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## **Free the Gitmo 200**

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I am no squiff on the war on terrorism. I supported the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. Still do. I have no qualms, either, about permitting Western intelligence agents to "work the dark side" and "spend time in the shadows," as U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney warned would be necessary following the 9/11 attacks.

Terrorism is asymmetrical warfare -- irregular and ruthless forces pitted against conventional Western armies and law-enforcement systems. It is our commitment to rule-based warfare and investigation that is often the terrorists' greatest asset.

Three years ago, too, Mr. Cheney explained that the CIA would once again have to trade money and favours for information about America's enemies. Sometimes it would have to look the other way when informants broke the law. American agents would have to infiltrate violent groups, use mental and physical distress to extract information on terror organizations and targets, and "have on the payroll some very unsavoury characters."

In short, fighting the war on terror successfully would mean the return of so-called "black ops," which had never fully disappeared but which had fallen out of official favour and been dramatically curtailed since the 1970s.