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IN YOUR WORDS

Getting close to terror

How can we make any progress in our relationship with the Iranian government when we have a relationship with an organization whose aim is to destroy it? Our intelligence seems to hurt us more than help us.

P. STUART, ALBANY

This seems to me a classic story of a guy who gets things done versus overly cautious bureaucrats whose main goal in life is to see that they don't. What good is an intelligence organization if it is so concerned with political appearance that it doesn't develop sources? And how can one develop sources within a criminal organization without having contact with unsavory characters?

JOSH HILL, NEW LONDON

Loretta Lynch praised

Ms. Lynch is an inspired choice as attorney general. Having been one of her professional admirers for many years, I can acknowledge she would be an exceptional leader to the Justice Department at a crucial transitional juncture. I remain "hopeful" the lame-duck Senate will act upon Ms. Lynch's appointment by President Obama in an expeditious manner consistent with its constitutional obligations through a confirmation process respectful of her impeccable professional qualifications.

MEMNON, U.S.A.

Let's focus on her impressive legal and professional accomplishments and thus leave aside irrelevant references to her great-great-grandfather, grandfather and slavery — which had nothing to do with Barack Obama's decision in selecting her to be the next attorney general. Such presumably innocent but patronizing references in her ancestry-biography may (inadvertently) serve to take the focus away from her unquestionable qualifications.

DR. JACQUES HENRY, BOSTON

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IN OUR PAGES

International Herald Tribune

1889 Lord Mayor's Day Celebrated

LONDON The double anniversary of Lord Mayor's Day and the Prince of Wales's birthday was kept up with more than usual éclat to-day [Nov.9]. Indeed, old stagers who have seen the show for twenty years say nothing has been seen to equal the pageant of to-day. There was no circus show about it, only the usual official procession, plus a series of historical pictures designed by the Hon. Lewis Wingfield and carried out without regard to expense. Good Queen Bess, the old English sports, the series of Lord Mayors, extending over seven centuries, were all loudly cheered by probably one of the densest throngs ever seen in London.

1939 France Aims for 'Total Peace'

France is determined to fight Hitler's "totalitarian war" until it obtains a "totalitarian peace," Paul Reynaud, French Minister of Finance, told a record gathering of the American Club of Paris. M. Reynaud stressed that France's finances are stronger now than a year ago despite the gigantic cost of war. Emphasizing that Europe has for some years past been "fighting a bloodless war," M. Reynaud recalled the assassination of Chancellor Dollfuss, the martyrdom of Chancellor Kurt von Schuschnigg, the destruction of Austria, Czecho-Slovakia and Poland.

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Seeking order from chaos



I.P.-E.E.-01, 2001, DIRK BRAECKMAN, COURTESY OF ZENO X GALLERY, ANTWERP

ENIGMA Works by Dirk Braeckman, a leading figure in contemporary Flemish photography, are the subject of a retrospective through Jan. 4 at Le Bal in Paris. Mr. Braeckman, who lives and works in Ghent, Belgium, said: "Photography is, for me, an almost obsessive attempt to scan, in my own way, everything around me, everything I meet, driven by the desire to give order to chaos. With or without a camera." It is

in the darkroom that he often reworks his negatives and the prints themselves — sometimes years after the original shot — refining multiple shades of gray, printing on matte paper and rephotographing his own prints. Diane Dufour, director of Le Bal, called his work "diaphanous yet suggestive" and said, "His images, which have little narrative content or storytelling value, are never a direct representation of reality."

Manitas de Plata, superstar of the flamenco guitar, dies at 93

BY BRUCE WEBER

Manitas de Plata, a celebrity of flamenco guitar who sold millions of records, befriended Salvador Dalí and Brigitte Bardot, performed for raucous crowds at Carnegie Hall, made and spent fortunes and generally lived a life

OBITUARY

of fulfilled appetites after growing up poor and illiterate, died on Thursday in Montpellier, France. He was 93.

His death was confirmed by his daughter Françoise Mariaux, one of his many children. (News reports said he may have had more than two dozen.)

A descendant of a Romany family from Spain that settled in France, Manitas de Plata — the name, which he took when he began performing, means "little hands of silver" in Spanish — was born Ricardo Baliardo in Cette (now known as Sète), a town on the French Mediterranean, on Aug. 7, 1921, and grew up in a Gypsy caravan in the region.

Untutored in the guitar and unable to read either words or music, he was said to have picked up the instrument at age 9 and begun emulating practitioners of

the wailing, forcefully rhythmic and melodically dramatic folk music of Andalusian peasants known as flamenco.

He grew to become a swift-fingered virtuoso and an audience-pleasing performer, though not a technician or an observer of the music's formal ritual traditions. (He had his detractors among flamenco purists.) Still, Manitas de Plata was a phenomenon early on.

He made his name as a young man playing in the cafes and festivals of Provence, where he became a favorite among many in the European intelligentsia — "the rage of the Riviera" he was called, according to The New York Times. Jean Cocteau was a fan, as was Picasso. His career was promoted by a friend, Lucien Clergue, later a well-known photographer, who steered him toward recording.

He often performed with the singer José Reyes, whose sons are part of the popular flamenco group the Gipsy Kings. Three other members of that group are from the Baliardo family, distant cousins. He made dozens of albums; Agence France-Presse and other news outlets reported that he had sold nearly 100 million records around the world.

Reportedly frightened of flying, he

did not come to the United States until the 1960s. He made the first of many appearances at Carnegie Hall in 1965, to an enthusiastic response.

"Manitas de Plata, the Gypsy guitarist who works with the bravura of a matador, took over the Carnegie Hall bull ring at midnight Saturday and won 2,600 pairs of ears," Robert Shelton wrote in The Times in 1967, adding, "He is an Actors Studio flamenquista, who throws generous kisses to an adulating gallery and who savors the act of taunting the bull of attention with his cape of virtuosity and ego."

Reviewing another Carnegie Hall performance a decade later, Robert Palmer of The Times focused more on the music, which he wrote "sounded something like a cross between the syn-copated shuffle of New Orleans jazz and the darting rhythms of Mauritanian lute music." But he too took note of Manitas de Plata's showmanship, observing that he "does not seem to feel constrained by concert-hall settings."

Known as a spendthrift who loved expensive cars and the company of women, Manitas de Plata made millions from his recordings and concerts but died without much money, his agent, Bern-



DOMINIQUE FAGET/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Manitas de Plata in Paris in 1983. Never formally trained, he sold millions of records.

ard Biglione, said in an interview on Thursday.

"He wanted to see people happy and to play the guitar," Mr. Biglione said.

He was "a man with one hell of a personality, with lots of kindness," his

daughter Françoise said, adding, "He knew how to make the most out of life."

Aurelien Bredeen contributed reporting from Paris, and Susan Beachy from New York.

For Clinton, time is right to get ready



Albert R. Hunt

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

The Democrats' drubbing in the midterm elections simplified one of Hillary Rodham Clinton's challenges: Now she can strike some distance from President Obama. Everybody else is doing it.

The former secretary of state, who is almost certain to run for president in 2016, has the luxury of time to elaborate her strategy. There will be matters beyond her control: relentless attacks, including some from the left.

But it's mainly the political right and Republicans who will work tirelessly to dig up dirt on the expected 2016 Democratic nominee. For all the talk of empowered congressional Republicans investigating every facet of the Obama administration, they won't miss any opportunity to look into Mrs. Clinton.

She's tough, resilient, and likely to be prepared for this predictable onslaught. More instructive is whether she's prepared for matters within her control. These include defining her candi-

didacy and possible presidency. It won't be sufficient to run on competence, breadth of experience and reminders that, by the way, her husband's White House years were the salad days for the

United States economy.

Her foreign policy credentials are fodder for champions and critics alike. But there is no domestic centerpiece. She needs an innovative, or even bold approach — this is a cautious politician — to dealing with middle-class economic stagnation and income inequality.

That requires choices and trade-offs. She has a good and lucrative association with Goldman Sachs. She also praises the liberal Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts: "I love watching Elizabeth give it to those who deserve to get it," she said last month at a campaign rally in Massachusetts. One of the institutions Ms. Warren likes to "give it to" is Goldman Sachs.

Can Mrs. Clinton put together an efficient, functioning campaign? In the 2007-8 cycle, the Clinton camp was rife with infighting, warring clans as the many elements of Clintonland weighed in, sometimes not helpfully. Especially controversial was top strategist Mark Penn, who had to step down late in the campaign when it was disclosed he was simultaneously working for the government of Colombia.

It is expected that former President Bill Clinton's chief of staff, John D. Podesta, will assume the role of chief executive in the 2016 campaign. It would be a widely praised selection. As a strategist, he understands the nexus of politics and policy as well as anyone since James A. Baker III, the renowned Republican who served in the administrations of Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush.

Mrs. Clinton is also seeking advice outside her political circle, most notably from David Plouffe, who ran Mr. Obama's presidential campaigns.

And this time she is determined get the crucial technology and data right.

The big question is whether she will assemble a coherent team that holds at bay some of the more disruptive elements of the far-reaching Clinton constellation.

Will there be a Bill problem? The former president's indelicate comments caused her some anxiety in 2008. He was rusty then, having been out of the campaigning limelight for a while. But in 2012 and during this year's midterm elections, he has shown that he's easily America's best stump campaigner as well as the most popular politician.

Everyone else pales next to him on the campaign trail, including Mrs. Clinton. He also possesses superb political instincts; she is more methodical. Unfavorable comparisons will be made, but she can't let that get to her.

The former secretary of state's book and promotional tour this summer fell flat. Yet she won raves for her campaign appearances this autumn.

In modern American politics, there has never been such a prohibitive front-runner who wasn't the incumbent president. No one, in either party, can boast of such odds of winning. Yet Mrs. Clinton's path will be full of unforeseen changes, and more than a few ugly moments.

How she prepares in the next few months may well determine how she weathers the storms. (BLOOMBERG VIEW)

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