



## Naftasib anyone?

Posted by [Stuart Staniford](#) on December 31, 2005 - 1:04pm

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The [Washington Monthly](#) notes [this fascinating story](#) in the Washington Post.

The U.S. Family Network, a public advocacy group that operated in the 1990s with close ties to Rep. Tom DeLay and claimed to be a nationwide grass-roots organization, was funded almost entirely by corporations linked to embattled lobbyist Jack Abramoff, according to tax records and former associates of the group.

During its five-year existence, the U.S. Family Network raised \$2.5 million but kept its donor list secret. The list, obtained by The Washington Post, shows that \$1 million of its revenue came in a single 1998 check from a now-defunct London law firm whose former partners would not identify the money's origins.

Two former associates of Edwin A. Buckham, the congressman's former chief of staff and the organizer of the U.S. Family Network, said Buckham told them the funds came from Russian oil and gas executives. Abramoff had been working closely with two such Russian energy executives on their Washington agenda, and the lobbyist and Buckham had helped organize a 1997 Moscow visit by DeLay (R-Tex.).

The former president of the U.S. Family Network said Buckham told him that Russians contributed \$1 million to the group in 1998 specifically to influence DeLay's vote on legislation the International Monetary Fund needed to finance a bailout of the collapsing Russian economy.

The Post goes on to trace a strong connection between Delay, Abramoff, and "Marina Nevskaya and Alexander Koulakovsky of the oil firm **Naftasib**". Read the post story for full detail.

So Oil Drummers, here's your chance to do a little muck-raking. What do we know about Naftasib? I'm happy to negotiate anonymity with industry insiders if necessary...



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