

## CPYRGHT

**Security Sieve:** Security experts are up in arms

over the recent announcement by the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs that it will hack 25 trained security agents from its payroll as of December 2. Headed by the controversial Salvatore Bontempo, whose closest previous brush with intelligence operations was as New Jersey's conservation commissioner, the Bureau is charged with protecting the State Department from possible espionage agents and security risks.

Its reduction in trained personnel has brought severe condemnation from former CIA official John W. Hanes, Jr., Bontempo's predecessor as head of the Bureau. Hanes told HUMAN EVENTS last week:

"While I realize that the Bureau must live with recent budget reductions, there is nothing in its pattern of cutting personnel which attempts to keep the integrity of the security section. In fact, just the opposite. I can only say this either is due to incompetence or a deliberate attempt to render the State Department's security section ineffective."

Hanes also criticized the abolition of the "reporting branch," a central repository for all reports that come in to the Bureau.

"The elimination of this branch will render security operations far more difficult," he explained.

Hanes also said he was dismayed at the elimination of the post of Deputy Director of Office of Security. The position is presently filled by Otto Otepka, a 19-year veteran of government service, who has been handling the personnel security section. The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee is now looking into the case.

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