODAY.

BOUT AND SMULIAN AGREED TO SELL WEAPONS TO THE FARC FOR ITS VIOLENT CAUSE, AND THEY ARRANGED THE DETAILS OF THE DEAL. THE WEAPONS THAT BOUT AND SMULIAN PLANNED TO PROVIDE INCLUDED SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SYSTEMS AND ARMOR PIERCING ROCKET LAUNCHERS.

FOR BOUT AND SMULIAN, THE ARMS DEAL WAS VERY REAL. THEY DEMONSTRATED BOTH THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT A TERRORIST

ORGANIZATION AND THEIR CAPACITY TO DO SO. THEY KNEW THE WEAPONS THEY AGREED TO SELL WERE DESTINED FOR A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. THEY KNEW THE ARMS WERE GOING TO BE USED TO FURTHER THE UNLAWFUL GOALS OF THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. AND BECAUSE OF THE GREAT WORK OF DEA AND ITS LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD, TODAY BOUT AND SMULIAN MET FACE TO FACE WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND WILL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

THE INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATION ANNOUNCED TODAY WAS THE RESULT OF EXTENSIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DEA, THE ROYAL THAI POLICE, THE ROMANIAN BORDER POLICE, THE POLICE AUTHORITIES OF CURACAO IN THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, AND THE DANISH NATIONAL POLICE SECURITY SERVICES. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THAILAND, ROMANIA, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, AND DENMARK FOR THEIR UNWAVERING SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THIS CASE. AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE DEA AND COMMEND THEIR INCREDIBLE WORK DURING THIS LONG-TERM INVESTIGATION, AN INVESTIGATION THAT LED THE AGENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD IN PURSUIT OF A HIGH-LEVEL ARMS TRAFFICKER.

**INTRODUCE DEA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF OF
OPERATIONS MICHAEL BRAUN.**
