

EIR Feature

The Israeli card in Russian grand strategy

by Criton Zoakos and Mark Burdman

A powerful faction inside the Mossad, Israel's intelligence organization, has deployed, in coordination with the Russian KGB, a formidable terror and assassination capability against the United States. The "Jonathan Pollard Espionage Affair" of "Dirty Rafi" Raphael Eytan, Ariel Sharon's cohort, is merely the tip of the iceberg. As the accompanying report details, both Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Lyndon H. LaRouche are among the known targets of this Mossad operation—of that component of the Mossad which draws its inspiration from the old Irgun, and receives its orders from the Ariel Sharon-David Kimche-Rafi Eytan cabal.

The credulous among our readers may find this Russian KGB-Irgunist Mossad alignment something of a surprise. But it is no surprise either to students of Russian grand strategy, or to those who know their history of Zionism.

Not only the historian, but also the average contemporary intelligence officer, is well aware of this Russian influence over the Irgun's offspring in the Mossad. For example, the current issue of the London-published *Middle East International* magazine carried a story, inspired by the scandal of "false flag" Israeli-Soviet spy Pollard, recounting how the present President of Israel, Chaim Herzog, was once expelled from the United States for espionage. The item is noteworthy for the discussions it provoked among intelligence professionals. One of them remarked: "In return for the Soviet Union's release of Soviet Jews for emigration, the Israelis have been passing on intelligence materials to Moscow on a quid-pro-quo basis. This has been going on for decades, and it certainly began well before the 1967 war. . . . There has been a pattern of release of Soviet Jews coinciding with the Soviets' acquisition of militarily sensitive Western technologies."

However, trading manpower for technology is the least interesting area of cooperation between the Mossad Irgunists and the Russian KGB. The respective strategic perspectives of each of the two partners, which draw them into this collaboration against the United States, is of much greater significance.



The Soviet Union has clinched a deal with Israel, to oust what remains of U.S. influence in the Middle East. To this end, an Israeli intelligence faction around Minister of Trade and Industry Ariel Sharon, is running terrorist operations at Moscow's behest, and is backing the effort of Zionist fanatics to provoke an explosion at Jerusalem's Temple Mount, where the third holiest shrine of the Moslem world, the Dome of the Rock (shown here), is located.

The specifics for the present Russian-Israeli collaboration were hammered out in August 1981, during a top-secret meeting in Limassol, Cyprus, between then-Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and senior officers of the Russian secret services. The talks involved general understandings respecting the two governments' longer-term strategic roles in world affairs.

In the present world strategic crisis, Russia, in its drive to establish itself as a "Third and Final Rome," a sole world imperial arbiter by 1988, is willing to permit Israel to play the role of arbiter in Mediterranean affairs once played by Venice, provided that such a role facilitates Russian ambitions. By the same token, the leading Israeli strategists, Ariel Sharon, David Kimche, and the "considerable interests" behind them, are willing to accommodate Russia's "Third and Final Rome" ambitions, provided that they facilitate their own prospects of transforming Israel into the "New Venice."

These mutual accommodations have often been discussed, since at least August of 1981, between Ariel Sharon and his representatives, and senior representatives of the Russian intelligence services. More important than the details of the Sharon-Russian understandings, are those ill-concealed "considerable interests" which, over the decades, have sponsored both Sharon's career and the network of influence which has promoted him, the old Irgun apparatus.

These "considerable interests" could, for convenience, be dubbed "The Odessa Complex," named after the Russian port-city which originally gave birth to the darker side of the

Zionist movement during the latter part of the 19th century, when it was the self-assigned task of the Imperial Okhrana to create Zionism. At the top of the "Odessa Complex," one finds the leading Jewish financial families of the Ottoman Empire, the Dwecks of Aleppo and the Recanati of Salonica, operating under the supervision of the Luzzattos of Venice. No major established financial family of Odessa itself is identified since the city of Odessa had been founded a mere one century earlier, on advice given to Empress Catherine the Great from her Venetian advisers.

From the 1881 Russian pogroms onward, these families organized a large-scale emigration of Russian Jews to Palestine, which was then under the control of the Ottoman Empire. The first large-scale settlement of Jews in Palestine, the first "Aliyah," was organized, at the Russian port-city of Odessa, by these above-named Jewish financial families in the Ottoman Empire and Venice, running the famous "Odessa Committee," the Zionist travel bureau. Over 90% of the Jews who then settled in Ottoman Palestine were from Russia, traveling through Odessa. In fact, the Ottoman government authorities of the period considered Zionism to be just another pseudo-nationalist movement, organized by Russian imperialists toward the purpose of subverting and dismantling the Ottoman Empire. This evaluation of the Ottoman authorities of the time was not too wide of the mark.

The simple facts of the case at the time were three: First, as the Ottoman authorities saw it, virtually all of the Jewish settlers into Palestine were Russian, boarding ships from

Odessa; second, virtually all of the visible leaders of the young Zionist movement were Russian Jews, most of them born and raised in Odessa; third, the leadership of the Russian secret service, the Okhrana—whose founder, Count Nicholas Ignatiev, once served as Russian ambassador to Istanbul—was actively and visibly supporting, promoting, and financing Zionism. The Ottoman administration's immediately prior experience of Russian Middle East strategic objectives, that is, immediately prior to the first great upsurge of Zionist "Aliyah" of 1880-1900, was the Crimean War of 1854-56, which had grown out of Russia's claim to protect all Orthodox Christians living in the Ottoman Empire. Istanbul, from its standpoint, had every reason to believe that "Zionism" was just another Russian imperial ploy to subvert the Ottoman Empire. However, since the defense and national security of that Empire had been transferred, by means of the Berlin Treaty of 1878, to Great Britain, and specifically to the Luzzatto-influenced British prime minister of Venetian ancestry Benjamin Disraeli (Lord Beaconsfield), Istanbul had no choice but acquiesce in the settlement in Palestine of the Russian Jews of the first "Aliyah."

It happens to be the case that the founder of Russian Zionism, Leo Pinsker, spent all his life in Odessa. Later, many other Zionist leaders, including Vladimir Jabotinskii, the founder of the Irgun, were born and raised in Odessa. In general, Zionism, as one of the nationalist movements of the 19th century, was created exclusively in Russia and had appeal only among Russian Jews, who, contrary to their coreligionists in Western Europe, could see no possibility of assimilating themselves in the surrounding brutality of Russian Orthodoxy. When Count Nicholas Ignatiev, the legendary political organizer of the Pan-Slavist movement, became Russia's interior minister and founded the Okhrana, he considered it his first priority to unleash the dreaded pogroms of 1881-82, which became the driving force for the growth of Zionism as a popular movement. Only after these pogroms did Russian Jews begin to heed the call of the handful of Okhrana-financed Odessa Zionist organizers to go and emigrate to Palestine.

Later Russian interior ministers and Okhrana chiefs continued Ignatiev's Jewish policies, which eventually became the engrained habit of the Russian state. These policies were cynically expressed by Konstantin Pobedonostsev in the following epigrammatic way: "One-third of the Jews will die out, one-third will leave the country, one-third will be assimilated and melt into the surrounding population."

Pobedonostsev, of course, was the great official popularizer and promoter of Fyodor Dostoevskii, the father of Russian anti-Semitism and, as documents show, of official Nazi anti-Semitism as well.

Another interior minister of the turn of the century, von Plehve, once said to Theodore Herzl, the great theoretician of Zionism: "You are preaching to a convert. . . . We would

very much like to see the creation of an independent Jewish state capable of absorbing several millions Jews."

When the aforementioned von Plehve was interior minister, the chief of the Okhrana was the notorious Sergei Vasiliievich Zubatov. This Zubatov is known for organizing the world's most famous secret-service-controlled labor movement, which has come down in history as "Zubatov Trade Unionism." He should become equally famous for founding "Zubatov Zionism." In this respect, it should be noted that the first Zionist organization which the fire-eating founder of the Irgun, Vladimir Jabotinskii, ever joined, was controlled and financed by Sergei Zubatov.

The story in summary is as follows: From 1900 on, Zubatov began to systematically encourage Zionism and do all in his power to ensure the success of the first legal Zionist congress to take place in Russia, the 1902 Minsk Congress. He said, at the time: "Inside Jewry, such a great internal ferment is taking place, a reformation (for us not only harmless, but, owing to the circumstances of the time, also advantageous). . . . It is necessary to support Zionism and, in general, to play upon nationalistic aspirations." He hired one Manya Vilbushevich, a Jewish woman who had earlier been arrested for subversive activities, as his agent. In 1900, she sent a message to Zubatov: "Congratulate me with a great victory I did not expect so soon. Now all the Zionists are our assistants. It only remains to discover how to make use of their services." She received praise for her work from Minister of the Interior von Plehve. Vilbushevich, ca. 1905, went to Paris, after having made a trip to Palestine, and raised money there from various people, including Edmond de Rothschild, for Jewish "self-defense" groups. Ultimately, Vladimir Jabotinskii, the founder of the Irgun, whom David Ben-Gurion called "Vladimir Hitler," joined one of these Zionist groups, controlled and financed by the Okhrana's Sergei Zubatov and his agents.

Today: Odessa and 'The Trust'

Libya's economy, now subject to economic warfare by the Reagan administration, is, to a large extent, in the hands of the "founding families" of Zionism, Luzzatto, Recanati, Dweck, and the junior partners whom they co-opted, at the turn of the century, in Odessa. The umbrella "management committee" for Libya's finances is a shady, quasi-formal grouping which has existed for the best part of this century, under the nickname "The Trust." Three Odessa-born individuals played a prominent role in shaping it in its modern form: Julius Hammer, the father of Occidental Petroleum's Armand Hammer; Alexander Helphand (Parvus); and Sidney Reilly. All played a prominent role in the 1917 Russian Revolution and in the reorganization of the Russian economy from the time of Lenin's "New Economic Policy" to the conclusion of Stalin's First Five-Year-Plan—but this is another story.

Most of Libya's oil—which is the Libyan economy—is managed by three well-known heirs of "The Trust," namely Armand Hammer, Max Fisher, and Edgar Bronfman (see accompanying article). Two of the three, Hammer and Bronfman, are playing a very prominent role, almost continuously since the August 1981 secret meetings between Sharon and the KGB/GRU in Cyprus, in arranging and managing the new Russian-Israeli relationship. In the deep background, behind the names Hammer, Fischer, and Bronfman, hide discretely and securely the old Venetian/Ottoman banking families: Luzzatto of Venice, Recanati of Salonica, Dweck of Aleppo, whose role in the founding of the Zionist movement—and the state of Israel—is more important, though less glamorous, than that of Baron de Rothschild.

One example: Israel has bought petroleum from Libya for many years now. The transaction is, reportedly, managed

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by the Venetian Luzzattos, through the mediation of a Recanati front-man, with the oil produced by Hammer. The Recanati agent in question is a Greek shipowner by the name of John, or Giovanni, Latsis, whose corporate headquarters are in New York and who spends half his time in Italy. The chairman of the board of Latsis's New York company is a Greek Orthodox priest, Father Basil, who is also a member of the board of directors of the Recanati family bank, the Israel Discount Bank, founded by Leon Recanati, who emigrated to Palestine in 1935 from his native Salonica.

This is only a tiny example of what "The Trust" is engaged in, in terms of international economic and financial transactions. Hammer's larger role, including the activities of his "Golden Mercury" organization in Luzzatto's Venice, is perhaps slightly more indicative of the broader role of "The Trust," inclusive of its dominant Anglo-American component, in managing a significant part of the world's great affairs, especially in the domain of what is called "East-West relations."

To stick narrowly to the subject at hand, the present

Russian-Israeli relationship, we can simply observe that there is an unbroken continuity in the interrelationship between Great Russian Imperial grand strategy and Zionist grand strategy, in large part mediated by the broader-based "Trust," a continuity which pre-dates the Russian Revolution, the two world wars, and the founding of the state of Israel. That continuity goes back to the coordinated way in which the 18th-century Venetian Luzzattos persuaded the 18th-century, Venice-educated Orloff brothers, to found the city of Odessa; how the 19th-century Luzzattos, Recanati, and Dwecks persuaded the 19th-century Ignatievs, Plehves, and Zubatovs to force Russian Jews out by means of terror and pogroms—and thus to launch the Zionist movement.

Grand strategies

When Israel was founded, in 1948, it was hardly America's "staunchest ally" in the Middle East. The young Andrei Gromyko's vote at the United Nations played a decisive role in overcoming British objections to Israeli nationhood. The Haganah, which secured Israeli independence by combatting Arab opposition, was primarily dependent on Soviet and Czechoslovak weapons shipments. It was also the Odessa-originating Irgun, which organized Arab opposition and the panicked flight of the Palestinians, by means of the Deir Yassin massacre, carried out with Soviet and Czechoslovak weapons.

The "pro-Western" character of the state of Israel began taking shape under very peculiar circumstances, yet to be clarified, during the Suez crisis of 1956. It will be recalled that that crisis began when Israeli paratroopers were dropped at the Mitla Pass in the Sinai, in order to give occasion to nearby British and French naval forces to intervene and try to recapture the Suez Canal from the Egyptians. The operation had been timed to divert world attention from the fact that, at that same time, Ambassador Yuri Andropov was crushing the anti-Russian revolution in Hungary.

It will also be recalled that this timing of the Suez crisis—so convenient for the Russians—took place shortly after the famous "de-Stalinization" congress of the Soviet Communist Party, at which the Israeli Mossad graciously circulated to the West copies of Nikita Khrushchev's historic "secret speech," which indeed remained secret for several months afterward, only in the Soviet Union. The fact that the Mossad, or someone inside the Mossad, had access to Khrushchev's secret de-Stalinization speech, is important. With it, the post-Stalin Russian leadership had signaled to the world that it was now ready, after Stalin's demise, to resume its old business with "The Trust."

None of this, of course, is to argue that Zionist leaders view themselves as Russian assets, though many of them certainly are, and though Ariel Sharon and Armand Hammer most especially are. The point is that the much-touted "survivor" mentality so much valued among militant Zionists,

has been, historically, grafted onto them by official Russian state imperial policy for over a century now, long before the "Bettelheim syndrome" was studied by Great Britain's Tavistock Clinic.

To better understand Ariel Sharon's and his braintruster David Kimche's current pro-Russian, anti-American policy, one must proceed from the fact that Soviet grand strategy is seen, in Moscow, as the concluding chapter of a longstanding Russian chauvinist imperial commitment to establish Moscow as the "Third and Final Rome," the center of a sole, ecumenical empire, modeled after the Byzantine Empire and its predecessor, Imperial Rome. Most of 19th-century Russian policy, from the Crimean War onward, was determined by this growing impulse of the "Third Rome" perspective, which, among its features, included the "drive for warm-water ports," which stands as a euphemism for taking over the Middle East, and the brutal, cynical inducement to force East European Jews to embrace Zionism as their only remaining choice for survival and self-respect.

During 1986, General Secretary Gorbachov's government intends to remove all U.S. military presence from the Mediterranean Sea and, as a result, turn this vital artery which carries 75% of Western Europe's trade, into a Russian lake, from the standpoint of preponderate naval power. Also during 1986, Moscow intends, by means of military blackmail and appropriate arms-control proposals, to decouple the defense of Western Europe from that of the United States. Toward these two objectives, Moscow has assigned Israel one very important role: Israel is to ensure that no political forces friendly to the United States remain in positions of power and influence either in the Arab world, or anywhere else in the Mediterranean basin. This is the significance of last winter's aerial bombardment of Tunisia, of the *Achille Lauro* crisis and its aftermath, and of the current, Mossad-triggered Libyan crisis.

From their perspective, Sharon's Irgunist friends, game-master David Kimche (the secret author of Sharon's "Mediterranean strategy"), and the old "Trust" interests in the Zionist orbit, Recanati, Dweeks, Luzzattos, see in this vast redistribution of power in the Mediterranean and the Near East, their golden opportunity to establish themselves as the "New Venice." Their game, in large part, depends on rapidly eliminating the last remnants of pro-U.S.A. loyalists in the region, so as to present Israel as the "sole" asset the United States will depend upon. For the weeks ahead, there is an additional twist in Sharon's perspective: Sharon and his friends are now committed to accelerating this process of knocking the United States out of the picture *before* the Russian gameplan has consolidated its positions, so as to make Moscow also depend, at least in part, on Israeli policies. Defense Secretary Weinberger's continuing refusal to involve the United States in a set-up, losing military adventure against Qaddafi, is, at this time, the principal obstacle to Sharon's present, accelerated gameplan.

Irgun, Mossad, and

by Paul Goldstein

Perhaps the single most important question facing the United States, when it comes to international terrorism today, is whether, within the next 90 days, the Israeli faction of Ariel Sharon and his covert operations chief Rafi Eytan, will assassinate prominent U.S. political figures such as Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

It is hardly accidental that both LaRouche and Weinberger are on the same "hit" list. The Russians' secret intelligence service, the KGB, and the Irgun faction of the Israeli Mossad, both know that Weinberger and LaRouche have gotten to the bottom of their dirty deal concerning the Middle East and U.S.-Soviet relations.

The operational threat to Weinberger and LaRouche was signaled by an article in the KGB's weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta* on Jan. 8, 1986, which stated that "Weinbergers do not live forever." *Lit. Gaz.*, *Izvestia*, and other Soviet publications have attacked LaRouche on numerous occasions, and the East German magazine *Kernenergie* in January 1985 accused him of being the "forerunner" of President Reagan, in his advocacy of the Strategic Defense Initiative.

It is an open secret, therefore, that both the Soviets and the Sharon-led Israelis want LaRouche and Weinberger out of the way. This fact has major implications for international terrorism and political assassinations in general.

The Soviets and the Israelis have come to an understanding, based upon an ambiguous division of labor between the two: The Israelis will cover for Soviet-sponsored terrorism in Europe, and will concentrate their own efforts inside North America. The major requirement for this special relationship between Moscow and her Jerusalem allies is to keep the United States off balance—to the benefit of both.

The aim of this low-intensity warfare, in Moscow's view, is to utilize international terrorism to soften up President Reagan before the Soviet economic and war mobilization against the United States reaches its climax. For the Israelis who are in on this deal, the aim is to prevent an effective U.S.-directed peace effort in the Middle East, which could determine Israel's choices to the true benefit of the entire region.

In Israel, the forces around Israel's Minister of Trade and Industry Ariel Sharon and his operational tool Rafi Eytan, are working with fundamentalist fanatics such as Yuval Ne'e-