

## Rumours and hoaxes the Social Engineering approach

(to the business and governmental world)

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Thuesday, May 11th Inet 2004 Bacelona

Geneva: www.isocava.cl



### Mon positionnement

- Member of the scientist board and teaching within the graduate courses in information monitoring and competitive intelligence
- \* Teacher and correspondent, Economic School of War, Paris
- Executive Master of Economic Crime Investigation
- Member advisory board of Infosurance
- President of l'Internet Society Geneva



#### The infosphere approach

- The information flow has switch from a principle of lineare exchange to a multidimensional mode of interaction.
- The general level of knowledge is decreasing, creating a technological gap; weakening of as much the capacity of understanding necessary to the early detection of the weak signals (alert signals)

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## Today's information, the « state of the art »

- Previously, the traditional structures of diffusion of information rested on established and controllable "filters" of validation (like press).
- The Web generated a system of creation and diffusion of the "self-educated" information which rests mainly on a dynamics of beliefs.



#### Information perception, the « state of the art »

- A single protocol of exchange (TCP/IP) for multiple formats, numerically « deconstructed »
- A capacity to create and modify any type of information (text, image, audio, video)
- No vehicle inspection of the integrity of information

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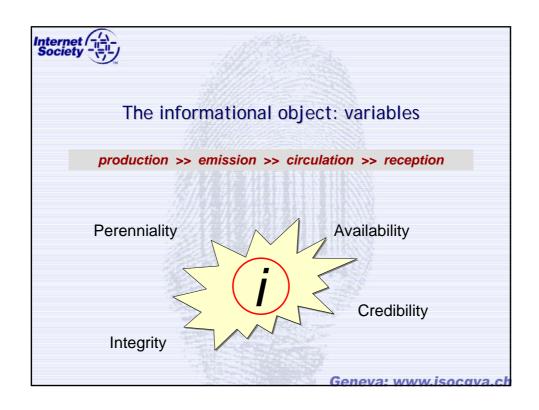
### Information perception, the « state of the art »

- So one attends an increase in the asymmetrical report/ratio in the diffusion of the rumour, by the prevalence of emotional on the rational one.
- reactivity at the information and the speed of the exchanges which results from it, makes it not easily controllable



#### A favorable ground

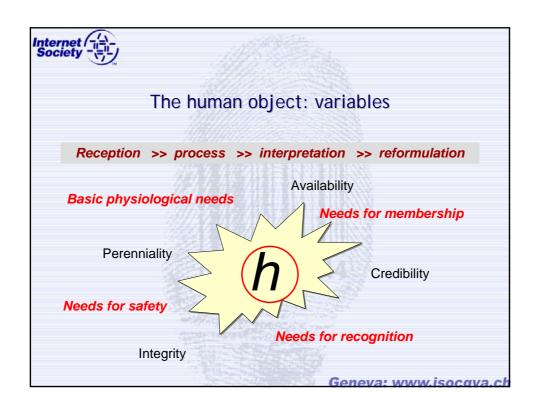
- The loss of control between the real technological potential of the information technology and the comprehension that one has some.
- A more difficult economic situation, incease the loss of control of the technological environment
- Privatization and globalisation increase the intrinsic criminogene potential present within the market economy





# <u>Specificity of the informational object on human</u> <u>interaction :</u>

- It is the product of a belief, an opinion, a perception, or a situation
- It interacts with its environment (positioning in the search engines, linking & deep linking)
- Able to create dynamically, in real time, of information (automatic publication of contents, CMS). It is thus transformationnel (ability to transform itself).





#### The human object: response

How those: Basic physiological needs, Needs for membership, Needs for safety, Needs for recognition take forms in the infosphere?

The human response to those need can be shown:

- •In relaying information (hoaxes, virus)
- To validate unknown sources
- •Adherence with the decisions taken or the beliefs present

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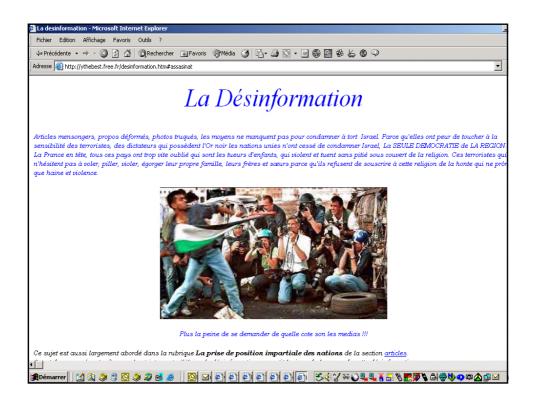


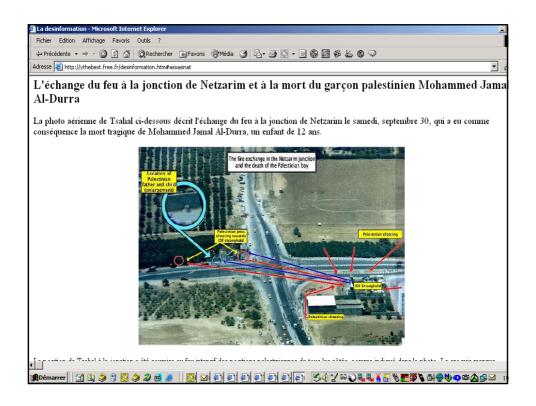
## The power of the information

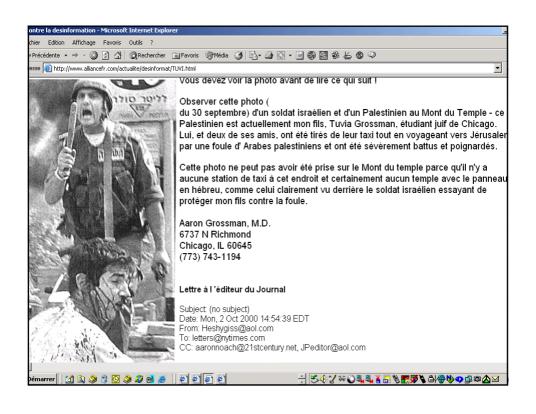
Governmental propaganda

or

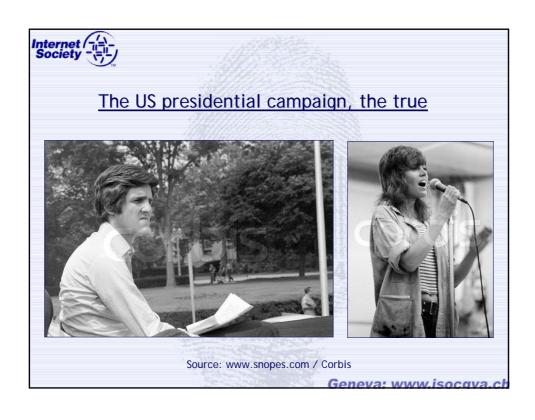
the misuse of information operation (IO)



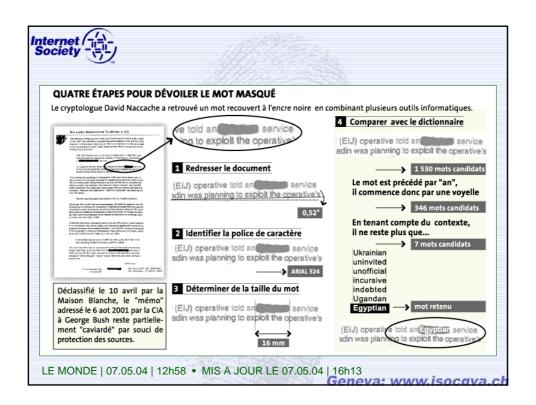










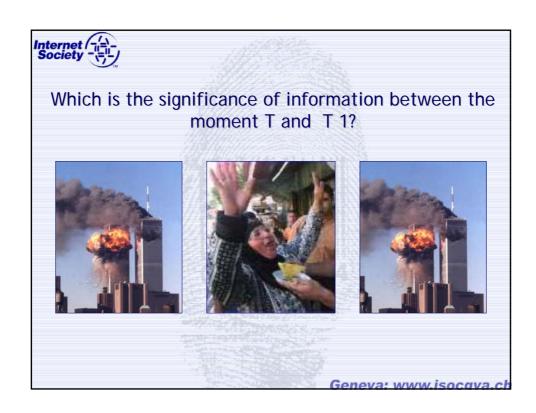




#### The New York Times adulterates its online files.

- September 9, 2001, the journalist of the New York Times, John F Burns, signed a bearing article on a videotape which circulated since June in the islamists circles throughout the world.
- In the hours which followed the attack of the WTC, September 11, the New York Times withdrew the original article of Burns and replaced by a second text, on 12 September, less critical of the persons in charge for safety and more centered on the Palestinian question as reason for the attack.

http://cyberie.gc.ca/chronik/20020219.html#a





# The original article does not appear any more in the online files of the newspaper .

The address of the original article:

*nytimes.com/2001/09/09/international/asia/090SAM.html* redirect automatically towards the address of the second article :

 $\label{lem:nytimes.com/2001/09/12/international/120SAM.html} without it being made by it mention. The URL goes from the 09/09 to the 09/12 in a "transparent" way. The title has also sudden a transformation .$ 

Original article title:

«On Videotape, Bin Laden Charts a Violent Future»

New article title:

«America the Vulnerable Meets a Ruthless Enemy»

http://cyberie.qc.ca/chronik/20020219.html#a



By the loss of confidence that they generate, these facts can only support the emergence of belief in the masses

So that makes the ground much more favourable with the actions of destabilization

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# The power of the image

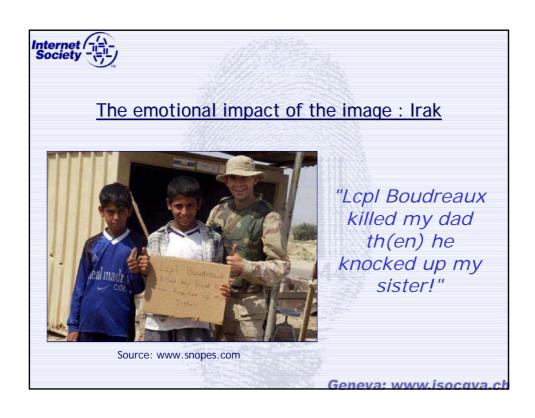
Weapons of mass opinion



#### **Timisoara**

« upsetting them images of the" mass grave of
Timisoara », ten mutilated bodies of which that of a
woman holding a new-born baby in the arms. One
speaks then about 4 500 insurgent assassinated by the
"Securitate" and thrown in mass graves. In January
1990, doctors of Timisoara will reveal that the
"torture victims" had died of natural death













Results from this destabilizing campaign: considerable damages on the opinion and the image of the United States through the world

The necessary « conventional » means to obtain identical result, in term of harmful effect, are without any comparison

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# The power of the information

hacktivism propaganda & reputation management



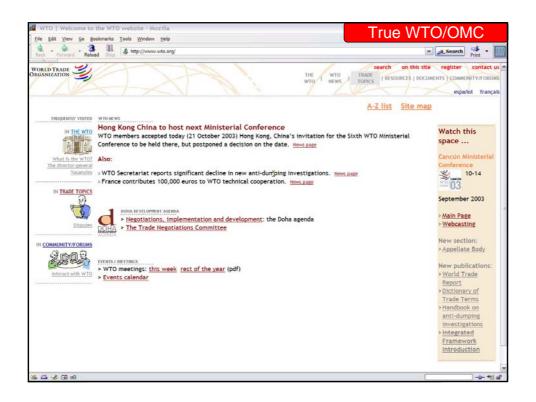
#### The WTO & The Yes Men

In October 2000, the **Yes Men** were offered an opportunity they couldn't pass up: to lecture an international group of distinguished lawyers on the ideology of the World Trade Organization... as representatives of that agency. Here's how it happened:

In March 2000, the Yes Men are given control of GATT.org by the group that designed it. Gatt.org looks just like the WTO's official website (but conveys the WTO's message more clearly).

In May 2000, an organizer of a conference on international law writes to GATT.org inviting WTO Director-General Mike Moore to

present. Three months later, "Moore" politely declines but suggests a replacement, **Dr. Andreas Bichlbauer of Vienna**.















Date: Tue, 21 Nov 2000 18:40:12 -0500

To: Delegates: [all seventy-five conference attendees];

From: Werner Daitz<wdaitz@gatt.org> Subject: Conference 2000.10.27

Dear Delegates,

Perhaps you have now heard about the unfortunate event that took place during "Provision of International Services and Sale of Goods" in Salzburg, on the morning of October 27, after Dr. Andreas Bichlbauer's lecture on behalf of the World Trade Organization.

A few hours after that lecture, someone anonymously hurled a pie in Dr. Bichlbauer's face.

This would have remained merely another irritating illustration of the WTO's unpopularity in today's world of snap judgments, had Dr. Bichlbauer not contracted a rather severe infection from the pie, which was somewhat spoiled.













