

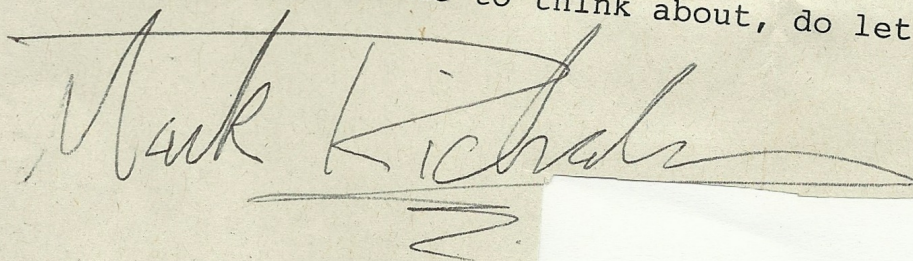
Talking about Cornwall - I wanted to mention that the communications facility we spoke about being located there is the one at 'Bude'. The subsea fiber-optic cables that carry telephone and internet traffic are a technological marvel - and a gift to intelligence agencies. The cables make landfall at just a handful of locations, meaning vast quantities of data can be sucked out at one site and, according to Edward Snowden, the prolific US National Security Agency leak, that is what British Intelligence has been doing for the last few years.

In the leak to The Guardian newspaper on June 22, 2013, Snowden said the UK Government Communications Headquarters in Cheltenham was siphoning data from at least 200 fiber-optic telecommunications cables - including many of the transatlantic subsea cables that hit British shores at Bude in Cornwall. The tapping project, known as "Tempora", allows phone calls to be monitored, as well as emails on offshore American-hosted webmail services such as Gmail, Yahoo and Outlook.

My point is that you take one look at the base at Bude and you know there is more going on there than tapping a few cables. Wait until you see the domes and dish complex - its very impressive, and its not tapping cables! Nor are they listening to satellites - or, at least, that is not all they are listening to.

More later; for a few more attempts I want to see if you continue to get my letters. I hope your summer is going well. If there are questions you want me to think about, do let me know.

All my best;

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark Richards', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.