Cables reveal Shell’s grip on Nigerian state

Oil firm executive boasts it has staff placed in ‘every relevant ministry’

David Smith Lagos

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The company’s top executive in Nigeria told US diplomats that Shell had seconded employees to every relevant department and knew “everything that was being done in those ministries”. She boasted that the Nigerian government had “forgotten about the event of Shell’s infiltration” and were unaware of how much the company knew about its deliberations.

The cache of secret dispatches from Washington’s embassies in Africa also revealed that the Anglo-Dutch firm linked intelligence with the US, in one case providing US diplomats with the names of Nigerian politicians it suspected of supporting militant activity, four through a theft of information from the US on whether the militants had acquired anti-aircraft missiles.

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report largely exaggerated the company's activities, accusing Shell of being one of the biggest polluters in the region. The report alleged that Shell was causing widespread pollution and environmental damage, and that the company was not doing enough to address these issues.

The WikiLeaks documents raise questions about the company's activities in Nigeria and its relationship with the government. The cables also shed light on the role of Shell in the country's oil industry, which is a major source of revenue for the government.

The cables are part of a larger set of documents released by WikiLeaks, which has been releasing secrets from governments and companies around the world.

The documents are available online, and can be accessed through the WikiLeaks website.