INTRODUCTORY NOTE: The key to proper planning to counter economic espionage, both from a legal and security point of view, is to understand the threat by recognizing the capabilities available to conduct this form of espionage. The following pages can serve as a primer on information gathering techniques available through open sources.

Radio Interception
Commercially available radio scanners can intercept UHF, VHF, and military bands; some have uninterrupted frequency ranges from 30 MHz to 1.2 GHz and are available in desk top or portable versions. Current law requires manufacturers to block cellular telephone frequencies.

Frequency counters - devices that intercept radio transmissions and display their frequencies on a read-out - are also commercially available. From a book discussing their use:

"Warning: Using a frequency counter near certain U.S. government installations could result in serious legal problems and/or espionage charges. In foreign countries, it could result in execution."

In 1986, a book entitled "Guide to Embassy and Espionage Communications" was published which listed thousands of frequencies transmitted from 55 countries, the International Red Cross, Interpol, and the United Nations.

Recently a robber carried a radio scanner tuned to a police channel; victims thought that he was a plain-clothed officer and allowed him to enter their homes.

Telephone Interception
It is illegal (U.S. law) to monitor cellular phone conversations (868-896 MHz). Prior to April 1994 however, radio scanners capable of intercepting these frequencies were legally manufactured and sold. Scanners that blocked cellular frequencies were constructed such that they could be easily modified to intercept cellular transmissions. The new law prohibited the manufacture of scanners with cellular capability or those which could be modified.

Scanners manufactured before April 1994 can still be legally owned or sold. Hence, many scanners capable of intercepting cellular calls are accessible and in use.

Examples of methods of scanner modification: (1) A Massachusetts company advertises that for $40, they will "unlock" your scanner; (2) hobbyist journals print schematic diagrams showing how to modify the scanner's circuitry; (3) while the new law prohibits the manufacture of frequency converters - a device that will convert 400 MHz interceptions to 800 MHz interceptions, many are accessible.

A commercially available device called a tone decoder converts the frequencies of a touch-tone dialing system to numbers and displays them on a read-out.
Wiretapping and Eavesdropping

Numerous books are in print detailing how to tap a phone or bug a room. Some are quite technical.

In April, 1995, U.S. customs officials raided 40 spy shops in 24 cities that were illegally selling eavesdropping equipment smuggled into the United States from two Japanese companies; 11 people were charged with crimes as a result. Termed "electronic surreptitious interception device," among the equipment smuggled into the United States and sold by these shops:

(1) telephone transmitters with a range of 400 meters;
(2) bugging transmitters with a range of 1,000 meters;
(3) ball-point pen transmitters with a range of 200 meters;
(4) A/C line transmitters- attached to the line, behind the wall outlet and pernamently operates on its current- with a range of 200 meters.

From documents filed in court by the U.S. Government- the following activity took place from October 1993 through February 1995: (1) 161 shipments; (2) 4,357 devices smuggled; (3) estimated retail value of the devices shipped: $2,972,517.

Companies publish electronic plans enabling an individual to assemble his own equipment. These schematic diagrams include automobile tracking transmitters, bugging transmitters, telephone transmitters, a transmitter locator, and audio amplifiers.

Undercover Operations

Undercover operations is a term used to describe various types of activities designed so that the fact they are taking place is not recognized, or, if recognized, not for what it really is. The general purpose of undercover operations is either to 1) affect a change on a target or to 2) gather information about a target.

The Wall Street Journal of June 17, 1991, carried the following story:

In Houston's posh River Oaks section, a guard at an executive's home recently noticed two men grabbing bags of trash and throwing them into a van. As the van roared off, the guard scribbled down the license number, which was traced to the French consulate in Houston. Bernard Guiliet, French consul-general, now says he and an assistant were only picking up bags of grass cuttings to fill a hole dug for a consulate swimming pool that couldn't be completed because of a zoning dispute.

Retrieving garbage left on a public street is a legal (U.S. law) and routine method of acquiring information; at times this method proves to be invaluable because of the difficulty people have in recognizing that it takes place and taking the appropriate precautions.

Manuals

Educational manuals on executing various types of undercover operations and techniques are in print. These manuals range from topics such as conducting human source operations to surveillance techniques.

Pretext calls: from "60 Minutes" of September 6, 1992- the Kuwaiti government hired a Washington public relations firm to draw attention to their plight at the hands of Iraq. The firm organized the testimony at the congressional Human Rights Caucus of a fifteen year old Kuwaiti girl. She opened her testimony as follows:
"Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Nayirah, and I just got out of Kuwait. While I was there, I saw the Iraqi soldiers come into the hospital with guns. They took the babies out of the incubators, took the incubators and left the children to die on the cold floor. It was horrifying."

Nayirah turned out to be the daughter of the Kuwait ambassador the United States. Upon hearing the rumors of her real identity, a journalist stated:

"I called up the embassy and said, ‘Nayirah did a terrific job at the Human Rights Caucus, and I think her father must be very proud of her...’ And the ambassador’s secretary said to me, ‘You’re not supposed to know that. No one’s supposed to know she’s the ambassador’s daughter.’"

Book are in print containing prepared scripts for obtaining personal and financial information from people. One book opens with a chapter entitled "Establishing Rapport and Overcoming Objections."

**Computer Databases**

The capabilities of database retrieval could be difficult to comprehend without first hand experience. In short, a computer can in seconds scan through thousands of pages of text, looking for a word or a particular combination of words. Databases can be divided into the following three broad categories:

**Media:** available are not only The New York Times, Washington Post, and Wall Street Journal, but numerous local newspapers such as The Rocky Mountain News (Denver, CO), The Commercial Appeal (Memphis, TN), and The Times-Picayune (New Orleans, LA), and foreign newspapers such as Le Monde, The Irish Times, and The Prague Post. Wire services- UPI, AP, Reuters, and the Xinhua News Agency (China), for example, are also accessible.

**Business and public records:** corporate and bankruptcy filings, SEC filings, property ownership, criminal background checks, driver's licenses. Financial news. Companies combine mailing lists of hundreds of marketing companies, resulting in a database which can identify the address of a person or family, or their neighbors. Reverse phone directory- enter name, retrieve a person's phone number, or enter a phone number and retrieve the name of the person.

**Specialized information:** databases exist that specialize in information unique to a particular industry or country, generally in the form of periodic newsletters, and are a valuable source of information. Sample topics and newsletters include:

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<th>Industry</th>
<th>Newsletter</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aerospace</td>
<td>Airports, Satellite Week, World Airline News</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defense</td>
<td>Defense Daily, GPS Report, Tactical Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Atomic Energy Clearinghouse, U.S. Oil Week, Worldwide Energy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food/Beverage</td>
<td>Food Chemical News, Ice Cream Reporter, Washington Beverage Insight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health/Hospitals</td>
<td>Blood Weekly, Health Business, Tobacco Industry Litigation Reporter</td>
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<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>Baltic Business Report, Sub-Saharan Monitor, The Daily Japan Digest</td>
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\(^{1}\)Hazmat is an abbreviation for hazardous material.
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