A SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE REPORT FROM AMERICAN FREE PRESS

ISRAELI SPY OPERATIONS ON U.S. SOIL

The Scandal the Controlled Press Won’t Touch

Although most Americans have been told by the media that Israel is “America’s best ally”—perhaps even America’s “only real ally”—most folks find it hard to understand why Israel has what might be called a “grand tradition,” even a bad habit, of spying on the United States. While there are those who have heard about Israeli intelligence operations on American soil, they tend to believe—quite mistakenly—that Israel’s one and only espionage venture against America was the Pollard spy case, first publicly revealed in 1985 when the FBI arrested American-born Jonathan Pollard, a Jewish-American civilian employee of the U.S. Navy, on charges of spying for Israel.

Many Americans—Christian and Jewish alike—who are devoted to Israel because of religious reasons, said that what Pollard was doing was “a good thing—helping America’s ally,” even though Pollard was violating the law by taking classified U.S. defense information and passing it on to elements in Israeli intelligence. However, many American intelligence and military officials felt otherwise, saying that Pollard did more damage to U.S. national defense than any other spy in American history.

In the end, Pollard was tried and convicted and sentenced to life in prison, although at this day extreme enthusiasts of Israel demand Pollard’s release from prison so that he may emigrate to Israel where the government has set up a trust fund to help Pollard if he is ever released.

All during the Pollard affair, the government of Israel officially denied that Pollard was acting on behalf of the Israeli government. Israeli officials said that Pollard was acting only on behalf of “rogue” agents in the employ of Israel. However, no serious student of the Pollard affair ever believed the Israeli denials.

Although Pollard is the only Israeli spy ever indicted and convicted in a U.S. courtroom, there are—as hard as it may be to believe—several additional well-known American-born supporters of Israel (including two top-ranking current Bush administration officials) who have been investigated for espionage on behalf of Israel.

Both Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and his immediate deputy in the Pentagon, Douglas Feith, were investigated by the FBI on suspicion of having passed classified U.S. defense intelligence information to the Israeli Embassy in Washington. The allegations regarding possible treason by Wolfowitz go back to 1978. Feith was fired from the National Security Council in the Reagan administration in 1982 after he, too, was suspected of espionage. No charges were ever brought against either individual.

Additionally, Wolfowitz’s longtime friend and associate, Richard Perle, another leading Bush administration advisor, was investigated by the FBI during the mid-1970s. Perle—like Wolfowitz and Feith—was suspected of having passed classified information to the Israelis.

Stephen Bryen—another close longtime colleague of Perle and Wolfowitz—and was also the subject of a major FBI inquiry into his own dealings with the Israelis after Bryen was overheard passing U.S. defense information on to Israeli officials in a coffee shop at the Madison Hotel in Washington, D.C.

A Jewish-American prosecutor at the Justice Department was convinced that he had a strong case against Bryen. However, heavy-handed pressure from supporters of Israel led to the intended indictment of Bryen being quashed.

Taking all of this into consideration, espionage by agents of Israel is clearly a grand tradition in official Washington. Still it has not hindered most spies for Israel from receiving positions of power and influence, despite the fact that there are American patriots in the FBI and the CIA and in other government agencies who have tried (largely unsuccessfully) to root out the spies.

The fact that the mainstream media has, for the most part, failed to detail this highly controversial assessment makes it all the more important that this issue come to the forefront in light of the United States’ increasing involvement in the Middle East.

This special report from American Free Press provides a brief overview of other evidence regarding Israeli espionage on American soil in recent years. It is not a pretty picture, by any means, but it is a story that Americans need to know about.
Spies in Pentagon Ignored

CIA Told Top Brass of Israeli Spooks Over Six Years Ago

By Richard Walker

Recent revelations of a year-long FBI probe into Pentagon insider Larry Franklin, a Defense Intelligence Agency official, have startled the United States, revealing evidence that a mid-level official passed classified documents about Iran to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), a powerful lobbying group in Washington.

However, warnings about an Israeli spy in the Pentagon are not new. They were voiced in 1998 by then CIA Director George Tenet, but quickly ignored.

Tenet at the time was concerned that the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad, had a mole deep in the Pentagon and a concerted effort was needed to root out the traitor.

The CIA chief's recommendation fell on deaf ears despite the fact there was information showing that Israel had stolen America's nuclear secrets and in the mid-1980s had acquired U.S. naval nuclear codes.

Both the Israeli government and the committee have dismissed espionage charges, arguing that the information was not classified and it is regularly shared informally.

AIPAC, which boasts a membership of 65,000, is one of the most powerful lobbying groups in Washington with allies in both the Democratic and Republican parties.

Earlier this year, President George W. Bush praised AIPAC for highlighting the most dangerous and "greatest challenges of our times" and praised its role in exposing Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Nonetheless, the FBI probe raises important issues of how much U.S. policy is shaped publicly and perhaps secretly by Israel and its neo-conservative supporters in Washington.

Franklin is a former Air Force colonel who spent two tours of duty as a Defense Department staffer at the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv. Before the latest Iraq war, he acted as a liaison officer during meetings between Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and leading Iraqi clerical figures.

Franklin's supporters say that he is a mid-level Pentagon officer working on policy deliberations that are often widely reported in the media and therefore not secret. Some of those deliberations center around arguments about whether the United States should finance Iranian dissidents in order to weaken the rule of the clerical leadership in Teheran. In that capacity he works under Douglas Feith, the undersecretary of defense for policy.

As AFP has consistently reported, Feith, Wolfowitz and Richard Perle, former chairman of the Defense Policy Board, calculatingly shaped a pro-Israel agenda in national security circles in Washington.

These neo-conservatives, among other things, promoted Ahmed Chalabi, the now disgraced former head of the Iraqi National Congress.

In December 2001, Franklin, the man at the center of the latest espionage claims, had a secret meeting in Rome in December 2001 with Manucher Ghorbanifer, an Iranian with a complex history.

Ghorbanifer is a former agent of the late shah of Iran's notorious SAVAK secret police, which was infamous for its use of torture.

In 1985, when Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Iran was losing its war with Saddam Hussein's Iraq, Ghorbanifer became a tool of the Israelis. At that time, Israeli policy advocated by David Kimche, a former head of Mossad, was to secretly supply Iran with weapons.

Despite Israel's distaste for Khomeini and his clerical leadership, Israel wanted to keep Iran in the war with Iraq in order to weaken both its Islamic neighbors. As for the United States, the Reagan administration was fixated with getting hostages released from the clutches of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah terrorist organization in Beirut, Lebanon.

Kimche saw an opportunity to get the United States secretly involved in an arms-for-hostages deal with the Iranian government, even though the United States was providing support to Saddam.

Warnings about an Israeli spy in the Pentagon are not new. They were voiced in 1998 by then CIA Director George Tenet, but ignored. He was concerned that the Mossad had a mole deep in the Pentagon and a concerted effort was needed to root out the traitor.

Hide Reagan's Role

It was not difficult for Israel to seduce the Reagan administration into a deal with Khomeini's regime, but a cut-out mechanism was needed to protect the U.S. weapons supply line and to hide the role of the Reagan administration.

The cut-out mechanism was provided by Kimche and Mossad in the form of a colorful cast of characters. Among them was Ghorbanifer, as well as Saudi arms dealer, Adnan Khashoggi, a petro-billionaire, and Ya'akov Nimrodi, who had run agents for AMAN, the Israeli military intelligence agency, during his time as a military attaché in Teheran while the shah was in power.

Robert McFarlane, Reagan's national security advisor, did not approve of Ghorbanifer and the other cut-out characters and threatened to tell Reagan to pull the plug on the operation. As history has shown, it went ahead and became a political disaster when it was revealed how the United States had been suckered by Israel into negotiating with Iran.

It later emerged that Ghorbanifer had been used by the Israelis to convince the United States that his impeccable knowledge of Iran and his contacts within the leadership had shown a deal could be done for the release of the Beirut hostages. As it turned out, Iran took the weapons, and the hostages remained in Beirut.

Khashoggi later asserted that he had lost millions when the arms-for-hostages project collapsed. He had, he revealed, borrowed heavily from BCCI, the international bank that went bankrupt after it was discovered that it had been a vehicle for money launderers, drug dealers, intelligence services, terrorists, arms dealers and even Khomeini's Revolutionary Guard in Iran, as well as both the CIA and Israel's Mossad—an unusual conglomeration to say the least.

The question remains as to why Franklin, the mid-level Pentagon official at the center of an FBI probe, secretly met Ghorbanifer. Was it a meeting organized by Israeli intelligence?

Khashoggi's name also surfaced before the latest Gulf war after it was revealed that he had lunch with Perle in France. With them was Harb Saleh al-Zuhair, a billionaire Saudi industrialist. Perle later explained that the meeting was in his capacity as an executive of a company that provided defense and security services.

It has therefore come as no surprise to intelligence experts that Israel has been keen to track and secretly influence U.S. policy on Iran.

For Israel, Iran poses the greatest threat to its survival and it must persuade the United States to take a harder line on its arsenal.

Israel needs the United States to take a harder line with Iran and to encourage European allies to do likewise. If that requires an Israeli mole within the Pentagon to track and influence U.S. policy on Iran, every effort will have been made, and probably is being made, to recruit one.

As far back as 1998, former CIA Director George Tenet warned top U.S. officials about the danger of Israeli spies operating in the Pentagon and their access to top U.S. military secrets. He even warned them of a deep cover Israeli mole who he believed might be stealing U.S. naval codes. He was ignored. Tenet stepped down from office in 2004. Inset: Paul Wolfowitz (left) and Douglas Feith (right), two of the most prominent of the "Israel-first" neo-cons. In 1982, Feith was fired from his job at the National Security Council. He was accused of passing classified U.S. information to Israel.
Richard Perle at Center of Yet Another Israeli Spy Scandal

By Michael Collins Piper

The recent Israeli spy scandal involving an Israeli lobbying firm and a U.S. defense official, which has rocked Washington, is inextricably linked to the activities of the pro-Israel neo-conservative network that has dominated U.S. Middle East policy during the presidency of George W. Bush.

It is no coincidence that, in years past, two key neo-conservative figures were also investigated by the FBI on charges of espionage on behalf of the government of Israel.

The two in question were the now-infamous Richard Perle, the former chairman of the influential Defense Policy Board, and an undersecretary of defense in the Reagan administration, and Perle’s longtime close friend and defense department deputy, Stephen J. Bryen.

The FBI was monitoring Perle’s activities during the early 1970s, when Perle was a top aide to then-Sen. Henry J. Jackson (D-Wash.), an outspoke supporter of Israel. But he was never indicted. However, it now turns out that Perle was once again being targeted in an FBI “sting” relating to the latest spy affair involving Israel.

Perle’s friend Bryen, however, came quite a bit closer to facing criminal charges because of his activities on behalf of Israel.

Beginning at least as early as 1977, while serving as a Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff member, and as a top aide to then-Sen. Clifford Case (R-N.J.), Bryen was under observation by the FBI, suspected of using his post to obtain classified Pentagon information, particularly related to Arab military matters, which the Defense Intelligence Agency suspected Bryen was turning over to the Israelis.

Things came to a head on March 9, 1978, when Bryen was overheard in a private conversation over breakfast with four Israeli intelligence officials at the coffee shop of the Madison Hotel in Washington. It was clear, based on the content of his conversation, that he was providing the Israeli officials with high-level military intelligence.

Bryen, an American and a U.S. government employee, was heard continually referring to the U.S. government as “they” and using the pronoun “we” when referring to himself and the Israeli government.

Little did Bryen know that another customer in the Madison coffee shop, one Michael Saba, a businessman of Arabic descent, who had been active in Arab-American affairs and lobbying on the Middle East issue, would recognize him and understand the sensitive nature of the conversation he was conducting with the Israeli officials.

Saba reported the matter to the FBI. In due course, a full-scale FBI inquiry into Bryen evolved to the point that the Justice Department assembled a 632-page file on Bryen’s activities. The U.S. attorney handling the investigation, Joel Lisker, an American Jew, recommended that Bryen be indicted on felony charges of having not only been an unregistered foreign agent for Israel but also of having committed espionage on behalf of Israel.

Despite all this, Bryen was not indicted. Instead, he was told to “quietly” depart from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, which he did. Appropriately, Bryen promptly set up shop in Washington, D.C. as a lobbyist for Israel, as the director of a group known as the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, which emerged, in subsequent years, as a key facet of the neo-conservatives.

And yet, despite the spy scandals surrounding them, Perle and Bryen moved onward and upward. In the Reagan administration in 1981 Perle was named assistant secretary of defense for international security policy and quickly moved to bring in Bryen as his deputy for international economic and military affairs.

In the end, by the advent of the “Dubya” Bush administration, Perle and Bryen have become two of the most influential behind-the-scenes policy brokers in Washington, their links to foreign espionage notwithstanding.

Robert Maxwell: Israel’s Superspy
The Life and Murder of a Media Mogul

By Gordon Thomas & Martin Dillon

The world knows only half the story of British media magnate Robert Maxwell’s well-publicized career. This explosive, avidly researched book from best-selling author Gordon Thomas and terrorism expert Martin Dillon, however, tells the other, long-secret half of Maxwell’s story—the half that shows how he achieved and executed his topmost objective as a superspy for Israel’s Mossad. According to well-placed sources in Israel, Washington and London, Maxwell stole America’s most sophisticated piece of intelligence gathering software, PROMIS. The Mossad turned it into a massive Trojan Horse whereby the Israelis could surreptitiously amass secret information from inside the very organizations they were covertly selling it to. The Mossad’s representative in these extremely sensitive, multi-million dollar transactions with China, India and 20 other countries was Robert Maxwell. He was later murdered by the Mossad when his usefulness ended. Hardback, 448 pages, $30.

Seeds of Fire: China & the Attack on America

By Gordon Thomas

Explores the question: Was Bin Laden acting as a surrogate for Red China in the 9/11 attack on America? Is a worldwide Islamic revolution against the West in China’s best interests? In Seeds of Fire, veteran Irish journalist Gordon Thomas also blows the lid off the most recent developments linking China to Red Chinese espionage and the theft of American nuclear and other military secrets. In fact, in many cases, the Chinese didn’t need to steal the technology in the first place: the Israelis gave it to them! Includes the Israel connection to the infamous “Insaw Scandal”; the facts about secret “Remote Viewing” and mind control experiments conducted by the CIA; the shocking story of secret behind-the-scenes deals between the Red Chinese and the first Bush administration. A must read as China emerges as “the other superpower” in the world. Softcover, 523 pages, ISBN #1076, $28.95.

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By Gordon Thomas

Billionaire fugitive Marc Rich, a close personal friend of former President Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary, was one of the most important high-level contacts Mossad had in the United States.

Rich, a Belgian-born Jew who has taken Spanish nationality, lived in Switzerland under heavy, armed-guard protection. There is no extradition treaty with the United States to enable him to be questioned by the FBI about his until now secret connection to Mossad.

In January 2000, his last day in office, Clinton pardoned Rich, a secretive commodities trader indicted in 1983 on charges of evading almost $50 million in taxes and illegally buying oil from Iran during the Tehran hostage crisis in 1979.

The question that inevitably dog Hillary, if she runs for the presidency, will be how much did she and her husband ever suspect about Rich’s Israeli intelligence links.

An MI6 file covering the Clinton years in the White House reveals that Rich is also suspected of knowing the real identity of a top Mossad informer in the Clinton administration.

The informer is still only known as “Mega.” The name was first discovered in February 1997 by the National Security Agency (NSA). It provided the FBI with an intercept of a late-night telephone conversation from the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

It was between a Mossad intelligence officer, still identified only as “Dov,” and his superior in Tel Aviv. The intelligence officer was later named as the Mossad director-general, Danny Yatom.

“Dov” had asked for guidance as to whether he should go to “Mega” for a copy of a letter written by Warren Christopher, then secretary of state, to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Yatom instructed Dov, according to a transcript of the intercept, “This is not something we use Mega for.”

The MI6 file indicates that Mega had been in place toward the end of the first Bush administration.

It also describes how Rich had acted as a “conduit” for the powerful Israeli lobby in the United States to counter FBI demands that the hunt for Mega should be pursued as vigorously as the FBI dealt with spies from other countries.

The then MI6 head of station at the British Embassy sent a memo to London stating that “dinner guests at the White House dining table—who include Hollywood stars, attorneys, editors and senior members of the Anti-Defamation League—lose no opportunity to remind Clinton of the damage he could face in this matter. They argue the hunt is not properly grounded and that Israel has already explained to DOS [Department of State] the use of Mega.”

Mossad sahumin—the Hebrew name for “helpers”—in the U.S. media had already planted stories that “Mega” was an incorrect hearing of the Mossad slang for the CIA. Ilga.

“Further, Mega is supposedly a well-known word in USIC [the U.S. intelligence community]. It is said to be a joint code for shared intelligence with Mossad,” the MI6 memo stated.

President Clinton’s only comment on pardoning Rich came after he left office.

“It was terrible politics. It wasn’t worth the damage to my reputation,” he told Newsweek magazine.

There has been widespread speculation among opponents of the Clintons that Rich “bought” the pardon with political donations and gifts that his former wife, Denise, gave the president and other Democrats.

But in a hint of Rich’s important connections to Mossad, Clinton has admitted that he granted the pardon “partly because the Justice Department did not oppose a pardon and because I had received a request from the government of Israel.”

That request came in a personal handwritten note from another old friend of Clinton, Israel’s former prime minister, Ehud Barak.

The MI6 file reveals that the pardon was stitched into the European banks and those in Canada and the United States. Rich’s prime use for Mossad was as someone who moved in the highest financial circles in Europe, the Middle East and South America.

It is those ties the FBI and other teams of U.S. investigators were examining to see if they link to the large sums of money Rich paid to the Clintons and other Democrats before the pardon was granted.

WHITE PAPERS

At the time, federal prosecutor Mary Jo White launched a criminal investigation into Rich’s financial links with Clinton and his wife.

White obtained copies of Clinton’s White House phone logs and those of Air Force One. The logs covered all calls the president and Hillary made to Rich. There was also a complete record of all his calls to them.

All official calls are monitored by the U.S. communications team that accompanies the president and his wife on all visits. The calls were described at the time as “a key element in our investigation,” by one of White’s aides.

Clinton himself received from Denise, just before leaving office, a check for $450,000 to help him set up his Presidential Library Fund. Denise also sent $1.1 million last year to the Democratic Party to help Al Gore fight for the presidency.

SMOKING GUN

Until now, all the financial links to Rich’s past have not been pursued.

Shortly before he was kidnapped by Hezbollah in October 2000, Mossad agent Hanan Tannenbaum visited Rich in his Swiss home.

Tannenbaum had been sent by former Mossad director Yatom to discuss what Tel Aviv sources later admitted were “intelligence matters of the highest order.” At the time, Yatom was personal security adviser to Prime Minister Barak.

Hezbollah somehow spirited Tannenbaum out of Europe to their base in the Bekaa Valley. His fate remains unknown.

In January 2000, shortly before the Rich pardon was granted, the Senate Judiciary Committee received documents that showed Rich played a crucial role in helping the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) arrange for Abu Nidal to receive “hundreds of millions of dollars for illegal arms transactions in an effort to persuade its wealthy Middle East backers that the bank was staunchly pro-Arab.”

A sworn affidavit by Ghassan Qassem, for 17 years a senior officer with BCCI, states: “British weapons secretly destined for Abu Nidal were financed through BCCI offices and shipped under export documents that Marc Rich knew to be phony. My role at the bank was to handle the Nidal account. I later became a spy for the CIA and MI6.”

Gordon Thomas, known as one of the world’s foremost authorities on the innerworkings of the Mossad, is the author of Gilad’s Spies: The Secret History of the Mossad ($18.45, $18, softcover, 382 pages). To order a copy, write First Amendment Books, 645 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20003 or call FAB toll free at 1-888-699-6397 to charge to Visa or MasterCard.
EITAN: Legendary Spymaster Travels Unmolested in U.S.

By Gordon Thomas

Israel’s legendary spymaster, Rafi Eitan, made several secret trips to the United States in 2003. But FBI agents tracking him admit they are unable to question Eitan—the former Mossad chief who “ran” Jonathan Pollard—because he travels on an Israeli diplomatic passport.

Pollard is now serving a life sentence in a federal prison for stealing “every worthwhile intelligence secret our country had,” former CIA Director George Tenet has said. Eitan’s most spectacular operation in the United States was the theft of the highly sophisticated software known as PROMIS from Inslaw, the specialist computer company based in Washington.

It involved Eitan assuming a false identity and traveling on a diplomatic passport to ensure his untroubled transit through U.S. airports.

Eitan had Israeli experts deconstruct the Inslaw version of PROMIS and insert a “trapdoor.” This enabled Israel to monitor all those who purchased its version of PROMIS. Through Eitan, the super snooping software was sold worldwide, including to a number of select intelligence services.

Enraged U.S. intelligence chiefs finally forced the Israeli government to allow Eitan to be questioned on his activities.

“He talked his way out of trouble,” recalled one of the interrogators. “But he was warned not to step foot into United States again.”

On his recent trips to the United States, Eitan traveled in his capacity as “adviser on security and counter terrorism” to Israel’s prime minister, Ariel Sharon.

Each time Eitan flew into the Columbus, Ohio airport. From there, FBI agents followed him to various cities, including New York and Los Angeles.

Eitan has remained a close friend of Sharon.

After leaving Mossad, where he was director of operations, Eitan founded the Israeli Bureau of Scientific Liaison, known by its Hebrew acronym as LAKAM. It was to be the Israeli Defense Ministry’s own unit. One of its earliest successes was to steal blueprints of the stealth bomber.

Today, Eitan acts as a “consultant” to LAKAM. Its mandate remains the same: to penetrate classified U.S. defense programs and obtain top-secret technologies.

ISRAELI PENETRATION

In 1986, Eitan created a special unit to increase Israel’s penetration of U.S. economic, scientific and technology data. It was code-named “Al”—Hebrew “above”—and its brief was to prowl through California’s Silicon Valley and Boston’s Route 128 for high-tech secrets.

In the past year, Eitan is reported to have visited areas, where Al is still operating. But even more alarming to his FBI trackers is that Eitan has also visited the Alamos area—home of America’s cutting-edge nuclear technology.

In 1985, Eitan arranged to sell to Los Alamos’s Sandia Laboratories a copy of the Israeli version of PROMIS software. The program’s “trapdoor” enabled LAKAM to learn about Sandia’s top-secret work in providing U.S. nuclear submarines with the latest weapons technology.

At one recent meeting in Washington, Eitan met Earl Brian.

The former head of Hadron—the specialist computer software company Brian founded—he had recently been released from prison after serving part of a five-year sentence for fraud.

Eitan’s travel will result in no action.”

Aviv, who signs himself as president and CEO of Interfor—the company claims to have offices in 23 countries—has refused to take calls to discuss his document. He is best known for his claims to have been a Mossad agent and a “consultant” to the FBI for over 10 years on “anti-terrorism matters.”

Aviv was also employed by Pan Am to investigate the Lockerbie bombing. His 27-page report made remarkable claims about the Downing of Flight 103 in the air over Scotland.

In mid August Libya settled $7.5 million on each family who had lost relations in the crash.

Aviv had accused U.S. intelligence agents of allowing Flight 103 to be used as a heroin-smuggling route into the U.S.—through Frankfurt and Heathrow airports—in return for the smugglers’ help in freeing American hostages held in Beirut by the Hezbollah in the 1980s. The U.S. government denied the allegations. Support for these denials came from Mossad—which has consistently denied that Aviv ever worked for them.

The FBI is also trying to establish what links Eitan has with a Midwest company, Converse Infosys, a subsidiary of an Israeli-owned telecommunications company, headquartered outside Tel Aviv.

Washington intelligence sources say Converse provides all the wiretapping equipment and software for U.S. law enforcement.

“Custom computers and software made by Converse are used to intercept, record and store wiretapped calls,” confirmed an FBI source.

Such equipment was used recently to track the British arms dealer caught red-handed trying to sell a Russian state-of-the-art guided missile to an FBI agent posing as an Islamic terrorist in New Jersey. The FBI is currently trying to establish if the Converse parent company in Israel has links to what the FBI source will only call “former Israeli military and intelligence officials.”

The source said: “Any espionage by a state considered to be friendly, like Israel, may be politically embarrassing, but it could be another disaster with the potential to wreak havoc on our security.”

FROM FIRST AMENDMENT BOOKS

James Bamford’s latest book provides interesting insights into the inner workings of the intelligence community and of the wide variety of people and players involved. His book reads, in many respects, like a novel. That, in itself, gives the book added flavor. His account of the events of 9-11 and the Bush administration’s reaction (or non-reaction as the case may be) is quite riveting. It presents the president, in particular, in a most unadmirable light—and that’s putting it lightly.

A PRETEXT FOR WAR

By James Bamford

A Pretext for War (hardcover, 420 pages, #1142, $29.95. Discount for AFP READERSHIP COUNCIL members: just $26.95) is available from FIRST AMENDMENT Books, 645 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20003. Call 1-888-699-NEWS (6397) toll free to charge to Visa or MasterCard. See page B-12 for a handy ordering coupon.
Top U.S. Officials, Mossad Conspired to Steal ‘PROMIS’

Now defunct ‘Spotlight’ was first on scene

By Michael Collins Piper

In the early 1990s—much to the dismay of certain corrupt Justice Department officials and other high-level power brokers—the now defunct Spotlight was the one widely read national media voice providing detailed coverage of the now-infamous Inslaw scandal.

The Spotlight exposed corruption by Justice Department officials and other high-level power-brokers who helped facilitate the theft of sophisticated surveillance software (known as PROMIS) that ended up in the hands of Israel’s Mossad and other foreign intelligence services.

Even The Washington Post Magazine was ultimately moved to comment on June 14, 1992, that “if the claims that have been made [about the Inslaw affair] are true, they add to a scandal of monstrous proportions.”

Bill and Nancy Hamilton, the owners of Inslaw, a small Washington, D.C.-based firm, charged that department officials had illegally conspired to steal their PROMIS software.

Then, in 1987, after then-federal Bankruptcy Judge George S. Bason, Jr., ruled against the Justice Department, which planned to install the PROMIS software, developed by Mr. Hamilton, in the 22 largest U.S. attorneys’ offices and a word-processor version in 72 others.

In the meantime, however, Dr. Earl Brian, a longtimecrony of then-Attorney General Edwin Meese, began using his political clout to interfere with the Hamiltons’ contract in order to win the contract for a company he owned after the Hamiltons refused Brian’s offer to purchase Inslaw. Brian, with wide-ranging international contacts, was widely believed to be a longtime CIA asset.

In early 1983 the Justice Department arranged with the Hamiltons to demonstrate PROMIS to an Israeli who called himself “Dr. Ben Orr” and who purported to be representing the Israeli Ministry of Justice. “Ben Orr” said he was most impressed with PROMIS, but, to the Hamiltons’ surprise, he never bought the product.

It was only later the Hamiltons learned why: Using his contacts inside the Justice Department, Brian had illicitly provided the software to LAKAM, a top-secret signals intelligence unit of the Israeli Defense Force. The head of LAKAM was longtime Mossad operative Rafael “Dirty Rafi” Eitan who had visited them the Hamiltons under the disguised name of “Dr. Ben Orr.”

It was later revealed that Eitan was also the Mossad official directing the American spying operations of Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard.

Eitan’s LAKAM operations had been covertly funded by a series of off-shore corporations in the Bahamas that had been set in place some years before by the law firm of Burns and Summit.

This just happened to be the firm of Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns, the key player in the campaign to dislodge Federal Bankruptcy Judge Bason who had ruled against the Justice Department.

A powerful attorney with long-standing ties to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B’nai Brith, Burns is also a founder of “Neshet,” a quietly influential group of some 300 high-ranking federal officials and bureaucrats who meet informally, bound together by a desire to advance Israel’s cause.

Israeli intelligence operative Ari Ben-Menashe has said that PROMIS was perfect software for use by Israeli intelligence in tracking the Palestinian and political dissidents critical of Israel.

He said: “PROMIS was . . . probably the most important issue of the 1980s because it just changed the whole intelligence outlook.”

Brian also sold PROMIS to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service and to Jordanian military intelligence, among many, many other places. In truth, the full extent of Brian’s intrigue in dealing PROMIS worldwide has yet to be told.

Thanks to the efforts of independent journalists such as Harry Martin of the Napa (California) Sentinel and The Spotlight and its talk forum, Radio Free America, hosted by Tom Valentine, the beleaguered Hamiltons of Inslaw received some media attention.

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There is reason to believe that Osama bin Laden may have PROMIS software. Reports began to surface weeks after 9-11 that bin Laden had the PROMIS software (stolen from Inslaw and the Hamiltons’). Fox News reported that bin Laden obtained it from the KGB. According to Fox, FBI agent Robert Hanssen sold Promis to the KGB and then the KGB sold it to bin Laden.

★
Activity Near Navy Base Raises Suspicions

Israeli nationals arrested; truck tests positive for explosives

By Christopher Bollyn

When two Israeli nationals were nabbed in the middle of the night near a West Coast military base and tested positive for TNT and plastic explosives, once again Israel's clandestine agents were given a convenient escape route — “visa violations.”

On May 13, 2002, Carl Cameron of Fox News reported that local police in Oak Harbor, Wash., had arrested a pair of suspicious Israeli “movers” in a speeding rental truck after midnight on May 7, 2002, in the vicinity of Whidbey Island Naval Air Station.

The truck and one of the Israelis tested positive for TNT and RDX plastic explosive.

Despite the fact that the Israelis and their truck had apparently tested positive for explosives near a sensitive U.S. military base, the following morning mainstream news outlets were quick to reassure Americans that the Israelis were suspected of nothing more serious than speeding in the middle of the night around a sensitive military base without proper papers.

Border Patrol agents took custody of the two men, who claimed to be Israeli citizens, after it was determined that they were working in the United States illegally as movers. The Israelis were reportedly being held on immigration violations, including entering the country illegally and working without proper documentation, according to a spokesman at Seattle's INS office.

The Israelis' rental truck tested positive in two different tests for TNT on the gear-shift and RDX plastic explosive on the steering wheel.

Because the Israelis were pulled over “so close to the naval air station,” military police took part in the initial arrest and naval intelligence was involved in the investigation along with the FBI, the INS, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and local police, Fox News reported.

The Israelis told the police that they were in Oak Harbor “delivering furniture from California” and were on their way “back home to Canada” although it was past midnight.

The police officer became suspicious when one of the Israelis produced an international driver's license and an expired visa and the other had no ID at all. During questioning the Israelis confessed that they were residing illegally in the United States.

Because of the early morning hour and proximity to the naval base, a bomb-sniffing dog was called in. The dog detected explosives on one of the men and inside the truck.

At 7:30 a.m., local police were notified that the BATF and FBI had tested the truck with high-tech equipment and found evidence of TNT and RDX plastic explosive on the steering wheel and gear-shift, according to Cameron.

Authorities said that Budget company records did not indicate that any recent rental had transported explosives, which requires a special permit.

A check of the national database of immigration records indicated that one of the men had entered the country illegally, and the other was in violation of his visa.

The Jerusalem Post reported that one of the Israelis was found to be carrying an altered Israeli passport while the other had no passport at all.

Both men were taken into custody for immigration violations.

On May 14, 2002, The Seattle Post-Intelligencer (SPI) claimed that the case of the Whidbey Island "terrorists" was a "dud." SPI reported that although Cameron’s story “sounded explosive,” an FBI spokesman had said that the case had simply been turned over to immigration officials.

Regarding subsequent tests for explosives, FBI spokesman Melissa Mallon told SPI, “All were negative.”

A spokesman for Whidbey Island Naval Air Station told AFP that the base had responded to the possible threat with an “appropriate level of security.”

The base is home to 15 squadrons of the electronic warfare Prowler jets and another five squadrons of the patrol and reconnaissance P3 and EP3 Orion aircraft.

Can Israel’s Advice Be Trusted?

Mini-state has long history of misleading U.S.

By Christopher Bollyn

The key role that Israel and its prime minister, Ariel Sharon, play in the “war on terrorism,” acting as the Pentagon's main source of human “intelligence” from the Middle East and Central Asia was reported in The Wall Street Journal.

Reports in the British and American press reveal that Sharon has been providing information to the U.S. military since early last summer concerning planned “imminent” terror attacks on the United States — and who Israel believes was behind it.

Senior Israeli military officers brief Pentagon officials on “Israel’s counter-terrorism operations” and, noting that the United States "lacks agents in key countries," Israel provides information it says comes "from its agents inside Muslim countries in Central Asia."

Israel claims to have inside information on the al Qaeda group headed by Osama bin Laden, which raises questions about the level of Israeli infiltration and involvement in terrorist cells believed to be linked with bin Laden.

“Israel’s intelligence assistance to the U.S. was directly linked to al Qaeda and its operations, contacts and financial support,” an Israeli official told the Journal. “It’s the kind of quality information you can’t get with a KH-11 [spy satellite]. You have to be on the ground.”

“The U.S.-Israeli intelligence talks were planned before the attacks on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon, and are part of ’ongoing cooperation,’ ” an Israeli official told The Wall Street Journal.

If Israel is now providing “everything” it knows, this would mark a significant departure from usual Israeli intelligence practices.

Military experts concede that Israel has been known to deliberately withhold or control the flow of information to the United States in order to gain political advantage and further its geo-political goals.

In 1982, after the invasion of Lebanon and the massacres of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, Israeli intelligence knowingly withheld information from the United States of a planned truck-bombing of the American Marine barracks in Beirut. The result — hundreds of U.S. Marines killed and wounded — could have been avoided had Israeli intelligence shared “everything” they knew, as they now claim to be doing.
Massive Israeli Spy Ring Uncovered

By Christopher Bollyn

The details of a massive Israeli spy ring that operated across the United States—employing intelligence agents posing as “art students” to gain access to sensitive U.S. government offices, defense companies, and the private homes of employees of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)—started to emerge in early 2002.

What has now become clear is that the agents and modus operandi of the ring were known by the highest levels of government and that policies were changed to counter the threat of Israeli surveillance through computer networks.

The explosive story of the Israeli spy ring, discovered operating in the United States in 2001, and the 61-page DEA task-force report that contained the details about this spy ring was first revealed in detail on March 4, 2002, by Intelligence Online (IO), a well-respected Internet news service based in Paris, France.

IO’s story elaborated in some respects on earlier findings by Carl Cameron of Fox News who referenced the “Israeli art students” as part of his much larger story.

The IO story was picked up by the leading French daily, Le Monde, and, in some respects, by the Associated Press, but was just as quickly dropped.

Referring to the reports, the March 15, 2002, issue of Forward, one of the oldest and most respected Jewish newspapers in America, commented that: “Despite angry denials by Israel and its American supporters, reports that Israel was conducting spying activities in the United States may have a grain of truth, the Forward has learned.” Forward commented that: “Both the French and the Fox reports were dismissed by Israel and its supporters and received limited coverage in the American media.”

Le Monde and Fox (as well as IO) suggested the likelihood that these Israeli operatives were spying on Arab terrorist cells operating in the United States and almost certainly had advance knowledge about the impending 9-11 attacks—a theory that inflamed Israel and its American supporters. The Associated Press was careful not to mention any of this aspect of the story.

A British intelligence and military analysis publication, Jane’s Information Group, noted the peculiar absence of reporting in the American media on the “explosive story” of the huge network of Israeli spies that made headlines around the world:

“It is rather strange that the U.S. media . . . seem to be ignoring what may well prove to be the most explosive story since the Sept. 11 attack, the alleged breakup of a major Israeli espionage operation in the United States which aimed to infiltrate both the Justice and Defense departments and which may also have been tracking al Qaeda terrorists before the aircraft hijackings took place.”

Reports of Israeli “art students” calling on DEA employees across the country began as early as January 2000 and continued through June 2001.

What is not clear is what the ring of more than 120 agents was up to and why some Israelis linked to the attacks in New York and Washington were allowed to flee or were sent back to Israel, after Sept. 11 on visa violations, rather than being charged and prosecuted.

The “art students” are reported to be active agents in electronic surveillance units of the Israeli military.

The Israelis covered the country in “organized” teams of eight to 10 people, with each group having a team leader. The DEA document lists the Israelis’ military and intelligence specialties as “special forces,” “intelligence officer,” “demolition/explosive ordnance specialist,” “bodyguard to head of Israeli army,” “electronic intercept operator,” and “son of a two-star (Israeli) army general.”

American intelligence services have become worried by the dominance of Israeli companies in sensitive areas of telecommunications. One Israeli company, Converse Infosys (now called Verint), has provided law enforcement agencies with computer equipment for wiretapping.

It is thought that the equipment came with “catch gates” that allowed the Israelis to listen in.

Software made by Amdocs, another Israeli outfit records virtually every call placed through the 25 largest U.S. telephone companies.

The relationship of these companies to the detained Israelis is detailed in the 60-page document.

The DEA document reveals that many of the Israeli operatives had addresses in San Diego, Little Rock, Irving (Tex.) and South Florida very close to the homes of Arabs suspected of involvement in the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

A Justice Department official briefed on an ongoing multi-agency task force investigating the Israeli spy ring was quoted by newsweekly Insight as having said: “We think there is something quite sinister here but are unable at this time to put our finger on it.”

Another law-enforcement official said: “The higher-ups don’t want to deal with this and neither does the FBI because it involves Israel.”

The DEA report found that several military bases also had experienced unauthorized entries by the Israelis including two bases from which Stealth aircraft and other secret military units operate.

Unauthorized photographing of military sites and civilian industrial complexes, such as petroleum-storage facilities, also was reported, the document confirms.

In great detail, the DEA document contains “scores of encounters” between federal agents and Israeli agents posing as art students. The seemingly innocuous cover was used to gain access to sensitive U.S. offices and military installations, such as MacDill Air Force Base in March 2001, and Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City one month later, where “a special alert” was issued because of the aggressive Israeli agents.

Tinker houses AWACS surveillance planes and repairs B-1 bombers.

The Oklahoman, prompted by the French revelations, reported that in 2001, four of the Israeli agents carrying military IDs were detained at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma.

In virtually every incident reported by the DEA field-offices the Israelis used the same methods: Israelis would attempt to enter secure buildings, take photographs, follow federal agents when they left buildings, show up at their homes and circle their neighborhoods, visit their houses and then depart. At a DEA agent’s house in Chicago, Israelis were so aggressive the police were called.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES

One report, titled “Suspicious Activities Involving Israeli Art Students at DEA Facilities,” lists more than 180 documented-incident cases.

“The nature of the individuals’ conduct, combined with intelligence information and historical information regarding past incidents involving Israeli organized crime, leads IS [DEA’s Internal Security division] to believe the incidents may well be an organized intelligence-gathering activity,” said one classified document quoted by Insight.

“This is very odd behavior under any situation,” says a DEA official who had heard but not yet seen the reports until Insight shated them. “The patterns are clear and they pose a significant danger to our officers in the field.”

Guillaume Dasque, of IO, told American Free Press that he had acquired solid evidence of the authenticity of the DEA document, and would reveal new evidence to counter claims made by the Department of Justice that there had been “no case of Israeli espionage” in the United States and that the matter was “an urban myth.”

The Israeli spy ring was “examined at the highest levels of the Bush administration,” according to Dasque.

On March 13, 2002, IO was informed by an official at the Department of Justice that the report had been handed over to the department’s Joint Terrorism Task Force. The same day, at a DEA press conference, the agency’s administrator, Asa Hutchinson, said that he had passed the document along to “other agencies” working on the matter.

On March 14, 2002, IO said it has a copy of a memorandum dated March 4 and signed by Robert Diegelman, assistant attorney general for administration. The memo was addressed to officials in charge of the Justice Department’s information systems. It called on them to forbid information system access to all non-U.S. citizens and no longer use foreign-supplied computer and communication gear.
The memo referred to a warning entitled Department of Justice Order 2640.2D Information Technology Security and sent out on last July 12 which cautioned against using information technology sold by foreign firms.

The warning of July 12 confirmed that the DEA’s report was a security concern at the highest level.

The DEA task force issued an initial report in June 2001 that listed the names of 125 Israeli nationals and described their activities in the United States. The document suggests that the ring had infiltrated federal buildings, according to IO, and that Israeli computer companies sell equipment to U.S. government departments.

The DEA purchased $25 million worth of interception equipment in September 1997 from a number of Israeli companies named in the report.

An AP report from Washington on March 9 confirmed that the DEA document had been the joint work of a task force. The AP report confirmed that several of the Israelis had never enrolled in the art colleges they claimed to attend in Israel.

In addition, IO reported: “We’ve also obtained an internal document from the U.S. Coast Guard, an Intelligence Bulletin dated Jan. 17, 2002. Reserved for security bosses in America’s biggest companies, the bulletin regularly tracks all attempts to penetrate protected sites recorded by the US Coast Guard.”

According to IO: The Jan. 17 issue described the case of a man and woman “of Middle East origin” taking pictures of a refinery. When questioned they said they were “art students” even though they were able to discuss technical details concerning refineries.

Other cases of suspicious activity were also recorded. A spokesman for Attorney General John Ashcroft initially attempted to dismiss the story as an “urban myth.” However, the New York-based Forward exposed Ashcroft’s prevarication when it admitted on March 15, 2002:

In March 2001, the federal National Counterintelligence Executive issued a warning urging employees to report all contact with people describing themselves as Israeli art students. It said there had gone to private residences of senior U.S. officials under the guise of selling art.

“These individuals have been described as aggressive,” the warning said.

However, the warning added that there may be two groups involved, one with an “apparently legitimate money-making goal while the second, perhaps a non-Israeli group, may have ties to a Middle Eastern Islamic fundamentalist group.”

The idea that two such groups were operating at the same time (and that one may have been a “non-Israeli group” presumably posing as Israelis) should raise questions. Some might suggest that a group of Israelis operating in the United States were actually posing as Arabs.

Forward rushes to the defense of Israel and suggests that “far from pointing to Israeli spying against U.S. government and military facilities . . . the incidents in question appear to represent a case of Israelis in the United States spying on a common enemy, radical Islamic networks suspected of links to Middle East terrorism.”

Attempting to put a positive spin on the revelations, Forward contends that tensions between the United States and Israel arise not from the fact that the United States believed the Israelis were spying on Americans, but because the Israelis had failed to advise the United States that they were engaged in spying against Arabs on American soil.

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Powerful Foreign Lobbying Group Frantic to Cover Up 9-11 Spy Links

ADL unwittingly corroborates AFP reporting on Israeli espionage network

By Richard V. London

In frantic response to growing public discussion of possible Israeli foreknowledge of and/or actual involvement in orchestrating the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Israel’s American-based lobby and propaganda conduit, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B’nai B’rith, has been distributing a 26-page public relations “spin” to opinion-makers, educators, media figures and law enforcement across the country.

While the ADL document purports to refute solid information, coming from a wide variety of sources, concerning Sept. 11, 2001, it unintentionally raises more questions than it answers.

Considering the wide outreach of American Free Press and its effective reportage on the little-known aspects of the 9-11 affair, the ADL propaganda document prominently targets AFP’s work, in particular AFP’s ground-breaking report, 50 Unanswered Questions about 9-11.*

Of particular concern to the ADL are the writings of AFP correspondents Christopher Bollyn and Michael Collins Piper, whose efforts have been widely disseminated by others.

Many others attacked by the ADL were actually rehashing reports by Bollyn and Piper that first appeared in AFP. However, as part of its attempt to portray a wide-ranging global conspiracy of “Israel haters,” the ADL was compelled to list a number of villains aside from AFP.

The ADL reasons that the more enemies it can cite, the more Jewish contributors will be frightened into giving donations to the ADL in order to enrich its coffers in the name of “fighting anti-Semitism.”

The ADL contends that anyone who raises questions about possible Israeli involvement or foreknowledge of the events of 9-11 is unquestionably “anti-Semitic,” a term recklessly and often falsely applied to anyone who criticizes Israel or its lobby in the United States.

In its opening paragraphs, the ADL hits AFP right up front. Describing AFP as “anti-Semitic,” the ADL noted that AFP published a 60-page report entitled Did Israeli Spies Have Advance Knowledge of the 9-11 Attacks?

What the ADL does not mention to its readers is that AFP’s 60-page report was, in fact, a photographic reproduction of a document prepared by an official of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) outlining evidence of Israeli spying activity on American soil prior to the 9-11 attacks. The report was first published on the Internet by Atlanta-based on-line news journal Creative Loafing.*

So what the ADL is portraying as “extremist propaganda” is really the product of an extended inquiry by a top-ranking U.S. government official. But, of course, the ADL doesn’t want readers to know that. For that single fact—which is being kept secret by the ADL—would give great credibility to AFP’s report.

A key theme underlying the ADL propaganda sheet is the fictitious suggestion that somehow there is a “global network” of Jew-haters and Israel-bashers working together to propagate “myths” regarding Israeli involvement in or foreknowledge of the 9-11 attacks.

The ADL portrays a motley (and quite unlikely) mix of Islamic fundamentalists trafficking with and “exchanging and echoing information, ideas and conspiracy theories” with swastika-bedecked American neo-Nazis and others, most of whom (in reality) have no contact whatsoever with one another.

However, the ADL’s “scary movie” version of a worldwide conspiracy by the enemies of Israel to undermine America’s “only democratic ally in the Middle East” is a standard theme in ADL rumor mongering. It is one—unfortunately—that plays directly into the hands of those who are trying to equate any criticism of Israel or of U.S. policy toward Israel and the Arab world with “support for terrorism.”

The theory being put forth is that Israel is an ally in the vaunted “war against terrorism” and that criticism of Israel lends aid and comfort to “the enemy.”

This lays the groundwork for Attorney General John Ashcroft, under the banner of the Patriot Act and other liberty-robbing schemes, to investigate anyone who “may” be “linked” to terrorism.

The ADL is especially concerned with discrediting the growing amount of literature surrounding the fact that Israeli nationals, later found to be operatives of Israeli intelligence service, Mossad, were deported from the United States after they were taken into custody on Sept. 11, 2001. Witnesses had reported seeing them videotaping—and cheering—the demise of the World Trade Center towers.

The ADL also spent a great deal of energy attempting to refute evidence surrounding the existence of a nationwide Israeli spy ring, composed of so-called “art students,” who were active on U.S. soil prior to 9-11.

AFP has reported in detail on the circumstances surrounding these two separate stories. As a consequence, the ADL feels particularly compelled to refute AFP. Ironically, even the ADL was forced to acknowledge that, in the case of the spy ring story, the original source was a December 2001 multi-part report by Carl Cameron of Fox News.

What is so intriguing about the ADL report is that, more often than not, the ADL admits that what AFP and other sources have published is true.

*See B-12 to get your copy of either of these explosive reports.

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*See B-12 to get your copy of either of these explosive reports.
FBI Arrested Known Mossad Agents After 9-11

Group caught laughing and filming Trade Towers in ruins is Israeli intelligence

By Christopher Bollyn

At least three different groups of Israelis—some of whom may have ties to Israel’s intelligence agency, the Mossad—were taken into custody after eyewitnesses reported seeing them celebrating in several locations across the river from lower Manhattan in New Jersey. In two cases, the men were reportedly videotaping the initial kamikaze attack on the World Trade Center in New York on Sept. 11, 2001.

A spokesman at the Embassy of Israel’s situation room in Washington told American Free Press that at least 13 Israelis were being held in connection with the attacks.

All of the detained Israelis are connected to Israeli-owned moving companies operating out of New York and New Jersey.

No fewer than 13 of the 75 aliens who had been detained in the week after the attacks are Israeli nationals.

One group was reported to have been in Liberty State Park in Jersey City, another was seen in Liberty Park in Union City, and a third was apprehended on the roof of an Israeli-owned moving company.

According to New Jersey and New York newspapers, two groups of Israelis were stopped in vans belonging to Urban Moving Systems—one group of three and one group of five. Eyewitnesses reported seeing similar groups in Union City and Jersey City, both of which have parks named Liberty—more than five miles apart.

Witnesses reported seeing a group of men, who turned out to be Israelis, celebrating the first attack on the World Trade Center earlier in the day in Union City. Angry witnesses reported the license plate to authorities. The plate was registered to Urban Moving Systems, a truck-rental company based in Weehawken, N.J., according to a FBI spokesperson.

Business records show an “Urban Moving Systems” with offices on West 50th Street in Manhattan and on West 18th Street in Weehawken.

When a local reporter called the moving company, a woman, who refused to give her name, said, “We have no comment.”

On Sept. 13, FBI agents searched the Weehawken warehouse, owned by Urban Moving Systems, which employed the men detained by federal officials. The FBI seized computer hard drives and other items.

Three men, seen filming and celebrating as the Twin Towers were struck, were described as “illegal immigrants from the Middle East,” and were arrested in a white Chevy van hours after the attacks.

Witnesses say they saw them “cheering” and “jumping up and down” in Liberty State Park in Jersey City after the attack and contacted police.

In one report, Paulo Lima of The Record reported on Sept. 12 that five “Israeli tourists” had been arrested as suspected conspirators in the attacks. The five men, who were also stopped in a van on Route 3 in East Rutherford around 4:30 p.m., were being questioned by police but had not been charged.

The five “Israeli tourists” were arrested eight hours after the attacks by police in Bergen County, N.J. Sources close to the investigation said the men claimed to be “Israeli tourists” but police had not been able to confirm their identities.

Authorities would not release their names.

Sources close to the investigation said they found other evidence linking the Israelis to the plot, according to the report. “There are maps of the city in the car with certain places highlighted,” the source said. “It looked like they’re hooked in with this. It looked like they knew what was going to happen when they were at Liberty State Park (Jersey City).”

Sources also said that bomb-sniffing dogs reacted as if they had detected explosives, although officers were unable to find anything. The FBI seized the van for further testing, authorities said.

The van was stopped as it headed east on Route 3, between the Hackensack River bridge and the Sheraton hotel. As a precaution, police shut down Route 3 traffic in both directions after the stop and evacuated a small roadside motel near the Sheraton.

East Rutherford officers stopped the van after the FBI’s Newark field office broadcast an alert asking surrounding police departments to look for a white Chevrolet van, police said.

After grilling the men and searching the van in vain for explosives, the FBI reportedly turned them over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for deportation.

JOY AND MOCKERY

In a separate incident, the Israeli newspaper, Ha’aretz, reported on Sept. 18 that five Israelis, suspected of working for the Mossad, had been arrested for what the FBI described as “puzzling behavior” following the attack.

The five Israelis, who are suspected to have been Mossad agents, were arrested four hours after the attack while filming the smoking skyline from the roof of their company’s building. It appears they were spotted by one of the neighbors shouting cries of “joy and mockery.” The neighbors called the police and the FBI, according to Ha’aretz.

This gang of five worked for an Israeli-owned “moving company” based in New Jersey and the men are being held in U.S. prisons after being interrogated. The five Israelis were reported to have worked for the Israeli-owned moving company for between two months and two years.

Seven FBI agents later stormed the apartment of one of the Israelis, searched it and questioned his roommate. The Israeli owner of the company, who has U.S. citizenship, was also questioned. Both men were subsequently released.

The families of the five, who asked that their names not be released, said that their sons had been questioned by the FBI for hours, had been kept in solitary confinement for three days, and had been humiliated, stripped of their clothes and blindfolded.

“When they finally let my son make a phone call for the first time to a friend in the United States two days ago, he told him that he had been tortured by the FBI in a basement,” the mother of one of the suspects told Ha’aretz. “They thought that because he has citizenship of a European country as well as of Israel that he was working for the Mossad.”

The five were transferred out of the FBI’s facility and were held in two prisons in New Jersey by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. They are charged with illegally residing in the United States and working without permits. They were all deported.

AFP received additional reports that one of the largest Israeli-owned moving companies in the area, Moishe’s Moving Systems, in Jersey City, has “at least 100” young Israeli men, between the ages of 22 and 35, working in what is described as a “fortress” with covered windows and concertina wire surrounding the premises near the entrance to the Holland Tunnel.

Did Israel Have Foreknowledge of Attacks?

By Christopher Bollyn

While an Israeli real estate magnate from Australia insured his 99-year lease on the retail space of the World Trade Center against terrorism, one of Israel’s biggest companies pulled out of the north tower just days before Sept. 11, 2001.

AFP has learned from a reliable source in the shipping industry that Zim American Israeli Shipping Co., Inc. broke the lease when it vacated the rented offices on the 16th and 17th floors of the north tower of the World Trade Center shortly before the Sept. 11 disaster.

SUDDENLY PULLED OUT

According to the source, Zim’s WTC office space had been leased until the end of the year and the company lost $50,000 when it suddenly pulled out in the beginning of September.

The parent company, Zim Israel Navigation Co., is nearly half-owned by the state of Israel, the other half held by Israel Corp. Zim is one of the world’s largest container shipping companies, operating an international network of shipping lines.

An Israeli businessman from Australia, Frank Lowy, had acquired the 99-year lease for the 425,000 square foot retail portion of World Trade Center before the WTC attacks of Sept. 11, reported The Jerusalem Post on Sept. 12.

INSURED AGAINST TERROR

Lowy is chairman and founder of Westfield Holdings, and the manager of Westfield America Trust, which has a 57 percent stake in Westfield America Inc. In April 2001, Westfield America agreed to pay $400 million for the lease on the complex though only $133 million was paid; the rest was to be made in ground lease payments.

Westfield was insured against terrorist attacks and its earnings will not be materially affected.

In a statement to the Australian Stock Exchange the retail chain said that “investment in the retail component of the World Trade Center is fully insured for both capital and loss of income,” adding “the insurance coverage includes acts of terrorism.”
Dirty Secret: Israel Has Most Aggressive Spy Ops in U.S.

By Michael Collins Piper

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FP was first to expose the "big secret" that the major media has been suppressing: that 60 Israeli Jews—many of whom are still in the military or intelligence—were taken into custody following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and were held because the FBI suspects their material knowledge about the attacks.

For publishing that story, critics angrily denounced AFP for spreading "ridiculous conspiracy theories."

However, on Dec. 12 Fox News with Brit Hume, featuring reporter Carl Cameron, carried an eye-opening story that echoed precisely what AFP first reported. According to Cameron:

There is no indication the Israelis were involved in the Sept. 11 attacks, but investigators suspect they may have gathered intelligence about the attacks in advance and not shared it. A highly-placed investigator told Fox News there are "tie-ins," but when asked for details flatly refused to describe them. "Evidence linking these Israelis to 9-11 is classified. I cannot tell you about evidence that has been gathered. It is classified information."

During the broadcast segment, Hume asked Cameron: "What about this question of advance knowledge of what was going to happen on 9-11? How clear are investigators that some Israeli agents may have known something?"

Cameron responded: "It's very explosive information, obviously, and there's a great deal of evidence that they say they have collected. None of it necessarily conclusive. It's more when they put it all together. A bigger question, they say, is how could they not have known? [That is] almost a direct quote [from the investigators]."

Although Fox reported the Israeli embassy in Washington offered "categorical denials," Fox indicated that it has been learned that "one group of Israelis spotted in North Carolina recently is suspected of keeping an apartment in California to spy on a group of Arabs who the U.S. authorities are investigating for links to terrorism."

The Fox report revealed that federal investigators have said that some of the Israelis "failed polygraph questions inquiring about alleged surveillance activities against and in the United States," echoing precisely what AFP said.

Fox confirms that AFP was on the mark only 10 days after the attacks when asking: "Did Israel Have Foreknowledge?" and pointed out numerous odd items that suggested America's reputed "ally" may have known in advance of the impending attack.

AFP's story, a media exclusive by Christopher Bollyn, focused in particular on what had already been reported in Israel: that numerous Israelis had been picked up in the United States and were suspected by the FBI of being Israeli intelligence operatives. AFP went further than the Israeli news report, reporting that evidence suggested the Israeli operatives had foreknowledge of the attack.

In the meantime, AFP has learned that on Oct. 17, the Pulitzer Prize-winning Pottstown (Pa.) Mercury reported that "two men whom police described as Middle Eastern" were detained in the Pottstown area (just northwest of Philadelphia) after being found with "detailed video footage of the Sears Tower in Chicago"—the tallest building in the world, widely mentioned as a possible terrorist target.

The Mercury did not identify the men's nationality, but their names were Moshe Elmakias and Ron Katar.

"Moshe" is a Hebrew name which is not likely to have been bestowed on a Muslim or an Arab. A woman named Ayellet Reisler, in their company, was also detained. She had a German passport in her name and medication in a different name.

The two men worked for a company known as "Moving Systems Incorporated"—which is intriguing because AFP's report of Oct. 1 revealed several suspected Israeli intelligence operatives seized by the FBI in the New York area after filming the World Trade Center disaster from at least two venues also purportedly worked for moving companies.

Supporters of Israel suggest that it is "just a coincidence" that several different groups of Israelis in the United States—some of whom are definitely connected to Israeli intelligence—would be working for moving companies and also have detailed videos of the WTC disaster and the Sears Tower, a potential terrorist target.

What is additionally damaging—from an Israeli perspective—is that, according to Fox, even prior to Sept. 11 as many as 140 other Israelis had been detained or arrested in what Fox described as "a secretive and sprawling investigation into suspected espionage by Israelis in the United States."

According to Fox reporter Cameron:

Investigators from numerous government agencies are part of a working group that has been compiling evidence in the case since the mid-1990s. These documents detail hundreds of incidents and cities and towns across the country that investigators say "may well be organized intelligence-gathering activities."

Investigators are focusing part of their efforts on Israelis who said they are art students from the University of Jerusalem or Bezalel Academy and repeatedly made contact with U.S. government personnel by saying they wanted to sell cheap art or handicraft.

Documents say they "targeted" and penetrated military bases, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, dozens of government facilities and even secret offices and unlisted private homes of law enforcement and intelligence personnel.

The Fox report said federal investigators believe that dozens of Israelis working at kiosks in American malls, where they were selling toys called "Puzzlecars" and "Zoom-copters," were suspected of being "fronts" for Israeli intelligence activity.

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