

Israel's Khomeini arms network

by Joseph Brewda

The U.S. State Department, British intelligence, and Israeli Mossad are currently conspiring to suppress the real story behind the five members of the Israeli-based, Iranian arms-smuggling ring now held in prison in Bermuda. The 17-man ring was indicted April 22, by the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Southern District of New York; five of the conspirators were arrested in Bermuda, and four in New York on the same day.

Although this bust of a ring conspiring to ship over \$2 billion of arms to Khomeini is the largest in U.S. history, it is unlikely that the conspirators being held in Bermuda will ever face trial. Among the reasons for the suppression of the case is that the conspirators, far from being the rogue operatives, or "con-men" described by the press, are intelligence operatives on the payroll of several governments, not the least being Israel.

Indeed, immediately after his arrest by Bermuda authorities, Israeli Gen. Avraham Bar-Am, a leader of the smuggling network, threatened to "tell all," if Israel made him a scapegoat for the blown operation. "The defense establishment [of Israel] knows about this group, of which I am an adviser," he stated. "What we tried to sell was the State's equipment. Let's say there are many people involved in this deal, and in all of this we are only a small part."

Predictably, since his arrest, Bar-Am and his associates have been described by Israeli spokesmen, and other damage-control specialists, as "stupid," "a dupe," and a "victim of anti-Semitism." "If Bar-Am is guilty of anything," one official claimed, "it is running a scam. He could never have delivered the weapons he offered." Similar formulations were used to cover up for Mossad spy Jonathan Pollard, after he and his wife were caught at the Israeli embassy compound in Washington with U.S. classified documents.

Despite massive disinformation in the U.S. media, *Executive Intelligence Review* has already assembled evidence, supportive of Bar-Am's confessions, as to the nature of his Israeli government-directed activities, and that of his cronies Israel and Guri Eisenberg, Sam Evans, Rabbi Yitzhak Hebroni, et al.

General Avraham Bar-Am is a career Israeli military officer, who spent 30 years in several responsible positions, including that held at his retirement in 1983—Chief of Staff

for Manpower for the Israeli Defense Forces. A specialist in armor, Bar-Am had been the number-two officer in the Israeli Northern Army during the Ariel Sharon-led invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

According to unconfirmed Israeli sources, Bar-Am is an official in a special commando unit of the Mossad. These sources also state that Bar-Am has long been tied to Gen. Rehavem Ze'evi, one of the Mossad's leading arms smugglers, who has concentrated on South America. Interestingly enough, Bar-Am had been expelled from Chile several months ago, on the personal orders of President Pinochet, for attempting to infiltrate army circles in Santiago.

Bar-Am's assertion that he had been given a letter by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, authorizing him to sell arms for Israel, has already been admitted by the Israeli government.

Closely associated with Bar-Am, and also currently detained in Bermuda, is the father and son team of Israel and Guri Eisenberg. The Eisenbergs, together with the indicted, but still at large, Rabbi Yitzhak Hebroni, are officers of an Israeli arms-smuggling firm entitled Bazelet International Trading Company, or BIT. BIT was one of the corporate fronts through which the Israelis were intending to ship arms to Iran, according to the U.S. Justice Department.

Although unindicted, the key figure in BIT is the brother of Israel Eisenberg, according to sources; one David Eisen-

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berg. According to these same sources, David Eisenberg was the actual ringleader of the entire conspiracy.

Back in the early 1980s, David Eisenberg used to travel to the United States frequently on business. In one case, Eisenberg induced a New Jersey firm, Childcraft, to buy toys from several kibbutzim in Israel. Eisenberg never delivered, leaving several enterprises out several million dollars. Among the reasons Eisenberg was trusted, was that his attorney and one-time business partner was Chaim Herzog, now President of Israel, former chief of Israeli Military Intelligence, and former ambassador to the United States. As one of his victims explained, "Eisenberg was obviously well connected to the government."

Eisenberg's BIT is currently heavily involved in not only

arms-trafficking, but also black market smuggling of various commodities into Israel and into China. The Israeli-China trade has massively increased over the years, especially in weapons. That trade was pioneered by the Mossad arms-trafficking kingpin, Shaul Eisenberg (apparently of no family relation to the owners of BIT).

According to unconfirmed sources, the actual owners of BIT is the Bronfman family of Seagrams whiskey, and heroin, fame. Not coincidentally, Bronfman and Shaul Eisenberg had jointly sold arms to Iran under the Shah in the 1970s, through their firm Space Research. These same networks now sell to the Ayatollah.

The New York 'corruption' angle

One of the more important figures in the BIT network is its treasurer, Rabbi Yitzhak Hebroni, currently in Israel, and out of the U.S. Justice Department's reach. Hebroni has denounced his indictment, claiming he was only involved in the financial aspects of the deal.

In addition to his admitted role for BIT, Hebroni is also the treasurer of one of the most powerful Yeshivas of Jerusalem, Yeshivat Hebron. Under the pretext of fundraising for the yeshiva, Hebroni frequently travels to the United States, where he serves as the yeshiva's bagman.

Since government financial scrutiny of religious institutions in many countries is notoriously weak, especially relating to charitable contributions to other nations, intelligence agencies, and their organized crime networks, frequently operate under such institutional cover. Typical of such arrangements were the financial flows which Meyer Lansky directed through the Orthodox "Agudat Israel." Not accidentally, Agudat Israel is the religious organization which sponsors Yeshivat Hebroni.

In fact, some U.S. sources have reported that following Rabbi Hebroni's financial operations in New York leads one directly to the real story behind the so-called corruption scandals in New York City. Those scandals erupted after the attempted (later actual) suicide of Bronx Borough President Donald Manes. Manes's first attempt occurred within hours of his meeting the Israeli consul general in New York.

According to Israeli and U.S. sources, Manes, and a significant faction of the New York Democratic Party, had been deeply involved in laundering money into Israeli real estate speculation on the West Bank, an operation in which Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau is said to be deeply involved. The loot is also used to fund such Mossad operations as running guns to Iran. Skimmed funds from the Parking Violations Bureau of New York were systematically laundered into Israel, especially through Bank Leumi, according to more than one source.

There is a direct connection between BIT arms smuggling, and two other laundering cases involving New York religious institutions, according to reports.

In May 1985, the oldest Yeshiva of New York, Mesivtha

Tefereth Jerusalem, was exposed for laundering at least \$28 million in cocaine revenues tied to the Gambino and Genovese organized crime families. Two school officials, Rabbi Yisrael Eidelman and Sender Berkowitz, utilized the Yeshiva accounts at Bank Leumi and Israeli Discount Bank, for this purpose, with Israeli nationals used as couriers. Despite their confessed guilt, Ariel Sharon's close friend Manhattan District Attorney Morgenthau, intervened to grant the two Yeshiva officers a conditional discharge.

On April 2, Rabbis Schnejer Zalman Gurary and Nochum Sternberg were charged with laundering some \$150 million through a variety of diamond industry and garment firms, into accounts at several Swiss banks. The rabbis' attorney, Nathan Lewin, is widely viewed as the leading Mossad attorney in the United States.

Bronfman sabotage

Despite the statements of the U.S. Attorney's office to the contrary, there was never any intention to arrest Bar-Am et al., in Bermuda, where they were simply laid over en route from London to Baltimore. Instead the plan was to lure them into the United States, where no difficult extradition problems could develop.

According to our sources, the reason why the conspirators never reboarded their flight, making their arrest in Bermuda necessary, was that they were "tipped," by an agent of the Special Branch of the police of this British colony. Bermuda Attorney General Saul Froomkin, who had caught wind of the planned bust while meeting with U.S. Department of Justice officials the previous week, ensured the Baltimore arrest would not occur, according to the sources. Froomkin had formerly been an official of the justice ministry in Toronto. He left for Bermuda, it is claimed, because his clean-up of the Yonge Street districts of Toronto had put him in conflict with the "mob." Cover stories aside, Froomkin's clean-up was of particular financial benefit to the Bronfman real-estate interests in the district, to whom, it is credibly asserted, Froomkin has longstanding ties.

Informed at the Bermuda airport of their planned arrest, the conspirators elected to stay on the island, where they are being held on the flimsiest of immigration charges. Since extradition from such a smuggling paradise as Bermuda is difficult under any circumstances, it is expected that the operatives will simply be deported back to Israel, saving many governments the embarrassment of a trial.

To ensure the plan's success, the State Department officer detailed to negotiate with Bermuda and Israel is Abraham Sofaer. Sofaer is not only the New York City judge who presided over the Ariel Sharon suit against *Time* magazine in such a way as to boost his friend's political standing in Israel. Sofaer was also the State Department officer detailed to cover up for "rogue spy," Jonathan Jay Pollard, and was deployed to Israel to work out the specifics of deep-sixing the Pollard espionage scandal.