Corruption in the Pentagon Defense Policy Board

On March 27th Richard Perle stepped down as chairman of the Pentagon's Defense Policy Board after articles in the New Yorker and New York times revealed his financial stakes in Trireme Partners, a private fund that is currying Saudi investment in homeland security companies, and the Autonomy Corporation, a British company that sells eavesdropping software to the FBI and to US, British and Italian intelligence, and that he was taking money from Global Crossing to lobby the Pentagon to approve their dealings with Hong Kong and Mainland China. Perle is still a member of the board. Of the 30 members of the Defense Policy Board at least 9 have ties to companies that have won more than $76 billion in defense contracts in 2001 and 2002. Four members are registered lobbyists, one of whom represents two of the three largest defense contractors.

Retired Gen. Jack Sheehan senior vice president of Bechtel, one of the world's largest engineering-construction firms with defense contracts in 2002 worth over $1 billion. Bechtel has been awarded construction contracts in post-war Iraq, a project worth up to $105 billion over ten years.

Retired Adm. David Jeremiah, a former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is a director or advisor of at least five corporations that received more than $10 billion in Pentagon contracts in 2002.

Former CIA director James Woolsey is a principal in the Paladin Capital Group, a venture-capital firm that like Perle's Trireme Partners is soliciting investment for homeland security firms. Vice president of consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton. The company had defense contracts worth more than $680 million in 2002.

William Owens sits on boards of five companies that received more than $60 million in defense contracts last year. Previously, he was president, chief operating officer and vice chair of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), among the ten largest defense contractors.

Harold Brown former Secretary of Defense under President Jimmy Carter. Board member of Philip Morris Companies and a trustee of the Rand Corporation, which respectively had defense contracts worth $146 million and $83 million in 2002.

James Schlesinger former CIA director, defense secretary and energy secretary in the Carter and Nixon administrations. Chairs the board of trustees of the Mitre Corp., a not-for-profit that provides research and development support for the government. Mitre had defense contracts $474 million in 2002.

Chris Williams is a lobbyist for defense companies with Johnston & Associates. which represents Lockheed Martin, Boeing, TRW and Northrop Grumman.

Retired Air Force Gen. Ronald Fogleman sits on the board of directors of companies which received more than $900 million in contracts in 2002 including Rolls-Royce North America, North American Airlines, AAR Corporation and the Mitre Corp.

For more information about the power private corporations over federal and local governments visit the following web sites:
www.corpwatch.org
www.citizenworks.org
www.earthsummit.biz