

Codename: Echelon/P415

Project Echelon and P415 is an integrated global surveillance system that is made up of a network of satellites, massive computer systems, and an array of electronic signals. The 'eyes in the sky' intercepts, processes, and monitors all telephone calls, including local, international and cellular, as well as fax transmissions, radio transmissions, text messaging, all Internet, and human activity 24 hours a day on the earth. P415 is equipped with Voice Recognition and Optical Character Recognition (OCR), a computer software that converts handwritten and typewritten text into a form computers can read.

Executed by the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) after World War II (1939-1945), Project Echelon was sanctioned in 1948 under the umbrella of the UK-USA, a highly secretive compact (or treaty) between the U.S. and four English-speaking countries: United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Their goal, initially, was to establish a secret “watch” system to spy on Russia and its allies during the Cold War. However, this was just the beginning to what is now a worldwide attack and intrusion on every citizen’s privacy.

Echelon/P415 has processing stations that intercept communication from all over the world. The UK’s Menwith Hill center is the largest station and intercepts communication from Europe, Russia, Africa and the Middle East. The U.S. monitors parts of Russia, North and South American, while Australia is assigned to Southeastern Asia, including Indonesia, India, and the South Pacific Islands.

The US and United Kingdom are the leading forces of the UK-USA alliance. All “flagged and questionable” information is sent to the National Security Agency located in Fort Meade, MD where innumerable pieces of data are scrutinized daily by *super* computers.

We can see that the nations’ governments have been adamant in capturing all international and domestic communication for a very long time. It is clear that all of us are living in a time where our privacy is far-gone and antique! *Everything* we do and say is being recorded, and it’s all *for our safety*, right?

In 1999 Thomas Evans, former president of GeoCities, a web hosting company now owned by Yahoo, laid out the bottom line by stating, “You already have no privacy. Get over it” (Jeffrey, 2000, p.100).

To learn more, please see the below references:

Jeffrey, G. (2000). *Surveillance society*. Toronto, ON: Frontier Research Publications, Inc.

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Campbell, D. (2000). The history, structure and function of the global

surveillance system known as Echelon. *Telepolis*. Retrieved March 28, 2008

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