

**SUB: A former Saudi Prince Turki bodyguard sues Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and describes bizarre private spy ring.**

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Out of the media spotlight memories can fade quickly and today there aren't many Canadians who would remember the case of Bill Sampson, the Canadian/Briton who had been left to stew two and a half years in a Saudi jail before he and five other Britons and a Belgian were finally released from prison on August 8, 2003; initially sentenced to be publicly beheaded on trumped up charges of 2 bombings and murder carried out as part of an illegal booze running syndicate. What is important to remember is the fact that during his time in prison Sampson informed Canadian diplomats that he had been tortured, and on one occasion even went so far as to point out his torturer to visiting diplomats to the prison. Throughout his incarceration the Canadian government refused to accept the torture accusations—either a very inept and naïve approach for the Canadian government considering Saudi Arabia's disposition for torture and public executions or perhaps other factors and interests dictated that Ottawa intentionally turn a blind eye to Sampson's allegations.

A few months ago I was in touch with James Sampson, Bill Sampson's father, and during one of several telephone conversations James claimed that the then Canadian Ambassador, Melvyn MacDonald, had been dismissive of his son's situation from the get-go. He went on to say that MacDonald had actually told him that Bill's involvement in the bombings was not unlikely. If indeed the Ambassador was so flippant, Department of Foreign Affairs And International Trade's (DFAIT) handling of the case easily raises suspicion and questions. Could it have been a lack of interest or motivation? Ineptness? Cover up? Questionable interests? James thinks he knows what went on at the embassy and put it in simple terms, "I think the Canadian Embassy was on the take." Hard to prove? Yes. Yet, interestingly enough, in another story and a \$16.5 million lawsuit being filed against DFAIT, that on the surface appear to be unrelated to the Sampson case, there is evidence pointing to cover ups of corruption and conflict of interests at the Canadian Embassy in Riyadh, especially at the time when Sampson was suffering the wrath of Saudi justice.

Only days away from flying back to Cairo, Egypt, an editor, Steve Negus, at The Cairo Times, a bi-weekly English language newspaper, got in touch with me in October 1999 asking that I meet with someone from Barrie, Ontario, and check out what sounded like a farfetched story lead. The contact, Marc Lemeiux, at the time in his early 30s, claimed he had worked as a bodyguard for a locally well known and disruptive Saudi Royal family living in exile in Cairo and was making extraordinary claims surrounding the family and his work. Since I happened to be in the area, in not too far off Newmarket, Ontario, Negus and I thought that at least it was worth meeting with Lemeiux, so I called and set up a meeting.

I waited for Lemieux outside our meeting venue. In order to keep the meeting as private as possible, as he insisted, I had arranged to have the meeting at a local Karate dojo during off hours. When he arrived he quickly parked his car and as he got out he took with him a large

duffle bag. Lemieux was (and is) a stout individual with cropped hair, and looks as though he could hold his own yet he's friendly and outgoing. The meeting itself lasted hours, and it became apparent early on that he had something more to offer than just a bar story. It was convoluted and intriguing. Throughout our discussion the duffle bag produced numerous amounts of papers, copies of emails, copies of secret documents taken from inside the Saudi Royals' home, audio tapes of conversations, references to a privately funded spy ring... He explained why 35 security men felt that they had to literally escape from their employer's service, Prince Turki bin Abdel Aziz Al Saud, the brother of King Fahd, or more specifically from Turki's wife, Princess Hend Al Fassi.

At precisely 12:00 noon, 26 May 1998, everyone rushed to grab their bags and as quickly as possible began tossing them into the lift on the 29th floor of the Ramses Hilton in Cairo, Egypt. It was a carefully planned operation. Within minutes, 35 men, mainly Canadians and Austrians, were on the ground floor heading outside the hotel to two waiting buses ready to whisk them away. This is the way Lemieux remembers it. "It was a planned thing," he says. "We didn't want the Princess to have a clue of what we were up to." That afternoon, Prince Turki and Princess Hend, and family, were left virtually unprotected in their tower home.

At the time of our first meeting I hadn't imagined that years later I would still be working on this story in any way. On a cool Cairo night in February 2004, I arranged a private meeting at a hotel with another former Turki bodyguard from Lemieux's days of service, an American, Michael Antinick, who was in town visiting for a few days. I took advantage of the opportunity to invite along another bodyguard that had been in Turki's service, someone that I'd gotten to know over the months; only days before the meeting he had been dismissed from the Prince's service—to protect his identity he will be referred to as John. Neither of the men had ever met each other before, and by having all of us meet together I thought it might make for interesting dynamics. Antinick is ex-military and a former policeman from the East Coast. He liked Cairo when he worked for the Prince and the Princess, and thought coming back to the old stomping grounds of this overcrowded and polluted city for a visit would be a relaxing break from some of the other security work he does internationally—admittedly I too think Cairo has its charms. Before our rendezvous I only knew Antinick as 'Contact 1' and now I was finally going to get the chance to put a name to the name, and a name to the face. Most of all, I was looking forward to hear what Antinick had to say and to see how John would respond. As it turned out, Antinick was very keen to talk.

We sat around a small table sipping sweet teas and smoking flavoured tobacco from water-pipes, Sheesha as the locals call them, outside in the courtyard of a posh five star hotel. John is a rather solid and intimidating looking man with an impressive former military and private security career, but, like so many in his line of work, he is actually very good-natured. Antinick is probably in his 40s but looks younger. He was wearing a baseball cap and had a one-of-the-guys feel about him, was affable, and roughly average in size. I noticed that the hotel staff called him by name and seemed to know him better than an average guest, like an old friend. He explained that they knew him from a few years earlier when he had resided at the hotel for a long period of time. The conversation was the stuff of novels, and much of what Antinick said about the Princess and the family John updated or confirmed. I learned a lot and a lot of things that I already knew became clearer to me.

And with no warning Antinick said, "I was offered \$10 million to kill the Princess," leaned back inhaling as the pipe made its bubbling sound and exhaled, "That's when I got scared." Antinick described how his contact, a high ranking Canadian diplomat from the Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, brought money in paper bags to fund a private spy operation against Hend, while he set up a base of operations from the very hotel we were at, and how that same diplomat brought the proffer to assassinate the princess.

The former diplomat, Gary Ogaick, was first secretary and consul at the embassy in 1999 and is now at the centre of a CDN\$16.5 million dollar lawsuit being filed by former bodyguard Lemieux through the Ontario Superior Court of Justice for damages, equitable compensation for breach of duty and punitive damages. Other defendants include The Attorney General of Canada, John Manley, Lloyd Axworthy, Gaeten Lavertu, Aileen Carroll, Guy St. Jacques, The Minister of Foreign Affairs, and former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ted Hobson, as well as the Sovereign and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. However, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ogaick has since died. Lemieux claims to represent 15 other Canadian bodyguards who used to work for the Prince.

With minimal security training Lemieux was lucky enough to be employed in late '97 as part of a security detail to protect Prince Turki and his wife. He and other Canadians were contracted to protect Turki through Securiton International, a reputable international security company, based in Austria, owned by Wolfgang Gamper. **(Might no longer be in operation)** It is worth noting that sources claim that Gamper had a secret partner by the name of Kurt Waldheim, a former UN Secretary-General, and a former World War II German Wehrmacht First Lieutenant accused of participating in atrocities in Balkans.

Prince Turki, in his 60s, his wife Hend, in her 40s, their daughter Samaher, sons Ahmed and Abdul Rahman, Hend's brother, his sons and their retinue of servants and guards have occupied the 28th, 29th, and 30th floors of the Ramses Hilton for years. The princess and her family are Moroccan and are persona non grata in the Kingdom, who disapproved of her and her father, Sheik Mohammed Al Fassi—a prominent cult like Sufi mystic whose teachings are anathema to Saudi Arabia's official Wahhabi ideology. Despite King Fahd's disapproval Prince Turki divorced his first wife (although in Saudi Arabia Islamic law permits men to have up to four wives), married Hend and the couple went into voluntary self-imposed exile, over the years moving to and from various countries in Europe and the U.S., leaving a trail of debts and scandal, before finally settling in Cairo, Egypt.

The royal family traditionally financially supports its immediate and extended family; and when Turki married Hend he really did marry her family. Hend's brother, Mohammed, had a gaudy and profligately lifestyle in part thanks to his sister's connection to the Saudi Royals; he also had an inclination for dirty business dealings. And Hend's father lived with her and Turki until his death in the mid-90s—he is buried in a tomb in Cairo's City of the Dead where even today his followers in cult like fashion keep a Mercedes in wait for his return from the dead.

The Fassis have lived a gilded exile, however, running up quite a reputation in the elite enclaves of the world. Hend's brother Mohammed was particularly notorious. According to the Miami

Herald, California investigators looked into charges that he beat and enslaved five Tunisian employees while staying at the Diplomat Hotel in 1981, as well as allegations that he'd previously employed 150 of the Hollywood police department's 290 officers as an informal security force at his Sunset Drive mansion, notorious for the anatomically correct, painted nude statues in its garden. Two years after Mohammed had purchased the property the house burned down as neighbours came out to cheer and applaud. Mohammed later took up shop in Miami, but, according to The Herald, departed in 1989 leaving a string of bounced checks and angry creditors.

During the first Gulf War, when Saudi Arabia was directly at war with Iraq, Mohammed was kidnapped from Jordan by Saudi agents for selling arms to Iraq. Hend intervened and asked to have her brother sent to Cairo where she and Turki could keep a watchful eye on him. Mohammed was spared time in jail, or at the least a life of boredom with restricted movement in house arrest in Saudi Arabia, and was allowed to move to Cairo with his three sons, Turki, Fahd and Azziz, where he lived under his sister's and brother-in-law's wings until he died from an infected hernia on December 24, 2003.

But it seems that in Cairo, at least, the law has not been an obstacle to the Fassis' lifestyle. Beginning in the mid-1990s the Cairo press filled with stories of beatings, imprisonment of servants, and other abuses inflicted by the Prince's entourage on anyone who crossed their path. The outcry reached a peak in late 1998, soon after two Egyptian waiters fell from the 28th story window while trying to rappel down the outside of the hotel using tied-together bed sheets, crashing onto a balcony below. The two claimed they were trying to escape and had been imprisoned by the Princess along with a number of their colleagues. The case against Princess Hend was dropped over the summer of 1999. However, another case was pursued, that of police Lieutenant Emad Abaza who was struck with a walkie-talkie in the Ramses' lobby by Mohammed's son, Fahd. In this case it ended with the Fahd's imprisonment along with two companions, while another son, Azziz, and a bodyguard went on the lam. Abaza's lawyer, Mahmoud Abdel Aal, said his client refused up to \$5 million to drop the charges.

What's more is that Princess Hend had been tried and convicted in Egypt for robbery over three years ago, a case where she owed a local jeweler thousands of dollars but refused to pay. Hend was tried in absentia since she had not appeared before the tribunal or sent any legal representation. The state-run newspaper Al-Ahram reported in February of 2000 that Hend again was sentenced in absentia by an Egyptian court to a one-year prison term for failing to pay a US\$2.5 million debt. Today the princess has not been jailed or expelled from Egypt and she continues to live a life of luxury in Cairo unhindered. Over two years ago one Egyptian opposition member in the People's Assembly publicly brought Hend's case to the attention of the government, asking why she was not in jail; and to date the Egyptian authorities have done nothing. However, John, the former bodyguard, said she'd not been going out on the town quite as much as she used to.

In Canada in August 2004 I met with Lemieux again and another former bodyguard, Graham Rayton, who was also now eager to talk. Both described in detail a dysfunctional sexually deviant family living a top the Ramses Hilton. According to the two Canadians, backed up by the 2004

meeting in Cairo with Antinick, and other sources, Turki Al Fassi, another of Mohammed's sons, was addicted to drugs. And, in a page out of a Qusay Hussein diary, Fahd would bring women to his room, mainly prostitutes, drug them, rape and beat them.

Both Rayton and Lemieux, as well as other sources, tell a rather disturbing issue Princess Hend had with her youngest son, Ahmed. Rayton and Lemieux claimed to have seen Ahmed, who was 13 years old at the time, being forced to watch pornography while his mother, in full view of the security team, masturbated him with the notion that somehow it would keep her son from becoming a homosexual.

The Egyptian press, for the most part, and until recently, has held Turki responsible for the abuse of servants and for not paying debts. According to Lemieux, and other former guards, Turki himself has little control over what goes on in his domain. On the 28th, 29th, and 30th floor of the Hilton, Her Royal Highness Princess Hend is the undisputed ruler.

Lemieux had begun his bodyguard stint at the Ramses in September, 1997. He was placed at the front desk, answering telephones. It didn't take him long to learn about the nature of his job. He, like all the bodyguards, would receive personal instructions from Hend. "All of the Prince's mail was to be sent to her first. Sometimes it was not to be sent to him at all," he said. "She also issued orders about no guests or phone calls for the Prince unless she approved it. Deliveries that the Prince had ordered and that he was expecting were usually kept from him, by her order.." He goes on to explain that Hend also had a 'hot sheet' of persons not allowed to call her husband, which included the prince's own daughters from a previous marriage, his brothers, and King Fahd himself.

"Turki is a pretty cool guy," says Lemieux. "He doesn't realize what's going on. Hend runs the show. She works through a handful of picked lieutenants who do most of her dirty work. We were often told to beat the waiters and maids. Most of us wouldn't do it. But these guys who would were her lapdogs."

Lemieux, Antinick, Rayton, and John all claim that Hend had been drugging her husband without his knowledge, keeping him so doped up he was unconscious much of the time; and by doing so Turki was literally kept in the dark so Hend was left to do as she pleased. And her list of pleasures included entertaining male friends in her room for days on end, rarely coming out. On one count Lemieux describes how under Hend's orders they worked around Turki planting bugging devices in his bedroom and his personal bathroom as he laid in his bed unconscious. According to Lemieux, Rayton, and others, the family doctor gave the drugs to put into the Prince's food and drink. At the February 2004 meeting in Cairo Antinick confirmed that the prince had been "juiced up". Meanwhile, John claimed that he had not seen her drug his food but had seen her giving him drugs in the guise of healthful medicine. By all accounts Prince Turki is today in terrible health and according to recent reports is now in hospital.

The bodyguards did not have a pleasant assignment, but Lemieux says the Egyptians, Filipinos, and other non-Westerners under Princess Hend's thumb had it much worse. He describes them as "virtual slaves". When he began work, Lemieux was handed a list of "basic rules and job

duties" for his post. The document posts rule number nine as, "All security shall in no way grant any form of personal assistance or favour to any waiter, maid, cleaner, worker, or engineer. This includes, but is not limited to, such things as receiving or delivering any items (jewellery, clothing, mail, film, money, message, etc.) from or to any individual within or outside the hotel. In other words, keep your distance and don't get involved!"

Lemieux tells of a situation where eight Filipina servants were kept in Hend's service against their will. He asserts that some of them had been there seven years, up to five years after their contracts had expired. Hend "would not let them go," he says. "She's scared people will talk about what goes on there." After Lemieux contacted the Pilipino embassy to Egypt detailing the plight of the eight Filipinas, diplomats investigated the matter. Secret documents from the Pilipino Embassy record a series of contacts between Lemieux and the embassy. Soon after Lemieux's efforts all eight Filipino maids were released from Hend's service.

Lemieux was lucky to have crossed the princess and not suffer any consequences. The security team escape was decided upon after a serious altercation involving a young Austrian bodyguard named Andreas Hoffmann. According to a signed Austrian affidavit, signed by Hoffmann and Securiton's owner, Gamper, stamped by a Vienna notary on 15 June, 1998, and confirmed by the Austrian Embassy's Pitner Buddenbrock in Cairo as genuine, the whole altercation had begun from something trivial. The incident gives a sense of the anxious atmosphere in Hend's realm, where a single misunderstanding can lead to a bizarre drama of punishment and torture.

Hoffmann, working the phones, had just received a telephoned order from Hend's daughter, Princess Samaher. Hoffmann asked Samaher to repeat the information again just to be clear as to what she wanted. This infuriated Hend grabbed the phone from her daughter and began insulting Hoffmann -- apparently thinking that Hoffmann had suggested that Samaher's English was not good enough. Hoffmann tried to explain himself but to no avail; Hend made a vague threat and slammed down the receiver.

It was enough to put Hoffmann on edge and he decided to make a run for it but was intercepted at the elevator by two of Hend's lieutenants, identified in the affidavit as James Sciaretti and Haroon. They brought Hoffmann before Hend, who ordered him cuffed with his hands behind his back. Hoffmann was then taken to Hend's salon. There he was forced to kneel. Another guard, identified as George, was ordered to videotape the incident. More words were exchanged, and Hend went into a fit of rage who then ordered her lieutenant to get a stick. None was found. Hend dashed back to her room and came back with a coat hanger. The videotaping was ordered stopped, and the Princess beat Hoffmann with the hanger, at times across the face. Gamper, who was in Cairo at the time, was called in to the hotel. He arrived to find Hoffmann still cuffed and kneeling. It took two hours of negotiation before Gamper could get Sciaretti to uncuff Hoffmann and allow him to sit down. Hoffmann was made to sign a letter of apology, and was docked three days' pay -- a violation of contract agreements.

By then, most of the security team had had enough of Hend. The security teams were basically made up of three groups: Americans, each privately contracted which included Antinick, another group of Austrians working for a different contractor, and then there was Gamper's group,

Securiton employees, made up of both Austrians and Canadian's including Lemieux and Rayton. A decision was made by the Securiton team to escape and they received Gamper's blessing -- in addition to the Hoffmann incident, Hend was withholding money owed Gamper to pay the guards, a total of US\$5 million. It might sound strange, bodyguards having to escape from an employer but it was no secret that the princess had clout in Egypt and could make things difficult for anyone. There were legitimate concerns that they, the bodyguards, would be stopped and tossed in the slammer before getting out of the country, accused of anything from stealing jewellery or smuggling drugs. Getting out wasn't going to be easy. Hend's paranoia and concern for security and her own privacy went so far as to have every room on the three floors, including the bathrooms, bugged with cameras and audio, not just Turki's area, Lemieux says. "Nothing goes on there that she doesn't know about." There was also a problem with passports; Hend had them confiscated when the bodyguards took up the job but the men were able to obtain new documents through the Canadian and Austrian embassies.

When I originally investigated this case in October, 1999, the Canadian Embassy in Cairo refused to comment on Lemieux or any matter related to him, but the Austrian embassy in Cairo confirmed that it, along with the Canadian embassy, helped Lemieux and company escape and leave the country. It's clear from documents and witnesses that the Canadian embassy was directly involved in the escape. During the same period Securiton's Gamper, in Vienna, confirmed both the Hoffmann cuffing and beating incident and that the bodyguard escape did occur. However, Mr. Gamper at the time refused to make any further comment. Hoffmann could not be reached for comment and to date he has not been located.

As it happened, all went smoothly for the Securiton employees. The men were all whisked off to various hotels throughout Cairo. All the bodyguards safely left Egypt. And Hend to this day continues to refuse to pay Securiton the \$5 million owing.

A few months after the original great escape by the Securiton team, several from the other American security detail that had originally stayed behind would also pull a runner from the Ramses Hilton with the help of the U.S. Embassy.

When my contact John was first approached about this story in Cairo early in 2003 he was a trusted favourite to the princess. Because I lived in Egypt I had to be cautious so I waited months to get to know John better before I confided in him about what I knew about Hend and everything else. When I finally informed him that I knew about the 1998 bodyguard escape his initial response was rather professional, "It was wrong for the security team to have left the Royals alone like that." And he went on to explain that the Princess had told him all about the escape and that she said, "...they stole guns and radios when they left."

When I informed Lemieux by phone from Cairo of John's statement he responded, "She's making excuses... She wants to be the victim."

In time John, as a former Hend employee, would see the Princess in the same light as Antinick, Lemieux, Rayton and oh so many other former bodyguards, servants, business people do today, and learn to despise her.

Not long after the security team had fled, as luck would have it, Lemieux would be back in Egypt under very different and unique circumstances. He had contacted the Canadian embassy in Riyadh asking for help in finding someone to contact within the ruling Saudi Royal Family to discuss the money owing for their services, and, just as importantly, to bring to the Royal Family's attention Prince Turki's thorny situation. In February 1999 someone at the embassy contacted Lemieux in Canada on behalf of a Saudi 'VIP' who was interested in any details he could supply on Prince Turki's life in Cairo. That someone was first secretary and consul Ogaick. By the end of April the same year, Lemieux recruited Antinick and another former Canadian guard and escapee, George Straznovic, to spy on Mr. Ogaick's behalf. It was the beginning of an intriguing down and dirty, nitty-gritty private spy ring against Her Royal Highness in Cairo.

Initially Antinick was one of the Americans that had stayed on after Securiton's people fled Egypt. He continued to work at the hotel until he was dismissed by Hend in December '98; accused of taking a vacation without permission. He would play a key role in Ogaick's personal investigations.

A series of e-mails between Ogaick and Lemieux discuss the operation, for which he and his colleagues were to be paid well. Ogaick wanted as much information as possible on Hend, her daughter Samaher, and Hend's brother Mohammed. Ogaick and the unknown backer wanted to catch Hend in a sexual rendezvous, preferably on video, with one of any number of male visitors she had, which included two famous Arab singers, one of whom was Mohamed Fouad. Whoever the backer was, his apparent main objective was to get hard proof of Hend's infidelities to present to Turki himself, with the final intent in getting Turki safely back home to Saudi Arabia and away from Hend.

Antinick and, for a shorter time, Lemieux and Straznovic lived in Cairo in secret while gathering information and meeting with two moles. There were plans to have one of Hend's rooms bugged with cameras to catch her highness "entertaining men in her room". 4 to 5 weeks after operations began Straznovic was ditched. Lemieux and Antinick discovered that Straznovic, whose job it was to make contact and recruit working bodyguards, was intent on pocketing money meant for the moles. In order to get Straznovic safely and cleanly out of the picture both made out that operations had been ordered to stop; and to keep up appearances, they went so far as to all fly home: Lemieux and Straznovic to Canada, and Antinick to the US. However, Antinick flew back to Cairo almost immediately once that Straznovic was in Canada. In the meantime, Lemieux had to stay in Canada since Straznovic, also from Barrie, attended the same gym as Lemieux. "I couldn't leave right away or he (Straznovic) would be suspicious if he saw that I was gone," Lemieux says. So Lemieux stayed in Canada while Antinick continued operations in Cairo.

Throughout the affair Lemieux and Antinick had no idea of who was backing the operation. E-mails between Lemieux and Ogaick talk of as much as US\$350,000 being spent on expenses for operations, for their upkeep while in Cairo and more. The backer or backers were prepared to put as much as \$1.5 million into the fact finding and video taping mission. As the middleman Ogaick flew to Cairo on various occasions to meet with Antinick, pick up information and to leave money for pay and expenses. "Ogaick passed on the money we needed to buy the supplies to spy on

her (Hend)," Antinick said. "I flew to London and bought the bugging devices, the cameras, everything we needed."

And then there was the day that Ogaick came to Cairo and told Antinick that "they" would pay him US\$10 million dollars to kill Hend. This gave reason for Antinick to worry; now he knew too much. He was scared but at the time was ready and willing. "We had it all planned out," he said, "We were going to use potassium chloride and put it in her food. It'd look like a heart attack, and because she's a princess they wouldn't cut her up and see what killed her. They'd ship her off fast and bury her in Saudi Arabia."

Two bodyguards, who were the two moles, working for Hend, were in on Antinick's assassination plan. Because the princess liked to eat in her room, and food was often kept there waiting for her, the two accomplices had to time things perfectly. The plan entailed that they quickly repel down into her room from the top of the hotel, spike her food and zip out and back up to the top of the Ramses. Sounds easy enough and straight forward but it never happened. Antinick got cold feet and cancelled everything.

Not long after the aborted assassination attempt Antinick got word that jewellery and a large sum of money had been stolen from inside Hend's room and no one could figure out how it was done. All sources say that the princess and her husband tend to keep boxes of ready cash in their rooms, estimated to reach a few million dollars. Antinick was amused, "I knew who did it," he said with a smile. The repelling plan worked for something else.

On August 28, 1999, an e-mail from Ogaick in Riyadh simply says, "Marc, Just received urgent instructions to cease all operations in Cairo until further notice." Coincidentally seven days earlier, King Fahd's son, Prince Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdul Azziz Al-Saud, had died suddenly of a heart attack. Ogaick advised Lemieux that Faisal was the backer. "He was the only one who knew about what I was doing and kept it very secret I guess... After his [Faisal's] death that was the end and there was no one else to keep it going. That's why I've gone to the press. [Hend] should pay for what she was doing."

During the entire operation Antinick never managed to capture video of the princess in the act of entertaining male friends.

However, Lemieux had managed to get someone attention within the Saudi Royal family after a series of contacts with the Royal Saudi Embassy in Ottawa. In March, 2000, the Ambassador, Mr. Mohammed Al Hussein, asked him to travel to Riyadh with his documents from the surveillance operation to meet with high ranking Saudi officials. Lemieux agreed and the Saudis arranged everything for his trip. In Riyadh he was taken to a private meeting at a military complex. When Lemieux left Riyadh five days later he had answered numerous questions, turned over all the documents, audiotape and other information he had. He admits that while in the complex he felt that his life was in threat, and that he didn't have much say as to whether he would be allowed to keep the documents; however, he was informed by the Saudis that he should expect money within weeks. He was never paid.

Month's later Lemieux had faxed the Deputy Foreign Minister, Gaetan Lavertu, informing him of the actions of Ambassador Hussein and the events surrounding his trip to Saudi Arabia and asked for help to collect payment from the Saudis for his, and the others', services to Hend. Days after he contacted Lavertu, he received an anonymous call in November 2000 threatening his safety should he continue to pursue payment.

Undaunted after months of being ignored and stonewalled, of having his questions snubbed by the DFAIT, Lemieux decided to raise the stakes a notch. With legal help he launched the \$16.5 million lawsuit. According to the claim Lemieux and his lawyers believe that there is "a culture of systemic corruption and cover up within the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAIT) and the Canadian Embassy in Riyadh and other Canadian Embassies." The way Lemieux and his lawyers see things, Ogaick as first secretary and consul had made promises of money to be paid while working as a representative of DFAIT at the embassy and through the embassy in Riyadh, therefore DFAIT is responsible for any monies that Ogaick promised would be paid to Lemieux and the others.

The National Post's May 14, 2004, front page article 'Canadian envoy ran Saudi spy ring: lawsuit: Allegedly recruited other Canadians to watch royal couple' Francine Dube reported that, "Kimberly Phillips, a spokeswoman for the DFAIT, said yesterday they have every intention of defending the action."

I contacted Ms. Phillips office in August, 2004, as to why the department had not yet issued a defence to date but never received a reply.

The allegations have yet to be proven in court and none of the defendants, including the Saudis, to date have issued a statement of defence, although for a time the defendants were long past deadlines and were at risk of going into default. It's no surprise that the DFAIT has been doing some legal posturing and manoeuvring of its own. On April 15 of this year, another DFAIT spokesperson, Pamela Greenwell, explained to me over the phone that there were problems with the statement of claim: "The plaintiff has named individuals as parties and should not have done so; and the statement of claims does not adhere to rules of civil procedure." And with that, a motion to correct deficiencies was reviewed by Justice Leaderman on April 28, 2005. He has reserved his decision on the motions in the case.

It's worth noting that in February, 2004, Bill Sampson filed a lawsuit against Saudi Arabia's interior minister, the deputy governor of the jail and two of the jail's guards for damages.

Lemieux's claim against DFAIT states: "As early as February and March 1999, Ambassador Hobson knew that Ogaick had been communicating with Lemieux with a view to obtaining information for the Canadian Embassy's Saudi government contacts in exchange for money.... At all material times, Ambassador Hobson knew that Ogaick was using Canadian Embassy resources to carry out these efforts."

According to declassified documents from Ottawa, Foreign Affairs security officers knew Ogaick was involved in something that was possibly inappropriate as early as November, 1999, and yet nothing was done to stop or divert his questionable activities.

Meanwhile, the declassified documents seem to suggest there was a half-hearted effort by the DFAIT to investigate the case in August, 2001, and this only occurred after Lemieux and his lawyer approached the department claiming they were owed US\$5 million. "But considerable effort went into preparing 'media lines' in case the story leaked," The Globe and Mail's Jeff Sallot reported in his May 5, 2003, story 'Claims of rogue spy unheeded for months'.

After investigations had begun within DFAIT, the department claimed that no disciplinary action could be taken against Ogaick because he had already retired in 2001.

Things got really hot in Cairo and Riyadh when Straznovic personally paid a visit to the Canadian embassy in Cairo on or about October 12, 1999, alleging that Ogaick had personally promised him CDN\$500 000 and two passports "for persons under Straznovic's care." Who were the two persons? Lemieux and Rayton say it was one of the ex-wives, one of several, of the infamous and dodgy Mohammed Al Fassi, and her daughter. Documents go on to say that Straznovic informed the embassy of the Hend spy operation and that Ogaick was directly involved. Lemieux said that he had not known that Straznovic had gone to the embassy until April 2002 when he "heard rumours"; it was only later confirmed through the declassified documents related to the case detailing DFAIT's investigations.

Coincidentally, only a few days after Straznovic's visit, and not long after my first meeting with Lemieux in Newmarket, Ontario, I went to the Canadian embassy in Cairo on October 27, 1999, to fish for information on this Lemieux case. Instead of answering my questions the embassy staff took me into a private soundproof room and turned the tables, asking me several questions as to what I knew about the case and Marc Lemieux. In return the staff informed me that Ottawa had notified them that they were not permitted to answer any questions regarding Marc Lemieux. Declassified documents say that Ambassador Marie-Andre Beauchemin forwarded an advisory to five bureaus including to Mr. Rick Belliveau of Security Operations and Personal Safety Division, an office attached to The Security and Intelligence Bureau of DFAIT, notifying them that I had met with Lemieux in Canada and that Lemieux had provided me with documents. This quite possibly was the beginning of an old boys network cover up within DFAIT.

At the age of 36 Straznovic was found dead in his apartment in Barrie, Ontario in January, 2001. The cause of death was drug overdose.

Ogaick retired in May, 2001, with a full pension and had been living a life of luxury in an affluent neighbourhood in Riyadh while working for a private company in UAE before his death-- apparently he died of cancer but this has not been confirmed. His wife continues to work at the Canadian embassy in Riyadh.

It appears all is not well at Canada's DFAIT. Evidence indicates that a high ranking Canadian diplomat was involved as a middleman in a bizarre inner-family Saudi spy ring and a possible

assassination attempt on a Saudi princess for financial gain, and that declassified documents seems to suggest a cover up inside the department. Meanwhile, DFAIT has tried to trivialize the lawsuit. Phillips told The National Post's Dube, "If these allegations are true this was done without the knowledge of anyone in the department and while this former employee was acting in his own personal capacity." However, the evidence suggests otherwise.

Thus far the Royal Canadian Mounted Police commercial-crime section in Ottawa have concluded that there is no case of fraud against the government nor was there a breach of national security... Really? It's a wonder that this shouldn't raise some concern especially in this day and age of global terrorism, much of it outsourced from places like Saudi Arabia. If Canadian diplomats are so easily bought shouldn't there be reason for concern? What other repercussions could come about from such unethical activities? There is something to consider: after Bill Sampson languished two and half years in a Saudi prison, seeing little or no action from Ottawa to help him in his plight, his father, James, who tirelessly worked to get his son out of prison thinks he knows what the problem was, "I think the Canadian Embassy was on the take." Farfetched? Probably not.

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