

A Fireside Chat With Jack Devine, Former Head Of Global Operations, CIA & President At The Arkin Group

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Bob Sloan

3:43:29PM

It's quite an honor to have Jack as featured speaker. You're just not going to find many people more accomplished than he is. It's a real honor to call him a friend. And I've known Jack for many years. It's when you read his resume, and I'll read it to you, you almost can't believe that one person has accomplished so much to live the life that he's lived. It's just incredible.

So, let's just start out that he was the 32 -year veteran of the Central Intelligence Agency.

He served this both acting Director and Associate Director of the CIA's operations outside the United States. Between 1990 and 1992, Jack headed the CIA's counter-narcotics center during the time drug kingpin Pablo Escobar met his demise.

Multiple speakers

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From 1985 to 1987, he ran the CIA's Afghan task force which drove the former Soviet Union out of Afghanistan. So yes, Jack was the guy to put the stinger missile on a pack mules that got them out of Pakistan and into Afghanistan and did bring down the Soviet Union. Wasn't [inaudible] Well, he provided the money but you had vision.

Bob Sloan

3:44:53PM

Jack is a recipient of so many different medals; Is the recipient of the CIA's directors medal, the distinguished intelligence medal, and several meritorious awards.

I've read both of his books. They're great. And if you're really looking to understand what a patriot looks and feels like, read "Good Hunting". It's his life story in the CIA and goes through many many, many recommendations for how government uses intelligence artfully, skillfully, and in our national interest.

His latest book, which I've also read and I recommend highly -- we have it out front -- Is called "A Spymaster's Prism: The fight Against Russian Aggression". And this was well before world events evolved the way they did. It focuses on Russian intelligence aggression against our national interest, including inside the United States.

Jack is a founding partner and president of The Arkin Group, which is an international risk consulting and intelligence firm. And he's also a member- if that all wasn't enough- of the Council of Foreign Relations. Jack, welcome to S3 Air Summit it's such a great pleasure to have you here.

Jack Devine

3:46:28PM

Well, Thank you, Bob. I may ruin your business, but it's your fault. I was telling Bloomberg News today that someone's called and said: "well, it's about Ukraine and Taiwan". And I said, "well, these are subjects that I might be able to finesse" I got on to the middle and they said, "well, there's a conference and your part of that conference. What about the economy? What do you think of the US economy?" I said, "Look, you really need to go talk to the people at the summit". Then I thought, gosh that's lame. It is so lame. So I said, "Well inflation, it's going to continue. Interest rates are going up. In 2023, Is that going to be such a good year?" So I really stuck my neck out. But I identified you is the, the brains behind that analysis. But I got smarter today, because this is a lot of really smart people.

Multiple speakers

3:47:24PM

Thanks Jack. I wish they called me after the shot after this.

Bob Sloan

3:47:30PM

Jack I want to start out with doing a little Q&A. And, your second book "Spymaster's Prism: The Fight Against Russian Aggression" was published last March. And it really is of the moment. I really encourage everyone in the audience, please read this book. You cannot be informed about what's happening in the world without reading it.

Tell us about the book's emphasis. Including your trip to Kiev in 2018 and what motivates you, as a former CIA spymaster, to write the book. And what's the difference between a spy and a spymaster?

Jack Devine

3:48:14PM

One's better looking. That's the spy not the spymaster. Just the case you are slightly confused. So let me he take these in different orders.

I really like my book. You should like it if you publish it.

And, I thought I was prescient with some of the things I said in the book. I do get things right once in a while. But what I got totally wrong was like published last year and when it came out then all my friends said: "Jack why you writing about Russia?"

You know book reviewers, "Why are you writing about Russia? It's all about China", you know. And then I talked to some of my CIA folks, So I said, "look, Afghanistan. You know, we're out of Afghanistan. We're out of Iraq. You need to refocus where we're going." And they said, "Oh no, we got it covered." I said, "you have it covered?" "yes, we have it covered." It's all about China.

And they said, it's never all about any particular place and China is still the top long-term adversary, but we really shouldn't have shut our eyes or put one hand over our eyes on Russia as we look at Ukraine today.

Why do I write books? I stumbled into it when I first came out of CIA. They lifted my cover So I was allowed to say I worked at CIA.

But if you ran into me and at any cocktail party and you asked me where I worked, I would say I worked with US Government.

I tried that with my dentist here in New York, Stan [inaudible]. You said, "well what do what do you do". I said, "well I work for the US Government." "Now what do you really do?" I said, "I work for CIA." "That's great. I tell the people that too, because if I tell them Dentist, they're going to want to look at my molars and everything else." So with Stan, I then started to open up and I say I work at CIA. [inaudible]. And then eventually there was a story about Chile, and I was there when Allende, was overthrown many years ago as a young Officer.

So whenever that issue comes up, they're looking for somebody can talk about it. So the CIA called me and said "look, they're going to write an article in the Washington Post. We can't to ask you that. We're not asking you to do it. We can't tell you to do it, of course, but would you give the other side of the story?" So in a moment, of hubris- and that's when I get in trouble for those moments- and I said, "Oh sure, I'll do that."

The next thing I know the Washington Post ran a full page story. My face covered half of it and as intriguing as it may seem, I couldn't figure out why they did that. Well, they had a shadow behind me and the title was "Spook the Dictator", and who doesn't want that as a title? But the reason they kept blowing up was because there was a shadow behind.

But after that, it was out in the public and since then I've written books, I've spoken to many groups, and what I really found is how much I enjoy it because it enables me to share my impressions and my view of the agency, and the role of intelligence of what it's really about.

And it gives me a chance to lecture my old friends. So now they don't take it as finely as my commercial guests, but it gives me a chance I feel like there's something I want to say. It doesn't matter, whether I'm right or not but once it's on paper, it's there forever. So I've got an awful lot out of the books. And I feel like. Lifted a weight off my chest in terms of how they feel about different things and I keep going on.

There is an old, I've seen the tape I wasn't there when General Garter spoke before Congress. He gave a great speech because he was leaving; a great general for World War II. And he said, "Old soldiers never die, they fade away." And I would say, old spy masters never die, they fade away, unless they have a pen. If you have a pen, you can live forever because once it's written. So you're asking me why, I have a lot of different reasons, but what you read has to be approved by the CIA. I cannot give up a secret source.

Well, I can certainly give you all the opinions, on partisan, nonpartisan. I've tried to tell it like I see it, but they do not put a clamp on what I have to say and I hope when we get to your questions I'm able to answer them as candidly and bluntly as I can. So Bob, that was a big question, I hope I answered part of it.

Multiple speakers

3:53:03PM

Sure. So let's come back to the Ukraine for a second. I don't know if you--Let me come back to the Ukraine for a second. Can you hear me?

Jack Devine

3:53:15PM

I can hear you, but I don't know if anyone else can.

Bob, if you can hear I'm just saying, let's go back to the Ukraine.

Bob Sloan

3:53:23PM

Yes.

Jack Devine

3:53:23PM

Oh, there you go, you're back.

Bob Sloan

3:53:32PM

Yes, let's go back to the Ukraine, let me ask you a few questions about it. So what motivated Putin to invade and what makes the ex-KGB's spymaster tick?

Jack Devine

3:53:46PM

Right. So a lot of people talk about Putin. When I addressed it in the book, *The Spymaster's Prism* and after I had looked and studied his background, I knew a lot about it, but it was interesting to sit down and think about it. He wanted to join the KGB, it wasn't that he needed a job or his father was going to get him a job. He really wanted to be a spy and he wanted to be a spymaster and they wanted to serve in the KGB.

He was rejected the first time, but that was because he was too young. And he went back and applied again and got in. He made the rank of major but he never left what I would call the Soviet Union Eastern block area. He wasn't one of the Golden boys or gals of the KGB that went to Paris and had champagne in Washington D.C., he was in Dresden, Germany. For those of you that live in Germany, Dresden is my first stop and during the Cold War, Eastern Germany would've been my last stop. And there was a very famous spymaster, a spymaster is the person that runs the spies. It was a man named Markus Wolf, who in [inaudible] book is *Karla*.

So he lived in an environment, one of the really true spymasters running at one time, 100,000 assets, not directly but his whole organization around 100,000 spies inside of Germany. And it was in that type of cold world mentality, the spy who came in from the cold that Putin formed his thinking. So he has a cold world thinking, a rigid cold world thinking. And part of that was the US is an implacable enemy and I believe despite his charm offense at different times, I think he believes that we are an innate adversary.

And when it collapsed, and he's been quoted often that this is the most damaging thing that happened in his life was the Soviet Union collapsing, not because he's a diehard communist but because of how we felt about the Soviet Union intelligence and how to face the world, and I think he has been driven by that view that the world ought to look like that. And if you think about it,

Ukraine was critical to the Soviet Union and to every Russian dynasty that ever existed. Russia on its own, many in this room are better economists, their GDP is rather small compared to say, France and Spain. They are in that level of GDP, but with Ukraine, they become a much more industrial and agricultural powerful country and that was part of his vision of the world.

He has a delusion, he said the other day that he's going to be the new Peter the Great. Well, you have to go back and read more history about Peter the Great but he killed his for one because he tried to overthrow him, but maybe that may happen in Putin's world as well. But in purely ambitions and making Russia what it is today, it is totally consistent with his driving force to recreate and get the respect that he believes Russia deserves.

I thought he was very aggressive, and when I was in Kevin 2018 and I met with all the top senior people, I kept on [inaudible] writing a book. They said "Oh, great," but they assumed that I was still active. So when I think of what he's trying to do and that trip, Ukrainians were telling me, "We're going to fight to the last person, the last man."

So when I got around to looking at the beginning of the runup to the invasion I said, "I know he wants it, but this isn't how he is going to do it. He's going to use political influence to undermine the government, rattle [inaudible]." And then every day it got more and more likely that he was going to go in.

I think it was a really poorly based decision. I think it was [inaudible] intelligence on his part and his team's part, and then he actually went in, in this day and age into land war and fighting on the continent of Europe, and bringing the havoc and destruction. I've changed my assessment and I'm pretty tough on them in the book, but I think there is a core to him that is much more dangerous. We don't use evil anymore, but I really believe that intrinsically, he is prepared to pay any price to accomplish his goals.

When you get to the point of atrocities, and I had a Wall Street Journal article too in March. The title, basically it said, "Putin's days are numbered." I didn't mean it was five days but everybody got excited and that's why the Wall Street Journal published it. But he is never going to come back to the Putin that he was before the day he invaded. But what he has done is really stunning to me and I gave him more credit than is due. I gave the Russian Army more credit, which is a very common mistake made in the intelligence community, that you think you have a better army and that's been a shocker that Ukrainians would fight, I'm not surprised, they've fought so well, somewhat surprised, but that he had the character, an evil character, I mean, I guess I feel comfortable with that word in this case, if he can see thousands of people dying unprovoked in my view, it puts him in a different category of national leaders in history.

Bob Sloan

4:00:07PM

Jack, can you elaborate a little bit about the relationship between China and Russia? And how much of a threat is China to our national security interest today? And if I might ask a follow-up to that, if you're President Xi and you're looking at the performance of the Russian military, what are you thinking?

Jack Devine

4:00:29PM

Well, Bob, I'm glad you're asking me these light questions that have short yes and no answers.

Let's take the last one. I think where Xi is, I have a lot of respect for the Chinese. Again, you have to be careful you don't overweight it, but historically, they're more patient on their national objectives. We probably lead the pack in patience but the Chinese are quite impatient, so I think they're looking at this situation. I think they have serious designs on Taiwan. But I think they recalibrated, they saw what happened to the Putin Initiative and that is the whole world turned against him or a large part of the world, a critical part economically that supported the Chinese. And I think they fully understand that if they were to do that, the economics around that would be setting them back given all the progress that they've made, so I think they've pushed it off. [inaudible], they'll talk tough about it. The defense departments, I think it's reasonable in saying that 2027 is the year because it's the 100th anniversary of the army. And I think maybe they had that as a concept, but I think today, they've backed off and they are waiting to see how it all plays out, and I don't think it plays out well for Russia.

So, if it turns out well, they may reconsider it. So I think the threat is not so much about Taiwan, but every day they get stronger militarily. And I've watched in the intelligence world, they really weren't very good on collecting human intelligence. They've been working for years on technology, but human intelligence, but I've watched that they've gotten quite good. They are nowhere near as good as the Russians yet, but apart of being a big power, you have to be able to collect human intelligence, and spying. So every side I look the Chinese are getting stronger. And the question is, is there a way to find the combination with them in the kind of context that you work which is the economic context. So I think we're going to have some tension with China for sure, but hopefully, we will weather that.

When I was doing a program against the Russians in Afghanistan, Bob deliberately mentioned the mules. One of the things that I found fascinating is that every year I bought 9000 mules and they were driven across China. We bought them in China because for those of you from Tennessee, Tennessee mules do not work in the mountains of Afghanistan and Pakistan, we know that by experience, but we finally figured out the Chinese mules.

So where's this going? Because again, I'm not going to be arrested by the counterintelligence staff when I leave when I tell you because it's in the public record. And that is, half of the weapons that were used in that struggle were bought by me and others like me from China. And I remember going out in the city in a conference and those who've been to a conference in China know there is a protocol on how you do it, friendship and how much we really work together and enjoy everybody and everything then you get around to the prices eventually, you have to make the first statement, they make the second statement, so we went through the process.

But I got the weapons cheaper than the other supplier. I needed two suppliers because if relations turned bad or something like that were to be square, I didn't want to be without weapons. But I said to them, "Why am I getting such a good deal?" I mean, that's after you sign the deal then you know that's not a good position to take with the Chinese because you are fighting the Russians. Well, that is a deep seated concern okay. I would tell you don't lose sight of the suspicion. Now, right now, it's in both Russia, and China's self interest to work together in trying to compete with the United States and the military world. So I think they are verbally saying they're supporting the Russians. I haven't seen as much real support after the President of the United States said we were going to defend Taiwan militarily. They ran a joint nuclear test with the Russians, but that was a counterpoint to our statement. So I think it's a relationship that will stay until it doesn't stay. I don't think the underpinnings of it are a little more fragile than before.

But for the next couple of years, I would expect the Chinese and the Russians to cooperate. Are

they going to come to their aid as Russia crumbles overtime, as Putin starts to stagger as I believe he will? Probably not. I think the Chinese are going to stay focused on the longer-term and their own economic national interests. Did I miss--?

Bob Sloan

4:05:44PM

No, you got it. Jack, let's go back to the beginning of your career.

Jack Devine

4:05:53PM

Wow, [inaudible] just anybody in the room but who wants to go back with me? I say one, maybe a couple of [inaudible], but not many.

Bob Sloan

4:06:05PM

Why did you appoint the CIA?

Jack Devine

4:06:08PM

Very scientifically. I come from a family of plumbers. Now, I will use that expression because I believe any good corporate action operator you have to lay the plumbing and I'm really familiar with how to tie things together, but I know I was really a lousy plumber. But a lot of the folks that I went into the CIA with they'd go on to the best schools, their parents or someone was in the state Department, foreign service, traveled around the world. I'm a Philadelphia guy, I think I went to Canada once, Boy Scouts, I went on my honeymoon in Bermuda, that was it. God knows what I was bringing to the table. But for when I was teaching high school in suburban Philadelphia, it was either my birthday or our wedding anniversary, my wife gave me a book, it was called the Invisible Government. It was written by David Wise. Fortunately, he is no longer with us because he'd roll in his grave if I told him what I'm about to tell you now, which is I read the book and it was a scandalous book about the CIA how it was controlling the world along with the Defense Department in the industrial complex. So when I got done reading it I said, "Guys, that's kind of interesting."

And I took a pen and I wrote a letter. The letter said, "I'd like to the joint CIA." Now, only two years ago, or maybe less I was at the CIA doing something above board so to speak and they pulled out my letter, And I looked at it and was like, "I wrote that." I mean first of all, it was in pen. The penmanship was okay, but I couldn't have written a letter with a little more zip to it? It was just like, I would like to join. So, I wrote the letter and then a few months went by and I got a letter from them, saying, "We might be interested go the 12th and [inaudible], knock on the door three times. I'm exaggerating slightly, but I went in and then I saw the first real spy, so I thought wingtip shoes, herringbone suite, his hair slipped back, [inaudible], right? So I though this is Alan. I'm meeting my first spy, it turns out it was a human resource person, but I got his letter. He showed me the letter, so I thought well, I must have done really well because they moved me to the next level. I read it [inaudible] but not too much but moving on to the next. So Bob, I think I got in the agency by accident I think if you went back in their records they'd want to review it.

But I will tell you when you write the book and one of the great things of writing a book somewhat

about yourself is you do a lot of introspection. What happened in your life? How did you get where you are? What was your contribution? And put it into focus. And I've always felt this number quite articulated, I actually think despite my pedigree I really belonged in that place. Psychologically, mentally, everything that I wanted to bring, the best skills I had, I didn't have a lot, but whatever I had was [inaudible] the CIA.

And then as the years went by, I also began to realize I'm running towards jobs, I ended up in Chile when it was overthrown, then I ended up in the middle of the Iran Contra affair, then I ended up running in the [inaudible] and they get rid of Escobar and I ended up in the struggled against the Russians in Afghanistan. Then I began to realize that most people, most spymasters only want to do spying, meeting agents, putting dead drops, and recruiting people, which I did for half of my career. I often throughout it ended up on the corporate action side, making things happen, and I realized that that's a sort of a particular part inside of CIA, and whether I recognize it or they recognized it, they kept moving me and I kept moving towards the action part.

So why I got in accidentally, and it's one of the things that I feel that I am the defender of the faith that doesn't mean that you still see sin in the CIA, it just means I believe in the world of intelligence, I believe in the world of having an intelligence agency. I'm constantly talking about reform and so on. So when I got there accidentally, it was a lucky break for me. And when I've left [inaudible] it ended up in--you put a nice elegant phrase around it but I'm a consultant, but what am I consulting in? Human intelligence and what makes sense to tick around the world--not as an assessment, but what company, what country. So I have stayed close--not overthrowing governments because I no longer have the Department of Justice with me. So if you're looking to hire me, forget it. But the part of handling information and I guess to some degree this conference is about you're all in the intelligence business. You might not want to admit it but you really are because it's collecting information, collating it, getting out of the room, it's making judgments of risk and gains.

One last thing, mid-career, they gave us a test, and it was one to match up, if you weren't a spymaster what would be the next career? So I thought well a General. I do want to come back at Colonel, I was hope and I'd come back a General or a lawyer. God knows why, but although I have family members now who are lawyers, but it came down to investment banker. I had to go look up what an investment banker was. But if you're starting to think about how an investor's mind works, it is more compatible to the way I think. This is a mystery. You try and figure out why I think a spymaster, why I put that down, and I would submit to you that many investment bankers, and particularly in the area of risk, the spymaster is maybe sitting beside you in that investment banking office. Anyway, Bob, I'm glad you asked me that question.

Bob Sloan

4:12:40PM

Okay. So you mentioned your career and the things that you've done in your career, and the public is fascinated by these shows that we see on Showtime or a Netflix, Homeland amongst them, Narcos the other, and many, many others. In your view, how realistic are those shows?

Jack Devine

4:13:03PM

All true, all true. Look at me, come on! So, just going through my career, I was absolutely angered by James Bond, right? I felt this is silly, this is ridiculous. And then somewhere I'm a slow learner. So somewhere I'm like, wait a minute, Bond, dashing guy right--although he screws up the

Martinis--but if you set that aside, a dashing guy, right? Never writes a report, defends the Queen and country, always prevails, omnipotent, wait a minute, why are you saying to everybody that I'm not like him? Let the mystique of the movies go on.

I told Sean Connery this once, he didn't think it was nearly as funny as I did. Well, that was one other site on Sean Connery. I did have dinner with him many, many years later, but when I was chief of station, that's the head of an office, I ran offices besides programs, and it was in a country that I'm not allowed to talk about because it's so sensitive.

However, if you looked in the book, you might find the head of that country's service in the book. But Sean Connery came into this restaurant and I was with the head of that intelligence service and we were with our wives. And the whole place hummed, right? Everybody, men and women, "There comes Sean Connery." I didn't do it, I swear to that. The intelligence chief turned to our wives and said, "We're the real things." Of course, they broke out laughing. Like "what are you kidding me, there is a real thing over there." He didn't like that either when I told Sean Connery.

But if you look at Homeland, there's a lot of tradecraft about how things are done. I was on a stage with the FBI once and they said, "Is it possible that anybody here like Carey and is bipolar." And then the FBI right away, "No way." So I was surrounded by a lot of bipolar people in my organization. I mean, some of the most talented people have these great many swings. So are they exaggerating? Would you run? Do you is assassinate Vice President and things like that? No, but if you'd look into the Colonel and like the Americans as well, as I said, you can see I've moved from really being upset to liking them. The Americans, people living that life undercover and they are non-officials. That's different than spies because you actually live in a country with another identity. And you say, "Well, how could that be?" They arrested 12 people in Jersey the year the Americans first came on in the second year and Putin dated one of them, Chatman, right? So they exist, it's just that you have to do in a half-hour what might take me five years to do it with a team of people.

But Hollywood, at its best, one of them, the other one, and I know the fellow that wrote the book, Argo. If you remember that it was the CIA person who was a disguise specialist who I knew. I'm wearing this disguise today which is not really pretty. Well, anyway, he was the real thing in terms of being a disguise or specialist. So he went in, and he was in a situation where he was going to be arrested and go to jail but he went in and prepared the disguises, provided the documents, and working with the Canadians was able to get them out. In the movie, the last scene, jeeps are pouring down, torn-up papers are being put together, and drama in the music, and that's an exaggeration. But how do you capture the freezing cold fear of walking into an airport thinking you are about to be arrested or be killed?

So Hollywood, yeah, they put all this extra stuff around it, but if you just have someone walking across a room, how do you capture what's really going inside, so take it with a grain of salt. But also look, Jason Bourne, last one. So the first one, as I said, we have the technology, but it's never integrated that way, right? Start thinking about the internet side, it's not integrated. So you see Jason Bourne, guess what, by then the stuff is integrated and then the further you go Hollywood, it's a little out there, but not as much as you might think.

Bob Sloan

4:17:48PM

Jack, you talked just right now about how do you capture freezing cold fear. It's very impactful.

What was your riskiest spy operation and were you ever endangered?

Jack Devine

4:18:09PM

A couple of times when I said the wrong things to my wife. We were taken Italian, I don't know. Go down route 95, I mean, I should've brought her, she's the scary one. So we're taking Italian because I went to Italy as chief but I had the temerity to say, "Oh, I think that is the [inaudible] jumped up." So she rolled down the window and threw the Italian book out on Route 95. I could have easily been made but that was it. Monday we went to class, there were only three of us in the class, we had no homework, no assignment. So that's fearful, but let me get to your serious question.

There are people in CIA and I know them. The stars when you walk in it's a very, very special place when you walk in the CIA because you have all the stars who are real people that died in action, not from a heart attack, they were killed in action. I talk about Bill Buckley, who was kidnapped by his blog, tortured, and the videos were sent back to the White House to look at those videos, which became the route of Iran Contra. Another friend of mine was blown up on a plane. They are full of real heroes.

I didn't get shot at it in the war I was in, right? But there are people that died and I had a lot of people that worked for me that were in harm's way. I've been in the middle of a coup, but also when you are younger, you calibrate risk differently, foolishly. I use this with the Spy Museum, which is worth saying that the Spy Museum, it's one of the more popular ones in New York and certainly in Washington. But in there they ran a tape and the person, I was going to say it does my voice, but that's not true, the interviewer in Queen Elizabeth and the Crown does the voice, right, does the questions. But she took some of my material because they talked to me at that time, and it was about risk and danger and I use the analogy of the frog in the boiling pot. And that is, a lot of times when you're young, you are running around the world, and you're not thinking you're in danger. And when I think back, a lot of times I was in danger, but God was good to me, it's like the frog, it's in there and it's getting warmer and warmer but by the time you realize you're really in serious harm's way you're dead. So that type of experience is universal for the people that serve the front.

The riskiest operation is different. That required breaking in, not the Watergate by the way. I hope I could have done a much, much better--let me get on record because I think the anniversary was yesterday. I mean, talk about plumbers, really bad operation. But there was something we only had access to once a year. So we had a plan to break into this facility and I can't tell you how hard it is because you have to follow everybody that's in that building. So unfortunately, if there was 20 people you have to follow 20 people for a few hours.

And this is like the movies, you have to figure how you get in, how you scale down the wall, how do you get in, how you get to the safe, how you turned the lock. I'm making it very simple. The preparation is assiduous. Every step along the way has worked and worked and worked and this is where the investment banker comes in. So it was running like a clock. Everybody was covered. We could only do it once a year. We had one more thing to do and we lost one of the people that we were following.

So this is where you get your money in investment banking; that is, what are the risk of that one person coming back and the whole operation going South and everybody's arrested in a hostile

country? So there were a lot of people that thought they had a big role in the operation. And what was really interesting, when that news came in everybody moved to the corner of the room. Nobody wanted to make the call, right?

So in that situation, again, I'm not talking about danger here. Well, there is, I mean, the poor people that I worked with, the whole team would've been at terrible risk and you've got to weigh that. But you have to make that split second decision, do you go or don't go? So Bob the mystery is what did I say? Well, of course, I left. Thank you for nodding, a vote of confidence. But that could have gone either way, that could have easily-- and my career would've been different. I mean, that would've been a genuine failure. I thought it was a good call, the distance and whatever ever else I used to calculate it. It doesn't necessarily have to be career ending, you can bounce back but you are not going to bounce back as quick as you think because it'll always say, good guy, but a little light on the good judgment. So those type of risks are inherent as they are with an investment banker.

Bob Sloan

4:23:39PM

Jack, we have time for one last question. It's, I think the question everyone would like to ask which is what keeps you up at night?

Jack Devine

4:23:51PM

Well, I was going to say something witty, but I think let's be serious for a moment. So I've always worried about nuclear weapons and a nuclear exchange. I've always considered Pakistan and India high risk because they've been the war. It could get to a situation, where the armies are so equally matched and the landlord would be a problem. I think the risks are low but that was always my concern.

North Korea has moved much further along than I would like for anybody else, but as strange as Kim Jong-Un is, I think he's not a mad man. But people's mental condition changes, but to me, that's also a risk area.

But now what I'm seized with is where are we going in the context of Putin and the war in Europe . And the fact that he can even talk about whether the Russians talk about the possibility of a small nuclear tactical attack, that's absurd, and it's step initiated because once you fire that first nuclear weapon, there is one coming your way. It just isn't nuclear-free. But you have it in your Doctor and is very scary. And now, I'm concerned because I gave him too much rationality, too much pragmatism, and now, I'm more concerned about the way the world is shifting but it's shifting everywhere. Our alliance on the positive side in Europe , but what are the alliance going to look like around the world. There is a big shift taking place. Is the World is going to start part of the world because we're not going to let the Ukrainians get the weed out as Russia prepares to do that and cause riot? So much at play today. What keeps me awake at night is the inability to see how it plays out, in other words, I could get my hands around India, and Pakistan, or North Korea, but how the world we live in and how it plays out keeps me awake at night.

Bob Sloan

4:26:23PM

Jack, thank you so much for being with us today. Always great to hear what you have to say.

You're the best. Thank you.

Jack Devine

4:26:31PM

Thank you for having me. My pleasure.

Unknown Speaker

4:26:35PM

Bob, thank you.

Jack Devine

4:26:42PM

I signed the books, anyone who wants to pay the extra dollar I'll put the date-- Oh, no, I'm kidding. But they are signed if anybody wants a book.

Oh excuse me, did anyone want to ask-- Oh, well you got to move on with the schedule, never mind. I am sorry, usually, I have questions, but you can talk to me separately.

Unknown Speaker

4:26:59PM

Will you be around for the rest of the evening?

Jack Devine

4:27:02PM

I'll be here for a while, sure. Yeah, you can stake me out. If you ask me if I knew whether your great uncle was in the CIA, you will always get the same answer, I can't tell you. Because I won't be sure whether their cover was lifted. So those questions probably, ask anything else, I just feel uncomfortable addressing was he a part of it. I do know an awful lot of people that are in there and were in there. Thank you.

Unknown Speaker

4:27:38PM

Okay.

Jack Devine

4:27:40PM

Get rid of me.

Unknown Speaker

4:27:43PM

Alright, we're going to go to a 15-minute break, then get in the roundtable sessions. If everyone could take their belongings from this table with them because we have to set the table is up for the presenting companies to do the round tables. And we'll call you back in like 15 minutes. Thank you. [music].

