

EIR Investigation

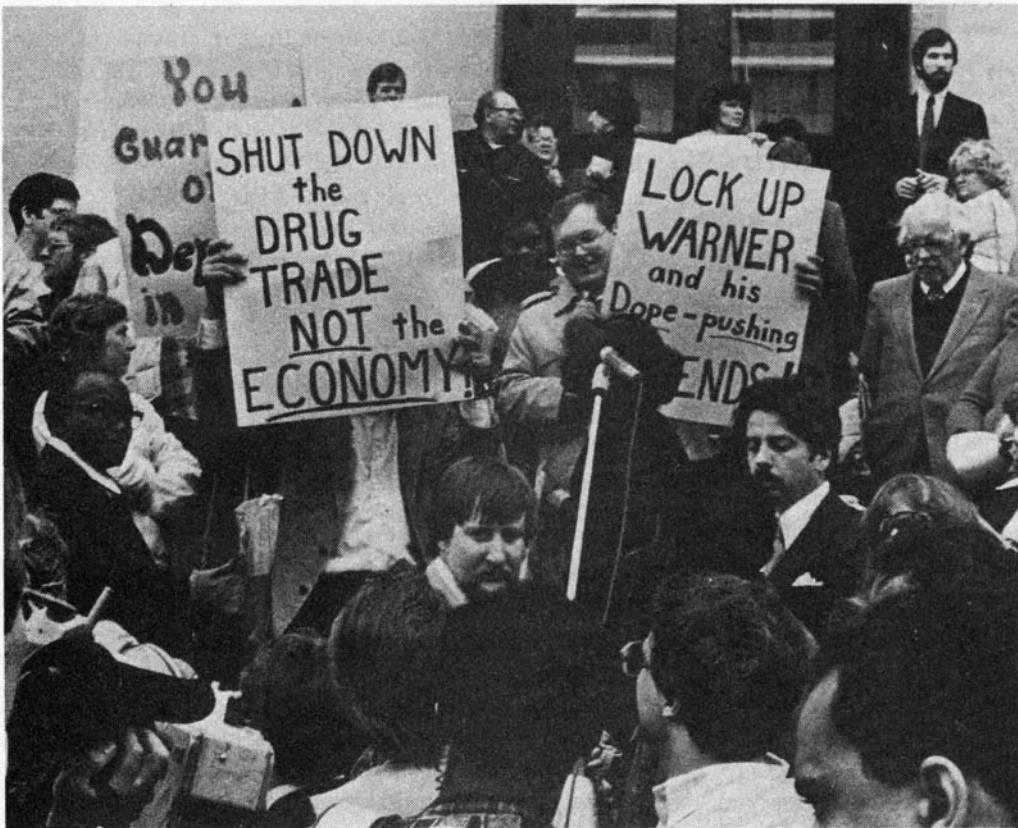
The Aleppo mafia, Syria, and the Temple Mount

When 27 members of a fanatical Jewish underground sect attempted to blow up the Dome of the Rock on Temple Mount in Jerusalem in January 1984, the furthest thing from most of their minds was the possibility that they were acting as agents, albeit unwitting, of a special division of Syrian Intelligence. However, evidence recently provided to this publication by highly qualified Middle Eastern specialists leaves little doubt that the Temple Mount plot—to destroy the second most holy site of Islam, the Dome of the Rock, and rebuild the Temple of Solomon on the site where the Romans destroyed it in 73 A.D.—is the handiwork of a cabal of old Jewish families of Aleppo, Syria, who make up an integral component of Syrian intelligence and organized-crime operations worldwide.

These families, who are the subject of this *EIR Investigation*—Safra, Dwek, Kattan, Kassin, Esses, Shalom—have served for centuries as retainers of the successive empires which have dominated the Eastern Mediterranean: Byzantine, Venetian, Ottoman, and now, the “Greater Syrian.”

A clue to this unholy alliance, which has seen a powerful international Sephardic Jewish syndicate deployed in the service of a Syrian intelligence apparatus blatantly directed by former ranking Nazi officials such as Alois Brunner, was published in the April 1984 edition of *Esquire* magazine, in a feature article entitled, “The Other Israel,” by Leslie Hazelton. Citing the growing anti-Western, pro-Moslem, pro-fundamentalist outlook of the 65% Sephardic majority inside Israel, Hazelton quoted one leading Sephardic organizer:

“The West has to realize that they are not Allah, they are not the Master. Enough imitation of the West! Now, we have to find ourselves, to find an authentic Jewish culture. . . . Judaism is Semitic. We weren’t given the Torah in Eastern Europe, we were given it in Sinai, in the Middle East. . . . We know the Arabs, we respect them, we lived with them, and we understand them. The Westerners don’t want peace. That’s the truth. Because if peace comes, they’ll be wiped out,



NSIPS/Chris Lewis

Behind the savings and loan bank panic in Ohio is a ring of dope financiers whose roots can be traced back to Aleppo, Syria. Shown is a March 1985 demonstration in Columbus, Ohio, against the drug bankers.

they'll disappear, the Middle Eastern influence will come in, and we'll be Levantines. . . . The Westerners took our culture from us and gave us nothing back. . . . You wanted to build me into something else, you, the West. . . . You didn't. You destroyed me."

The irrationalist blood-and-soil hatred reflected in the above quote from Shlomo Bar, an Israeli youth-cult figure, is the product of a well-organized, massively financed effort that has already brought about a "cultural paradigm shift" within Israel reminiscent of the Khomeini revolution. The masterminds of this "Moslemization" of Israel are the Aleppo Jews, working principally through their leading Syrian-Aleppo agents-of-influence in Israel: Ariel Sharon, the former defense minister who is now minister of industry and development, and "Dirty" Rafi Eytan, the director of the prime minister's Office of Terror Against Terror.

Strong evidence exists that in the immediate aftermath of the disastrous 1973 Yom Kippur War, a strategic quid pro quo was reached between the Assad family, themselves Alawite Muslims from the Aleppo region of northwestern Syria bordering on Turkey, and the Aleppo Jewish mafia—ensuring that all future regional wars in the Eastern Mediterranean would reflect common objectives of the "Greater Syrian" and "Greater Sephardic" factions. In particular, two "operational" goals were agreed upon: the decimation and carving up of "the Lebanon" and the expansion of the combined Syrian-Israeli mafia as a global factor in the guns-for-drugs

trade, with Israel slated to become the center of a new Levant built on gambling casinos, arms production, and offshore hot-money facilities.

In the early 1970s, this plan was known as the "Meyer Lansky Plan," after the czar of Western organized crime who briefly attempted to buy his way into Israel through a \$250 million casino-development offer. Lansky was booted out of Israel, and the plan was shelved temporarily—pending revision by the Aleppo Sephardic successors to the Lansky throne:

It is in this area of organized-crime activity, in fact, where the Aleppo Jewish mafia's integration into Syrian intelligence efforts worldwide is most evident.

The case of Isaac Kattan-Kassin, now serving a 30-year jail term in the United States for narcotics trafficking, is exemplary.

Aleppo to Miami: the Colombian connection

When the Home State Savings and Loan Association of Cincinnati, Ohio went belly-up in March, triggering the biggest bank panic in the United States since the 1930s, some U.S. law-enforcement officials quietly reopened their files on an Aleppo Jew named Isaac Kattan-Kassin.

For a number of years, spanning the administration of Jimmy Carter through February 1981, Kattan was the leading money-washer (or, in the words of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), "chancellor of the exchequer") for the 12 largest Colombian cocaine syndicates servicing the

The masterminds of the "Moslemization" of Israel are the Aleppo Jews, working principally through their leading agents-of-influence in Israel: Ariel Sharon, now minister of industry and development, and "Dirty" Rafi Eytan, the director of the prime minister's Office of Terror Against Terror.

North American market. Over that several-year period, according to federal indictments handed down in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida following Kattan's arrest on Feb. 27, 1981, the 46-year-old son of one of the oldest and most powerful Aleppo Jewish clans washed over a billion dollars through the Great American Bank of Dade County, the Bank of Miami, the brokerage firm of Donaldson, Lufkin, & Jenrette, and the Swiss Banking Corp.

Although at the time of his arrest, Kattan was carrying 44 pounds of cocaine, \$300,000 in checks, and a record book of narcotics accounts covering hundreds of millions of dollars in dope transactions, Kattan denied before a federal judge that he had anything to do with drug trafficking. According to *Newsweek* of July 20, 1981, Kattan insisted all his investments were in Israel Bonds!

The court documentation of Kattan's conviction in May 1981 and the subsequent convictions of the Great American Bank of Dade County and three bank officers, Lionel Paytuvy, Carlos Munoz, and Elaine Kemp, reveals that Kattan, operating through a "travel agency" in Colombia and a string of phony corporations in Florida and the Caribbean, smuggled both a billion-plus dollars in cash and their equivalent worth in cocaine into the United States.

The first "big fish" caught in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's "Operation Greenback" assault against Florida's dope banking—within weeks of the inauguration of Ronald Reagan as President of the United States—Kattan was also one of the principal unnamed co-conspirators in the scandal that came to be known as "Billygate," involving President Jimmy Carter, his brother Billy Carter, dope-trafficker Robert Vesco, Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi, the Charter Oil Company of Jacksonville, Florida, and a cast of thousands.

Kattan's tie-ins to the Carter White House and the Billygate fiasco were two-fold. First, as early as 1962, Kattan was brought in as a business protégé of Robert Vesco, at the point that the fugitive from U.S. indictments was beginning his takeover move on Investors Overseas Service (IOS) in league

with Wall Street lawyer Kenneth Bialkin, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Through the good offices of Bialkin, Vesco's initial capitalization of the IOS buy-up was underwritten by Meshulem Riklis, a Turkish Jew who was picked up in the United States by the Minneapolis-Swiss grain cartels and the ADL.

It was wheeler-dealer Vesco who provided the initial channel of contact in 1977 between the Carter White House and the Qaddafi government of Libya, in an effort to release a fleet of C-130 cargo planes which had been purchased by Libya but were being held up by the Congress.

Kattan's deeper "Carter connection," however, was through Marvin Warner, the Carter ambassador to Switzerland and the owner of the Great American Bank of Dade County, identified in Operation Greenback as one of Florida's foremost dope laundromats. Warner's relations to the Carter inner sanctum were deeply personal. His girlfriend during his tenure in Berne, Susan Clough, was Jimmy Carter's personal secretary. Last month, it was the collapse of Florida's ESM, in which Warner was the real controlling factor and had just pulled out his personal funds—but not those of his Ohio savings bank—which led to the nosedive of Warner's Ohio Home State Savings and Loan and a chain-reaction panic hitting all the state's S&Ls. Now, two of the original partners in ESM are up for forgery and bank-fraud indictments and possible implication in cocaine trafficking.

When Kattan was originally arrested in February 1981, an impressive lobbying effort was launched on his behalf to unfreeze a string of Swiss bank accounts held in the names of his various front companies. The chief lobbyist was Hugh Culverhouse, Sr., a business partner of Marvin Warner and the attorney in Jacksonville, Fla. representing the personal interests of Ed Ball, a director of the Billygate-contaminated Charter Oil Company. It was through Charter Oil, according to confidential sources, that over \$25 million was laundered into the personal offshore accounts of the Carter brothers by the Qaddafi government during Jimmy Carter's tenure in the Oval Office, through Charter Oil's ownership of a Bahamian oil refinery that processed Libyan oil for, among other things, sale to Cuba.

Bankrolling the Temple Mount plot

To date, despite his claims of large purchases of Israel Bonds, no publicly acknowledged investigation has ever been conducted into the personal involvement of Isaac Kattan-Kassin and his Colombia-to-Switzerland dope-money flow in the funding of the Jewish terrorist underground in Israel.

However, Middle Eastern sources have pointed to the Aleppo Jewish enclaves in Brooklyn, New York, and Deal, New Jersey as the financial and spiritual hub of the plot to blow up the Temple Mount and trigger an anti-Western *jihad* throughout the Eastern Mediterranean. These sources identify Sam Kattan, of the same Aleppo clan as Isaac Kattan-Kassin (Kassin is another of the major Aleppo Jewish ex-

tended families), as the "godfather" of the Aleppo community in Brooklyn.

Through a web of charitable funds, banks, and yeshivas in Brooklyn, Deal, and the Old City of Jerusalem, this tightly knit, U.S.-based Aleppo, Syrian circle conduits revenues, believed to include heavy doses of black market funds, into the Jewish fascist underground.

The two principal yeshivas in Jerusalem providing cover for the Temple Mount plot are Ateret Cohanim and Birkat Avraham. Both are predominantly funded through the Aleppo connection, through the Aleppo-run North American Bank of Israel, through the personal financial resources of the Dwek-Safra complex, and through the PEF Israel Endowment Fund, Inc. of Madison Avenue, New York City.

The latter is a thinly veiled cover for Aleppo family funds provided by the Nakash brothers, owners of Jordache Jeans; Edmond Safra, suspected gold and diamond smuggler and owner of Safra Bank of Rio de Janeiro, Republic National

Sources have pointed to the Aleppo Jewish enclaves in Brooklyn, New York, and Deal, New Jersey as the financial and spiritual hub of the plot to blow up the Temple Mount and trigger an anti-Western jihad throughout the Eastern Mediterranean.

Bank of New York, Banque Safra of Switzerland, and dominant shareholder until recently in Shearson, Lehman, American Express; Stephen Shalom; and the Murjani family of Murjani Jeans. The attorney in New York City "managing" the placement of these funds is Bernard Hoenig, a family retainer of several of the leading Syrian Jewish families of Brooklyn, including the Shaloms and the Esses.

Cyril Dwek, the right-hand man of Edmond Safra, the suspected successor of Isaac Kattan-Kassin as chief money-washer for the Aleppo families, is the personal financial angel, according to the sources, of the Birkat Avraham yeshiva, populated exclusively by ex-convicts recruited to the fanatical Temple Mount movement.

The Ateret Cohanim yeshiva, founded in 1978 by Mattiyahu Dan, a suspected agent of Terror Against Terror boss Rafi Eytan, the manager of Ariel Sharon's 1976 campaign for the Likud nomination as prime minister, is occupied exclusively by veterans of the Israeli Defense Force, who frequently travel through the Old Moslem Quarters of Jerusalem, site of the yeshiva, heavily armed. It is also suspected

that, through the Eytan connection, these military veterans are being employed as a pool of trained assassins working in league with Syrian intelligence to wipe out the moderate leadership of the PLO.

Augmenting the PEF and direct Syrian conduits of funds into the Temple Mount plot are two New York City based charitable fronts, both linked to the Aleppoans and to the Gush Emunim and Jewish Defense League. These are the Settlement Movement Family and Legal Defense Fund and the Gush Emunim Foundation. Rabbi Shlomo Aviner, head of the Ateret Cohanim yeshiva, an identified agent of the Israeli Shin Bet and the principal recruiter of the new Sephardic "priesthood" of Temple Mount hoodlums, sits on the board of both of these funds.

However, the identified controller of these two conduits of terrorist funds is Robert Jacobs, a certified public accountant with offices at 1180 Avenue of the Americas in Manhattan. Jacobs, a principal financial angel of Rabbi Meir Kahane and Kahane's former partner, Joseph Churba, has been running a penetration operation for at least the past 12 months into U.S.-based Reaganite conservative layers, while at the same time directing the funding of the legal defense of the Gush Emunim movement's Rabbi Levinger and the 26 Jewish fascist-underground members arrested in conjunction with the bomb plot at the Dome of the Rock.

At least one of the "Israeli New-Right" operatives laundered into such quarters as the offices of Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), the National Security Council, the White House staff, and the Moral Majority of Rev. Jerry Falwell through Jacobs' actions, is a high-probability KGB agent. Avigdor Eskin, aide to Knesset member Michael Kleiner, is the Russian-born son of a Soviet doctor, the "founder" of the Jewish Defense League branch in the Soviet Union who translated the writings of Rabbi Meir Kahane into Russian, and was then "emigrated" to Israel by the Soviet government.

The Eskin deployment is the tip of a much larger iceberg with profound implications for the future of U.S. relations with the nations of the Eastern Mediterranean. At the heart of the quid pro quo between the ruling Assad clan in Syria and the Aleppo mob running the Ariel Sharon-Rafi Eytan "factor" inside Israel is the fact that the Syrians and the Syrian-allied Israelis are preparing to assume the role of regional satrapal lords for a Soviet military power that is viewed as the dominant power in the region for the next decades. At the heart of the Syrian-Aleppoan "deal" and the fostering of a Moslemization of Israel is a betrayal of the United States.

It was a standing joke for years in the inner sanctums of Swiss banking that all differences between the Sharon mafia in Israel and the Assad mafia in Syria melted at the portals of the Swiss banks, where both jointly deposited their black-market funds. Now, with the "Aleppo connection" exposed to the light of day, the deeper truth underlying that irony is out on the table.