

explanation clearly seeks Charles's front

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.med.cardiology/2007-08/msg00594.html>

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 - *Date:* Wed, 15 Aug 2007 03:32:07 GMT
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year, a secret court in the Justice Department authorized a record

- * 697 'national security' wiretaps on American soil, outside normal constitutional procedures.
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- * The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, is a 1978 law that permits
- * secret buggings and wiretaps of individuals suspected of being agents
- * of a hostile foreign government or international terrorist organization
- * **EVEN WHEN THE TARGET IS NOT SUSPECTED OF COMMITTING ANY CRIME.**
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- * The FISA court operates outside the normal constitutional standards for
- * searches and seizures. Non-government personnel are not allowed.
- * The courts files cannot be publicly reviewed.
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- * The average U.S. citizen might reasonably assume use of this court
- * is at the least: unusual.
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- * It is not. In fact, in the United States today it is increasingly
- * common. In 1994, federal courts authorized more wiretaps for
- * intelligence-gathering and national security purposes than they
- * did to investigate ordinary federal crimes.
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- * The review process to prevent legal and factual errors is virtually
- * non-existent.
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- * And the FISA system's courtroom advocacy is monumentally one-sided.
- *
- * The court has never formally rejected an application. Not once.
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- * For the first time in modern U.S. history, the Congress had
- * institutionalized a process for physical

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