

# What Is AIPAC?

AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee), created in 1954, is accurately referred to as the Israeli Lobby. According to a complaint with the Federal Election Commission in 1989, the Committee runs the activities of at least 27 pro-Israel Political Action Committees scattered throughout the United States. While AIPAC is not allowed by law to donate to political candidates, it evades the law by having key AIPAC officials set up “independent” PACs, which then bankroll candidates on the basis of AIPAC ratings.

On Aug. 4, 2005, two former top officials of AIPAC, Steven Rosen and Keith Weissman, were indicted on espionage charges. The same indictment included new spy charges against Pentagon desk officer and Air Force Reserve Colonel Lawrence Franklin.

The indictments unveiled an Israeli espionage network that has been functioning since at least April 1999, involving a number of Pentagon officials beyond Franklin, as well as at least three officials of the Israeli Embassy and a former senior Mossad officer, Uzi Arad, who now heads Israel’s premier national security think-tank, the Herzliya Interdisciplinary Center.