

Israeli Spying In U.S. Exposé Cracks Coverup Of Sept. 11

by Edward Spannaus and Jeffrey Steinberg

Just about the same time that the world was being treated to the Osama bin Laden “home video” which was supposed to provide conclusive proof that cave-man bin Laden and he alone was responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks, a story broke in the U.S. media, starting on Dec. 11, pointing in a very different direction.

A week earlier, on Dec. 4, *EIR*'s Executive Alert Service had provided the first public exposure of the presence of hostile Israeli intelligence teams on U.S. soil prior to the Sept. 11 attacks, which raised the question of Israeli foreknowledge of the attacks.

Then on Dec. 11, Fox News provided a more detailed account of the ongoing U.S. government probe of Israeli operations directed against the United States—linking the current investigation and detention of more than 60 Israelis, to Sept. 11. The Fox story, by its national correspondent Carl Cameron, reported on the 60 Israelis who are being detained as part of the Justice Department's post-Sept. 11 sweep, and reported that “investigators suspect that they may have gathered intelligence about the attacks in advance and not shared it.”

The Fox story continues:

“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,’ the source said.”

In subsequent stories, described below, Fox correspondent Cameron disclosed much additional information about a super-secret Israeli spy network operation in the United States which has access to records of most phone calls made in the U.S., and access to wiretap information from the FBI and other law-enforcement investigations. Some elements of the story are new, and some have been reported in bits and pieces over the past few years.

Upon being informed of the breaking story about the Israeli spy teams and their alleged foreknowledge of the Sept. 11 attacks, Lyndon LaRouche commented from abroad that the story makes sense, and he urged that it be pursued and vigorously investigated. *EIR* views this as a matter of the highest priority, given the disaster now unfolding in the Middle East.

The truth about Israeli spying on at least two U.S. Presidential Administrations may shed much light on the reluctance of both the Clinton and Bush Administrations to rein in the Israeli madmen around Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, and in the Israeli Defense Forces, which are on the verge of plunging that region—and the world—into a new Thirty Years' War.

A cautionary note: As to Sept. 11, we are not saying that “Israel did it”—as some might wish to conclude. Since the morning of Sept. 11, LaRouche has defined what took place that day as a coup attempt, run by an Anglo-American-Israeli cabal, including rogue elements of the U.S. military-security establishment, for the purpose of dragging the United States into a “clash of civilizations” conflict centering in the Middle East. What has come to light so far—indicating a high-level Israeli spy operation in the United States which, among other things, has had the capacity to thwart U.S. law-enforcement and intelligence investigations—is totally consistent with LaRouche's analysis.

Israeli Intelligence Network

EIR's Executive Alert Service reported the following on Dec. 4:

“A well-placed Washington source has alerted *EIR* that there is growing suspicion among U.S. government law enforcement and intelligence agencies that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has dispatched special operations teams into

North America. The warning came in the context of a discussion about the recent deportation of five Israelis who were detained on Sept. 11 for suspicious behavior. The five men were on a rooftop in Hoboken, N.J., looking across the Hudson River at the World Trade Center as it was going up in flames, and police were alerted.”

The *Alert* story went on to describe the case of the five Israelis in New Jersey, noting that a *New York Times* story on Nov. 21 had noted, “The five were asked to take polygraph tests before being allowed to leave. But Paul Kurtzberg refused on principle to divulge much about his role in the Israeli Army or subsequent work for people who may have had ties to Israeli intelligence.” The *Alert* story also reported on the detentions of two Israelis in Cleveland, both of whom had just completed their service in the Israeli Defense Forces, and that at least 50 Israelis were being detained around the country.

The came the Fox News story on Dec. 11, reporting that some 60 Israelis, “who Federal investigators have said are part of a long-running effort to spy on American government officials, are among the hundreds of foreigners detained since the Sept. 11 terror attacks.” Fox also reported that Federal investigators had said that some of the Israelis had failed polygraph questions inquiring about alleged surveillance activities against and in the United States.

Fox News also reported that it had obtained classified documents showing that, “even prior to Sept. 11, as many as 140 other Israelis had been detained or arrested in a secretive and sprawling investigation into suspected espionage by Israelis in the United States.” And it reported on the existence of a multi-agency working group that has been compiling evidence in this matter since the mid-1990s, pointed to “an organized intelligence-gathering activity.”

Amdocs: Espionage And Organized Crime

Fox ran followup stories over the next two days. The Dec. 12 segment focussed on the role of the Israeli-based private telecommunications firm, Amdocs. Amdocs has the contracts with the 25 largest telephone companies in the United States to handle all of their directory assistance, calling-record, and billing work, which gives Amdocs real-time access to nearly every telephone in the country, including records of phone calls.

According to the story, Amdocs has been investigated on several occasions by the FBI and other law enforcement agencies, for suspected ties to the Israeli mafia, as well as to espionage. In 1999, the National Security Agency issued a TOP SECRET/Sensitive Compartmentalized Information (TS/SCI) report, warning that all American phone records were getting into the hands of foreign governments—particularly the Israeli government.

“What worries some U.S. investigators is the possibility Amdocs data may be obtained by Israeli organized crime,” Fox reported. “It would not be the first time. In 1997 there was a huge problem that was hushed up when FBI, Secret Service, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and Los

Angeles Police Department telecommunications were ‘completely compromised by Israeli organized crime,’ using the very data that Amdocs tracks.”

The Dec. 13 segment again linked the Israeli spy operation to Sept. 11, opening by saying that “U.S. investigators digging into the 9-11 terrorist attacks fear that suspects may have been tipped off to what they were doing by information leaking out of Amdocs.” This segment dealt with yet another Israeli high-tech company penetrated into the heart of American security. The company cited was Comverse Infosys, a subsidiary of an Israeli firm with offices all over the United States, which provides wiretapping equipment for U.S. law enforcement. Under the 1994 Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA), wiretapping was transformed. Using Comverse software, law enforcement agencies use computers and software that tap into the elaborate nationwide system of telephone switchers and routers, and grab the targeted phone conversations into computers and transmit them to investigators authorized to do the wiretaps. Comverse manages and maintains the computers and the software, giving them potential access to all of the data.

According to the Fox report, “Attorney General John Ashcroft and FBI Director Robert Mueller were both warned October 18th in a hand-delivered letter from 15 local, state, and Federal law enforcement officials, who complained that ‘law enforcement’s current electronic surveillance capabilities are less effective today than they were at the time CALEA was enacted.’ ”

What troubles investigators most, Fox reported, is that in some cases in New York, “certain suspects have altered their behavior dramatically, right after supposedly secret wire taps have begun . . . and it has many gravely concerned that they were tipped in advance.”

In Israel, Fox reported, Comverse works so closely with the government that the Ministry of Industry and Trade (formerly headed by Ariel Sharon) pays 50% of the firm’s R&D costs. “But investigators within the DEA, INS, and FBI,” Fox noted, “have all told Fox News that to pursue, or even suggest Israeli spying through Comverse is considered career suicide.”

The May 2000 Flurry

This is not the first time the Amdocs story has surfaced—as readers of *EIR* know. (See “What is the Israeli Blackmail on Clinton? *EIR*, June 23, 2000; “Israeli Spies: Mega Was Not An Agent—Mega Was The Boss,” *EIR*, Aug. 31, 2001.)

In the first week of May 2000, there was a brief flurry of stories around Amdocs and Israeli penetration of the U.S. government telephone system, but the story disappeared as suddenly as it had surfaced. The first publication was in the *Washington Times*-linked *Insight* magazine, in an article entitled “FBI Probes Espionage At Clinton White House,” reporting that FBI counterintelligence investigators were probing an Israeli operation to spy on top U.S. officials by hacking into secure telephone networks. “More than two dozen U.S.

intelligence, counterintelligence, law-enforcement and other officials have told *Insight* that the FBI believes Israel has intercepted telephone and modem communications on some of the most sensitive lines of the U.S. government on an ongoing basis,” the story said, adding that the investigation involved eavesdropping on calls to and from the White House, the National Security Council, the Pentagon, and the State Department.

Insight reported that for a year, the FBI was tracking an Israeli businessman working for a local phone company, whose wife was thought to be a Mossad officer working out of the Israeli Embassy in Washington. Federal agents searched the businessman’s work area, and found a list of the FBI’s most sensitive phone numbers, including “black” lines used for wiretapping. “Some of the listed numbers were lines that the FBI used to keep track of the suspected Israeli spy operation,” the article reported.

The tip-off about these operation apparently came from a phone manager who became suspicious about a subcontractor

working on phone-billing software and hardware designs for the CIA; the subcontractor was employed by an Israeli-based company. The article reported that the means of spying involved a private company which provides record-keeping software and support services for major phone companies in the United States.

Insight did not name the company, but a story by Fox News’ Carl Cameron the same day did so: Amdocs. Cameron reported that, for the previous 18 months, the FBI had been investigating Bell Atlantic and the telecommunications billing company Amdocs of Chesterfield, Missouri. Cameron reported that sources said that a senior-level employee of Amdocs had a separate T1 data phone line from his St. Louis offices running directly to Tel Aviv.

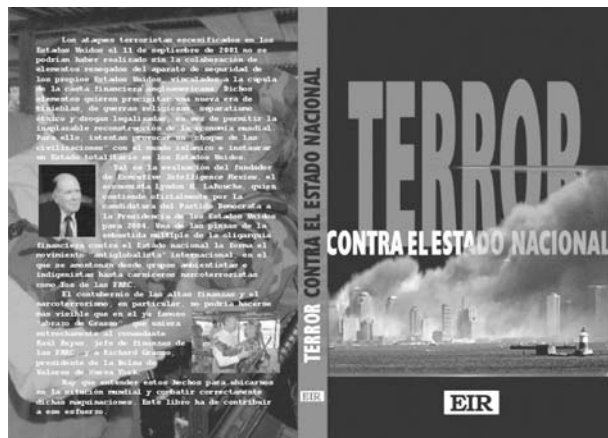
Within 24 hours of the *Insight* and Fox stories, the stories were spiked. On May 6, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, even the Fox-linked *New York Post*, all ran stories denying that the FBI had found any evidence of Israeli spying in the United States. But, as an unnamed senior government

EIR Book On Terrorism Printed In Ibero-America

Terror Against The Nation-State, in Spanish and Portuguese editions, came off the press in Argentina, Colombia, and Brazil on Dec. 11. The 275-page book is available from *EIR* offices in Buenos Aires, Bogotá, and Rio de Janeiro. It centers around U.S. Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche’s major analyses “before, during and after the Sept. 11 attack.” LaRouche warned at the very first reports of the Sept. 11 attack on the United States, that this was a covert strategic operation aimed at the Bush Administration itself: an internally generated coup attempt designed to drive the administration into “clash of civilizations” war.

LaRouche’s interviews and writings on this theme are accompanied by two key studies by *EIR* exposing who terrorism really works in the modern age: “A Plot Made In London” and “The New Terrorism.” Included is a new profile of the Brazil-headquartered World Social Forum movement, exposing the common imperial agenda—even common personnel—between the “anti-globalizers” and their supposed globalist opponents.

As the book’s preface warns, the Sept. 11 attacks and the wave of anthrax attacks which followed, “produced a phase-change in the world order, which has not yet completely taken shape.” The Ibero-American nations stand at the same crossroads as the United States, and other nations around the world, the preface states. “This war on terrorism



can serve to strengthen the institutions of the nation-state, or could simply be the pretext to destroy them forever.”

In a Dec. 9 memo to his staff, LaRouche noted that his reaction to the events, which were breaking as he was being interviewed on Utah’s Jack Stockwell radio program on the morning of Sept. 11, “has, in and of itself, changed the physical geometry of the world situation. . . . Every development of importance, on a world scale, during the weeks ahead, will be affected increasingly by the publication of my assessment of the implications of the events of Sept. 11.”

A thousand prepaid copies of *Terror Against The Nation-State* were sold in Brazil, before even one rolled off the press—bought by networks of LaRouche supporters in every part of the country.

official had told *Insight*: “It is a politically sensitive matter. I can’t comment on it beyond telling you that anything involving Israel on this particular matter is off-limits. It’s that hot.”

Now, in the wake of Sept. 11 and the arrests and detentions that followed, the story is back. And hopefully this time, with the stakes much higher, it will be pursued to a just conclusion.

Skunks Wanted Mideast War From Day One

by Edward Spannaus

While the general line was emerging on Sept. 11, that Osama bin Laden was responsible for the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, a well-known group of U.S. “neo-conservative” skunks was already blaming Saddam Hussein and calling for U.S. retaliation against Iraq. While there were many calls for retaliation against the bin Laden and al-Qaeda networks, there was a particular group which was reflexively calling for a wider war against Iraq and other countries, and even against the Palestinian Authority—in a quest to set the Middle East on fire, and give us a clash of civilizations.

The following grid shows a number of these kinds of statements, which were *all made on Sept. 11* and reported either in the electronic news media that day, or in newspaper reports the morning of Sept. 12:

Blaming Arab governments and the Palestinians for Sept. 11:

- Alexander Haig: We’re at war. “We know who the obvious culprits are—Osama bin Laden, Iraq, the Palestinians.” Haig added that Iran and Libya should not be excluded from the suspects list.

- Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called for the “formation of an international front against terrorism,” and said the time has come to “destroy terrorist regimes starting with the Palestinian Authority.”

- WorldTribune.com reported that Israeli officials and intelligence analysts said the attacks were financed by Iraq; intelligence sources briefed Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s cabinet on Sept. 11 that a Middle East government was probably the sponsor of the attack. The cabinet was informed that the United States might launch a massive assault on Iraq and Afghanistan over the coming days.

- Arnaud de Borchgrave (UPI Editor at Large): called for “massive retaliation. The possible targets stretch all the way from terrorist training facilities in Afghanistan to Hezbollah bases in southern Lebanon to Hamas hideouts in Gaza and the West Bank. Israel may get a wink and a nod from the U.S. to drive the Palestinian Authority into exile. . . . Osama bin Laden . . . does not have the sophistication and U.S.-based organization to synchronize [this complex operation]. . . . A

more plausible suspect is a state player, like Saddam Hussein’s Iraqi intelligence service. . . . Massive U.S. and Israeli retaliation against terrorist suspects could conceivably trigger a much wider conflict. . . . A regional war in the Middle East appears closer than ever tonight. . . .”

- *Wall Street Journal* editorial: “Just as Munich led to World War II, so attempts to buy peace in the Middle East are surely behind this attack. . . . We are entitled to assume that this is the work of the usual suspects—Saddam Hussein, the Taliban, the Iranian mullahs. . . .”

- *Wall Street Journal* contributing editor Mark Helprin: “Today’s enemy . . . is neither faceless nor without a place in which we can address him. . . . If he is Osama bin Laden, he lives in Afghanistan; . . . if he is Saddam Hussein, he lives in Baghdad; if he is Yasser Arafat, he lives in Gaza,” and so on.

- Charles Krauthammer in the *Washington Post*: This enemy is not nameless or faceless. “Our delicate sensibilities have prevented us from pronouncing its name. Its name is radical Islam. . . . And the enemy has many branches: Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Israel, the Osama bin Laden organization headquartered in Afghanistan, and various Arab ‘liberation fronts’ based in Damascus. And then there are the governments: Iran, Iraq, Syria and Libya among them. . . .”

- Former CIA director James Woolsey: An amalgam of terrorists and governments may be behind the attack, such as Iran or Iraq.

- Jim Hoagland in the *Washington Post*, traced the attacks back to the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, and cites “expert” Laurie Mylroie as blaming Saddam Hussein for being behind the 1993 bombing.

Calling for war:

- Henry Kissinger: We don’t know yet if bin Laden did it, but any government that shelters groups capable of this type of attack must pay an exorbitant price; we must destroy the networks behind this attack.

- Richard Perle: This will cause a change in our policy, so that we hold governments responsible, not just individuals. This could not have been done without the assistance of large governments.

- Robert Kagan: “We must go to war against those who have launched this awful war against us.” Only a few terrorist organizations are capable of this, and they cannot operate without the assistance of some governments. Congress should immediately declare war.

- *New York Post* editorial: “Radical Islam’s War On The West”—“Who’s responsible? Radical Islamic fundamentalism, which breeds and festers in place like Afghanistan, Yemen, Sudan, Saudi Arabia. . . . Now American understands better what Israel . . . had been suffering for so long now. . . . the United States and Israel are in this together. . . .”

- Richard Cohen (*Washington Post* columnist): “We are at war, the kind of war that Samuel Huntington would call a Clash of Civilizations.”