
Conference Report

Israel pushes U.S. clash with Pakistan

by Joseph Brewda

An Aug. 26 forum of the U.S. Institute on Peace in Washington, "Counterterrorism Strategy: Lessons after Nairobi, Dar es Salaam, and Omagh," has provided fresh evidence that Benjamin Netanyahu's Israel is intent on pushing the United States into increasing conflict with Pakistan. The principal speaker at the forum, Israeli counterterror specialist Ehud Sprinzak, claimed that Pakistan is the sole sponsor of Saudi terrorist financier Osama Bin Laden and the Islamic terrorist networks radiating out of Taliban-run Afghanistan.

According to Sprinzak, Pakistan is the world headquarters of Islamic terrorism, and is responsible for the two U.S. embassy bombings in Africa, as well as numerous other "Islamic terrorist" bombings in Buenos Aires, the Mideast, and Europe. Bin Laden is just one of many Pakistani intelligence operatives serving "Pakistan's holy war," he said, whose center of operation is not Afghanistan, but Pakistan itself. He didn't get this information from the Israeli Mossad, he added provocatively, but from his Indian colleagues and the Indian press.

Citing Israel's so-called great success in combatting terrorism, Sprinzak advised that the U.S. government must end its ban on assassinations, because they are needed to stop terrorism. But, he added, even if Bin Laden were "taken out," there are still many others ready to replace him from within this Pakistani network. Therefore, the United States must direct its efforts to stop the sponsors of the network, that is, Pakistan's government.

In response to this diatribe, forum moderator Robert Oakley, a former State Department Coordinator of Counterterrorism and former Ambassador to Pakistan, issued an unusual-for-Washington public rebuke of Sprinzak. "You know, Ehud," Oakley stated, "I seem to remember the Mossad had something to do with the creation of Hamas, to fight the PLO, while India created the Tamil Tigers, which eventually killed Rajiv Gandhi. So perhaps nuances are also called for in respect to Pakistan."

Oakley criticized Sprinzak for implying that Israel and India are allied against Pakistan. Such efforts are dangerous, Oakley cautioned, since they undercut the Pakistan government's ability to counter "Islamic" terrorism, by making it appear that it is doing so under Israeli and Indian pressure. (The Israeli's claim also sets up India for "Islamic terrorist reprisals.")

Oakley rejected Sprinzak's proposal that the United States imitate Israel and assassinate terrorists, pointing out that any review of Israel's murders of "Islamic" terrorists would show that they have hardly been to Israel's benefit. He added that reviving the Oslo peace process (sabotaged by Netanyahu) would greatly reduce the terrorist threat radiating out of the Islamic world.

A longtime Israeli game

The Israeli effort to depict Pakistan as the center of world terrorism dates back to at least 1992, when the U.S.-based Israeli operative Yossef Bodansky abruptly shifted from his earlier obsessive attacks on Hamas and Egypt's Islamic Jihad, to exclusively focus on the Pakistani terrorist threat. Typical of his recent products is his 1994 "Pakistan Road Warriors," written for the U.S. Congress's Republican Task Force on Terrorism. It claims that Pakistan and China are in a grand conspiracy to dominate Asia, and that Pakistan's role is to use its "skills at running covert operations and irregular warfare" to "consolidate control over the traditional gateways to China," while preparing its terrorists to "launch guerrilla warfare against the Indian Army."

Bodansky, a former Israeli Air Force officer detailed to the Pentagon in the 1980s, left that post under a cloud after the Israeli Labor Party newspaper *Davar* implicated him as the handler of Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard. Despite his implication in what proved to be one of the most damaging espionage cases in U.S. history, Bodansky soon reemerged as director of the Republican Party's Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare in the U.S. Congress. He continues to work closely with the Jewish Institute of National Security Affairs, the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee, and other outfits intent on getting the U.S. government to subordinate itself to perceived Israeli state interests.

That Bodansky was involved in setting up the United States to bomb Sudan on Aug. 21 is a matter of public record. He was the first to publicly claim, in his Feb. 10, 1998 task force report, "The Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction Challenge: Myths and Realities," that the Sudanese pharmaceutical plant was actually a secret chemical warfare site built by the Iraqi Army. Bodansky's lying report was praised by Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords Baroness Caroline Cox, in a Feb. 17 diatribe against Sudan and Iraq in a House of Lords debate. Cox, who also harshly denounces Pakistan for alleged persecution of its Christian minority, has often come to the United States to lobby for U.S. military action against Sudan.

Such lies, shopped into the Clinton administration through numerous other "Pollards" who remain in high-level intelligence positions, played a major role in suckering the administration into bombing Sudan, all for Netanyahu's (and Britain's) benefit. Similarly, Sprinzak and Bodansky's depiction of Pakistan as the mastermind of world terrorism is apparently designed to lure the United States into other disastrous actions.