New York Times Sep 4

BBC/Susan Watts, March 2002: *The New York Times carried a major investigation which at any other time would have been a story of huge significance. .. It revealed* (private) *contractors have been involved in **classified** bio-defence projects .. in the **first few days** of **September** last year - immediately prior to the attacks of the 11th.*

NYT, Sep 4, 2001: *In a program code-named **Clear Vision**, the Central Intelligence Agency built and tested a model of a **Soviet**-designed **germ bomb** that agency officials **feared** was being sold on the international market.*

*At about the same time, Pentagon **experts** assembled a **germ factory** in the **Nevada desert** from commercially available materials .. (that) demonstrated the **ease** with which a **terrorist** or **rogue nation** could build a plant that could produce pounds of the deadly germs.*

*Over the past several years, the United States has embarked on a program of secret research on biological weapons that, some officials say, **tests the limits** of the global treaty banning such weapons.*

*The 1972 treaty forbids nations from developing or acquiring weapons that spread disease, but it allows work on **vaccines** and other **protective measures**. Government officials said the secret research, which **mimicked** the major steps **a state or terrorist** would take to create a biological arsenal, was aimed at better **understanding** the threat.*

BBC/Susan Watts, March 2002: *One - run by a contractor - Battelle - was to create **genetically altered anthrax.***

NYT: *(A)dministration officials said, the Pentagon drew up plans to **engineer genetically** a potentially **more potent** variant of the bacterium that causes **anthrax,** a deadly disease **ideal** for **germ warfare**.*

*The **experiment** has been **devised** to assess whether the vaccine now being given to millions of American soldiers is effective against such a superbug, which was first created by **Russian** scientists. A Bush administration official said the National **Security** Council is expected to give the final **go-ahead** later this month.*

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