The White House and the US intelligence agencies periodically put together a list of priorities. Listed by country and theme, the result is a matrix of global surveillance: What are the intelligence targets in various countries? How important is this reconnaissance? The list is called the "National Intelligence Priorities Framework” and is "presidentially approved."

One category in this list is "Leadership Intentions," the goals and objectives of a country's political leadership. The intentions of China's leadership are of high interest to the US government. They are marked with a "1" on a scale of 1 to 5. Mexico and Brazil each receive a "3" in this category.

Germany appears on this list as well. The US intelligence agencies are mainly interested in the country's economic stability and foreign policy objectives (both "3"), as well as for its advanced weapons systems and a few other sub-items, all of which are marked "4." The "Leadership Intention" field is empty. So based on the list, it wouldn't appear that Merkel should be monitored.

The Americans recently drew up a secret chart that maps out what aspects of which countries require intelligence. The 12-page overview, created in April, has a scale of priorities ranging from red "1" (highest degree of interest) to blue "5" (low interest). Countries like Iran, North Korea, China and Russia are colored primarily red, meaning that additional information is required on virtually all fronts.

But the UN and the EU are also listed as espionage targets, with issues of economic stability as the primary concern. The focus, though, is also on trade policy and foreign policy (each rated "3") as well as energy security, food products and technological innovations (each rated "5").

Beyond their infiltration of the EU, the Americans are also highly interested in intelligence on the UN and the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA. The IAEA has been given a red "1" in the area of arms control, while the focus at the UN is on foreign policy ("2") along with human rights, war crimes, environment issues and raw materials (each "3").

A priority list also names France as an official target for the intelligence agency. In particular, the NSA was interested in the country's foreign policy objectives, especially the weapons trade, and economic stability.

The US surveillance of politicians in Mexico and Brazil is not a one-off. Internal documents show these
countries' leaders represent important monitoring targets for the NSA, with both Mexico and Brazil ranking among the nations high on an April 2013 list that enumerates the US' surveillance priorities. That list, classified as "secret," was authorized by the White House and "presidentially approved," according to internal NSA documents.

The list ranks strategic objectives for all US intelligence services using a scale from "1" for high priority to "5" for low priority. In the case of Mexico, the US is interested primarily in the drug trade (priority level 1) and the country's leadership (level 3). Other areas flagged for surveillance include Mexico's economic stability, military capabilities, human rights and international trade relations (all ranked at level 3), as well as counterespionage (level 4). It's much the same with Brazil -- ascertaining the intentions of that country's leadership ranks among the stated espionage targets. Brazil's nuclear program is high on the list as well.

http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/germany-is-a-both-a-partner-to-and-a-target-of-nsa-surveillance-a-916029.html

In the April 2013 summary, the NSA defines its "intelligence priorities" on a scale ranging from "1" (highest interest) to "5" (lowest interest). Not surprisingly, the top targets include China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Germany ranks somewhere in the middle on this priority list, together with France and Japan, but above Italy and Spain. Among the issues listed as being of interest are German foreign policy and questions of economic stability as well as threats to the financial system, both given a priority rating of "3." Other surveillance assignments include subjects like arms exports, new technologies, advanced conventional weapons and international trade, all with a priority of "4." The US spies apparently feel that counterespionage and the risk of cyber attacks on US infrastructure coming from Germany are not particularly threatening (priority level "5"). The document lists a total of nine areas to be covered by surveillance in Germany.

According to the list of spying priorities, the European Union is also one of the targets of American surveillance, specifically in six individual areas. The areas assigned a priority level of "3" are EU foreign policy goals, "international trade" and "economic stability." Lower-priority areas are new technologies, energy security and food security issues.

Countries like Cambodia, Laos and Nepal are apparently more or less irrelevant from a US intelligence perspective, as are most European countries, like Finland, Denmark, Croatia and the Czech Republic.

http://news.panorama.it/cronaca/papa-francesco-datagate

La National security agency ha intercettato anche il Papa. Lo rivela il numero di Panorama in edicola da domani, giovedì 31 ottobre. Nei 46 milioni di telefonate tracciate dagli Usa nel nostro Paese, tra il 10 dicembre 2012 e l’8 gennaio 2013, ci sarebbero infatti anche quelle da e per il Vaticano. E si teme che il grande orecchio statunitense abbia continuato a captare le conversazioni dei prelati fin sulla soglia del Conclave, il 12 marzo 2013. Incluse quelle in entrata e in uscita dalla Domus Internationalis Paolo VI a Roma, dove risiedeva il cardinale Jorge Mario Bergoglio insieme con altri ecclesiastici.

Panorama rivela infatti che esiste il sospetto che anche le conversazioni del futuro pontefice possano essere state monitorate. D’altronde Bergoglio fin dal 2005 era stato messo sotto la lente dell’intelligence Usa come svelato dai rapporti di Wikileaks.

Secondo quanto risulta a Panorama, le telefonate in entrata e in uscita dal Vaticano e quelle sulle utenze
italiane di vescovi e cardinali, captate e tracciate dalla Nsa sono state classificate secondo quattro categorie: «Leadership intentions», «Threats to financial system», Foreign Policy Objectives, «Human Rights». C’è il sospetto perciò che siano state oggetto di monitoraggio anche le chiamate relative alla scelta del nuovo presidente dello Ior, il tedesco Ernst von Freyberg.

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Hmmm... not sure, about this, one they're siting my number, and columns from the Framework document I'm reconstructing, both on Cryptome, We know that Bergolio was a target in 2005 due to Wikileaks cables, but we need additional evidence to support spying on the Conclave itself, 8 years late, that calls were actually tasked and reported on, that the Conclave, and the Pope were subject to a greater level of surveillance than the population at large in the appropriate time frame.


The priorities of Washington in surveillance are listed in another file Snowden: the first place there are the "intentions of the leadership," then the "economic stability" and "threats to financial stability" and "foreign policy objectives".
(U) APPENDIX A: Assessing Overall Performance

(U//FOUO) Customers request SIGINT by specifying the “essential elements of information” (EEIs) that they want to uncover. The National Intelligence Priorities Framework (NIPF) maps each EEI into one of three bands (A, B, or C) of successively decreasing concern according to general topic, and assigns a 1-5 priority based on the combination of the topic and specific geopolitical or non-state entity involved. Responsive SIGINT is delivered in several forms, but serialized reporting dominates, and so one indicator of end-to-end mission performance is the percentage of requested EEIs for which at least some responsive reporting is provided (i.e., the EEI citation rate).

(U//FOUO) At a macro-level, the overall citation rate for “Band A” EEIs should be greater than that for “Band B,” which in turn should exceed that for “Band C”. Beyond that, performance against each “Band A” topic is also weighed in accordance with the following first-order rules. Performance is poor if a “Band A” topic’s rate doesn’t even exceed the overall “Band B” rate. Performance is weak if a topic’s rate is above the overall “Band B” rate, but less than the overall “Band A” rate. Performance is fair or good if a topic’s rate is at or above the overall “Band A” rate, with the latter also requiring that the rate for the topic’s “priority 1” EEIs be higher than that for the topic’s EEIs generally.

(U) Citation rates reflect only the existence of responsive SIGINT, and not its impact. Moreover, they don’t directly account for requests that are addressed entirely by other than serialized reporting, and they can be skewed by careless recordkeeping or differences in granularity between EEIs. Therefore, quarterly citation rate assessments are complemented with two broader, more subjective, and more manpower intensive views of customer outcomes and satisfaction.

(U//FOUO) The first is a quarterly, manual assessment of performance against each NIPF “Band A” topic that includes niche interactions that don’t involve EEIs as well as deliverables beyond serialized reporting. Performance is graded on the extent to which records show that responsive information was pushed to or pulled by a customer, and sampling suggests that the records that tie deliverables to requests are accurate, and sampling suggests that the information delivered was germane vice just tangential. Performance is poor if responsiveness is well below average (relative to that for “Band A” tasks as a whole), weak if responsiveness is somewhat below average, fair if responsiveness is average or better, and good if responsiveness overall is average or better and is better still against high priorities.

(U//FOUO) The second is a quarterly survey of roughly 20 intelligence consumers, specified by position based on their ability to speak knowledgeably and authoritatively about the SIGINT contributions to key civil or military customers. Those solicited represent the unified combatant commands and the Joint Staff; the Departments of State, Treasury, Commerce, Energy, and Homeland Security; the Central Intelligence and Defense Intelligence Agencies, the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the National Counterterrorism Center; the U.S. Trade Representative; and the White House Situation Room.
The Intelligence Score Card

Clapper's response means that Obama has some explaining to do. The president has tried to present himself as someone who is interested in clearing up the whole spying scandal. He said that he knew nothing about the tapping of Merkel's cellphone -- and he even apologized to her. But the NSA does not act within a vacuum. It adheres to strict guidelines that the White House has spelled out in the so-called National Intelligence Priorities Framework (NIPF).

Until recently, this list was only known to a small group of insiders. Last week, though, the issue made its way onto the "Daily Show," hosted by TV comedian Jon Stewart. Previously, an NSA spokeswoman had explained that spying missions were not ordered directly by the president, but via the NIPF.

"What the hell is that?", asked Stewart. He then wondered: "If the president doesn't know what's actually happening, how does he run the country?"

The NIPF is effectively the wish list that the government sends to its intelligence agencies. It determines which countries and which governments should be spied on -- and with what level of priority. The list forms the political foundation for the spying activities of all 17 US intelligence agencies.

It was first drawn up in 2003 under President Bush. Since then, this list has been updated every six months. This is done by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, but only with top-level endorsement from the Oval Office. According to internal NSA documents, the list is "presidentially approved." SPIEGEL has obtained a copy of the list, dated April 2013, from the archives of NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden.

The espionage targets are organized and color coded according to their priority. The intentions of the political leaders of foreign countries are given the highest priority tier "1" -- on par with fighting terror and gathering information about weapons of mass destruction.

Germany figures in the middle of this international intelligence score card, on the same tier as France and Japan, but as a greater concern than Italy and Spain. In the eyes of US intelligence agencies, German foreign policy, along with financial and economic issues, are both rated with a "3."

Furthermore, the NSA is interested in Germany's arms control, new technologies, highly developed conventional weapons and international trade, which all have priority "4." Of only minor interest are counterespionage by Germany and threats from cyberspace (priority "5").

Some countries like Cambodia, Laos and the Vatican are completely uninteresting from an American perspective, as are many European countries like Finland, Croatia, Denmark, the Czech Republic, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg. These countries are all marked in white, with no priority whatsoever.

Countries like Bangladesh, Thailand, Sweden, Uzbekistan and Malaysia are only marginally interesting according to the espionage rating list. The US focuses here in isolated issues, but only to a minor degree. The topics in question are rated with a "4" or a "5."