

Franklin Indictment: Bigger Than the Pollard Affair

by Jeffrey Steinberg

On June 13, a 20-page grand jury indictment—dated May 26—against Pentagon analyst Lawrence Franklin, was unsealed in Federal Court in Alexandria, Va., opening a new page in a several-year-long espionage probe that now promises to blow more circuits than the 1985 Jonathan Pollard arrest and espionage conviction.

Some clues as to the scope of the network being targeted in the Franklin probe were offered in the indictment itself, which pointed to two other Pentagon officials, two “former” senior AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) employees, a recently departed political officer at the Israeli Embassy, and at least one former senior Mossad official, as possible co-conspirators with Franklin in passing classified U.S. intelligence to Israel.

Although the indictment did not name the suspected co-conspirators, most of their identities have already come out. For example, the two ex-AIPAC officials are Steven Rosen and Keith Weissman. For 27 years, Rosen was AIPAC’s director of international affairs, and Weissman was, for years, AIPAC’s top Iran expert. In April, both men were fired by AIPAC, as part of a deal struck between the Justice Department and the Israeli lobbying group, brokered by Washington lawyer Nathan Lewin.

However, sources report that the deal negotiated by Lewin may have already been broken by AIPAC. The agreement was that: 1) the two men would be fired; 2) AIPAC would vow to “never do it again”; and 3) that AIPAC would not provide any financial compensation or support to the two ex-employees. However, AIPAC admits that it has paid over \$1 million in legal bills for Rosen and Weissman to date. It is expected that the two men, who are listed as “Co-Conspirators 1 and 2” in the grand jury indictment, will themselves be indicted before the end of June.

Associates of Rosen have reported that the former AIPAC chief political operative has been seen around Washington in

a state of near-shock. He muttered to one longtime friend, according to an eyewitness account, “We used to own this town, and now look at what’s happened.” Another U.S. intelligence source, intimately familiar with the case, simply observed: “Rosen *is* AIPAC.”

Ironically, Nathan Lewin’s role as the legal consultant to AIPAC may have had a certain blowback effect. Lewin is remembered by many FBI and Justice Department old hands as the lawyer who orchestrated the coverup of the espionage probe of Dr. Steven Bryen, in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Lewin was hired as a legal “consultant” to AIPAC as soon as word leaked out in August 2004 of Franklin’s legal troubles. According to one source, however, that was “late in the game,” as the FBI had bugged AIPAC’s offices for over a year at the time. In September and December 2004, the FBI raided AIPAC’s offices and confiscated computer drives, documents, and other material. The second raid on the semi-official Israel lobby’s offices was no friendly affair. FBI agents came in with guns drawn.

Israelis Under Scrutiny

There are at least three Israelis under FBI and Justice Department scrutiny in the Franklin case. They are Naor Gilon, who recently departed from his post as political counsellor at the Israeli Embassy in Washington. According to the grand jury indictment, Gilon had 15 meetings with Pentagon Iran desk officer Franklin in 2003-04. In a number of those meetings, according to the indictment, Franklin passed along classified information. Israeli news accounts say that Gilon and Franklin have actually known each other since 1997, when Franklin, a colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, was briefly assigned to the Air Attaché’s Office at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. It was Franklin’s second tour of duty in Israel, according to one former Pentagon co-worker. However, the tour was cut short, after Franklin was repeatedly

caught having unauthorized and unreported meetings with Israeli military and intelligence officials.

In addition to Gilon, the FBI is also probing Uzi Arad and Eran Lerman. Arad is a “retired” senior Mossad officer who, at one time, served as the official liaison to U.S. intelligence for the Israeli espionage service. Arad is now the director of the Herzliya Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, a leading Israeli national security think-tank, which hosts a prestigious annual international security conference.

According to the indictment, on Feb. 13, 2004, Gilon telephoned Franklin at the Pentagon, and asked him to meet with Arad. A week later, Franklin and Arad had lunch at the Pentagon cafeteria.

Arad was interviewed a few months ago by the FBI about his ties to Franklin, and Arad later explained to Israeli media that he had met Franklin at the December 2003 Herzliya conference. He claimed he was merely visiting the Pentagon civilian analyst, and was exchanging non-classified academic papers with him.

Eran Lerman, the second “ex” Israeli intelligence official under scrutiny, was a top military intelligence analyst, who also attended the 2003 Herzliya gathering.

But there is much more to the Arad and Lerman angle to Franklin. Both men have been described by one Israeli source as protégés of Rafi Eytan, the legendary Mossad European station chief, who was in charge of the special intelligence unit, Lekem, that ran U.S. citizen Jonathan Pollard as an Israeli spy in the early-to-mid-1980s. Furthermore, according to one U.S. intelligence source, the probe into Arad and Lerman’s activities has opened up a “parallel Mossad” apparatus, that has been at the center of a much broader “soft” espionage program, targetting the United States, and this is an area that U.S. counterintelligence officials are exploring with great interest.

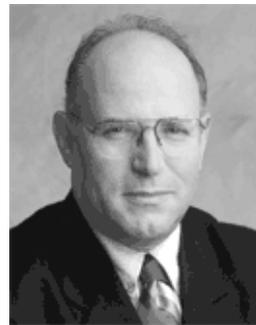
The ‘X Committee’ Revisited

The indictment also made mention of two other Pentagon officials. One unnamed official referred Rosen to Franklin, to discuss Iran. The other unnamed official attended the first face-to-face meeting between Franklin and the AIPAC men, at which classified information was provided by Franklin. While no public accounts have yet named the two other Pentagon officials, two names that have repeatedly been speculated on by experts familiar with the probe are: Doug Feith, Franklin’s boss and the outgoing Undersecretary of Defense for Policy; and Harold Rhode, a so-called “Islamic” expert, who was a close advisor to then-Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, and served in the Office of Net Assessments, headed by Andrew Marshall.

The indictment also noted that Franklin has solicited help



DoD/R.D. Ward



The trail of the Franklin indictment leads to an extensive network, including (left to right) Doug Feith, Franklin’s Pentagon boss; Dr. Uzi Arad, a former senior Israeli Mossad officer; and Eran Lerman, who was a top Israeli military intelligence analyst.

from Rosen to get a job at the National Security Council. This has led to speculation that Elliott Abrams, who headed the Mideast desk at the NSC during the first Administration of President George W. Bush, was also promoting Franklin.

While Pentagon officials like Feith and Wolfowitz tried to distance themselves from Franklin, claiming he was just a lowly desk officer, eyewitnesses have told this news service that Franklin was a frequent participant in “neo-cons only” brown-bag lunch sessions in Feith’s office. Those sessions were reportedly also attended by Franklin’s immediate boss at the Near East-South Asia policy office, William Luti. Luti, who came to the Pentagon in mid-2001 from Vice President Dick Cheney’s office, frequently boasted that he was really working for “Scooter,” a reference to I. Lewis “Scooter” Libby, Cheney’s chief of staff and chief national security aide. Libby also was, for 16 years, the lawyer for fugitive swindler and Mossad money-man, Marc Rich.

Others who joined in the Feith sessions were identified as: Richard Perle, who formerly headed the Defense Policy Board, but was forced to resign; Abe Shulsky, advisor to Luti, who headed the Office of Special Plans, the hub of the Pentagon disinformation campaign to justify the Iraq invasion of March 2003; and Harold Rhode, the man suspected of being the other Pentagon participant in the original meeting with Rosen and Franklin.

Irangate Links

Rhode’s close ties to Franklin date back at least to December 2001, when the two Pentagon civilians travelled to Rome with Michael Ledeen, for three days of meetings with Iranian arms dealer Manucher Ghorbanifar. A pivotal figure in the 1980s Iran-Contra scandal, Ghorbanifar was denounced by the CIA as a pathological liar, and was declared off limits for CIA Middle East hands. But Ghorbanifar always remained a favorite of the neo-cons, and Ledeen organized the December 2001 session to reopen some of the old Irangate links, as part of his crusade for “regime change in Tehran.”

One former U.S. intelligence official assessed that Franklin was used, among other tasks, to conduit Ghorbanifar disin-

formation to Israel, so it could be credibly “shopped in” to U.S. intelligence in a re-run of the Ahmed Chalabi/Iraqi National Congress “stove pipe” of disinformation to “end users” like Cheney and other top hawkish policymakers.

But above all else, leading Pentagon officials, now under suspicion in the Franklin affair, go back to the original Pollard case as suspected members of the “X Committee,” the group of Reagan-era national security hawks, who were all under investigation as co-conspirators of Pollard, but were never caught or prosecuted. In Spring 1988, *EIR* published a list of suspected members of the “X Committee,” provided by a source working with the General Counsel to the Secretary of Defense (see *Documentation*). Among the names on the list: Wolfowitz, Feith, Perle, and Ledeen. All four men have now been directly linked to the Franklin affair.

There is growing speculation that this time, the “X Committee” is not going to get away with its perfidy. The national security institutions of the United States often work slowly, but on some occasions, they actually work. And that is making for some very sleepless nights for people like Dick Cheney, who have been covering the backs of the “X Committee” for decades.

Documentation

Federal Indictment of Lawrence Franklin

The following are excerpts from the indictment of Lawrence Franklin in the May 2005 term of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, released June 13.

General Allegations

At all times material to this indictment:

1. The defendant, LAWRENCE ANTHONY FRANKLIN, was employed by the United States government at the Department of Defense (DoD) in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), International Security Affairs (ISA), Office of Near East and South Asia, Office of Northern Gulf Affairs, Iran desk, and held a Top Secret security clearance with access to Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI). The defendant was also a Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve (USAFR).

2. Throughout his employment with the United States Government, FRANKLIN has repeatedly signed written agreements acknowledging his duty to safeguard classified information:

- On or about July 31, 1979, FRANKLIN signed a DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency) Secrecy Agreement, by which he acknowledged that he would never divulge any classified

information relating to the national security without prior consent of the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency or his designated representative. FRANKLIN further acknowledged that the burden was his to ascertain whether information is classified and who is authorized to receive it. FRANKLIN acknowledged that he had read and understood the provisions of the Espionage Act, including 18 U.S.C. §793, 794, and 798.

- On or about December 8, 1999, FRANKLIN signed a Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreement, a Standard Form 312 (SF312). In that document FRANKLIN acknowledged that he was aware that the unauthorized disclosure of classified information by him could cause irreparable injury to the United States or could be used to advantage by a foreign nation and that he would never divulge classified information to an unauthorized person. He further acknowledged that he would never divulge classified information unless he had officially verified that the recipient was authorized by the United States to receive it. Additionally, he agreed that if he was uncertain about the classification status of information, he was required to confirm from an authorized official that the information is unclassified before he could disclose it.

- On or about June 5, 2001, FRANKLIN orally attested that he fully understood his responsibility to protect national security information and would adhere to the provisions of the SF-312. . . .

- On or about July 17, 2001, FRANKLIN signed an SCI Nondisclosure Statement in conjunction with his employment at the DoD/OSD. FRANKLIN acknowledged that he was granted access to classified information protected as SCI and that he received a security indoctrination addressing the nature and protection of SCI information. . . .

Ways, Manner, and Means of the Conspiracy

A. It was part of the conspiracy that defendant LAWRENCE ANTHONY FRANKLIN would and did use his position as a desk officer in the Office of the Secretary of Defense to gather information relating to the national defense, for subsequent unlawful communication, delivery, and transmission to CC-1 and CC-2.

B. It was further part of the conspiracy that FRANKLIN would communicate by telephone with CC-1 and CC-2 to arrange meetings, share information, set agendas for meetings, and act upon requests for additional information.

C. It was further part of the conspiracy that FRANKLIN, CC-1, and CC-2 would and did meet at locations in the Eastern District of Virginia and elsewhere, to exchange information, including classified information relating to the national defense.

D. It was further part of the conspiracy that FRANKLIN would and did deliver, communicate and transmit classified national defense information in an effort to advance his own career, advance his own personal foreign policy agenda, and influence persons within and outside the United States government.

E. It was further part of the conspiracy that CC-1 and CC-2 would meet with FRANKLIN and cultivate a relationship that would enable them to obtain from the defendant national defense information. . . .

The U.S. Intelligence Search for 'Mr. X'

by Joseph Brewda

Reprinted from EIR, June 3, 1988. Note how many of these individuals are still in powerful positions today.

U.S. government investigators are hot on the trail of "Mr. X," the senior U.S. government official deemed responsible for having placed convicted Soviet-Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard in a sensitive post at U.S. Naval Intelligence. Without such an official, or officials, Pollard could never have reached his position. *EIR* has received a list of suspects currently being investigated by the U.S. government for having played that treacherous role. *EIR* investigations have independently confirmed that all the individuals on the list are likely KGB (Soviet intelligence) or Mossad (Israeli intelligence) agents or assets. It is *EIR*'s judgment, moreover, that the individuals on the list, far from being a random collection of suspects, constitute a tightly organized conspiracy, which was responsible, *as a whole*, for patronizing and protecting Pollard.

Perhaps the best description of them is "Albert Wohlstetter's children."

As reported in an accompanying article, "former" Trotskyite Albert Wohlstetter is the mastermind of the Soviet-sponsored U.S. strategic policy known as "discriminate deterrence," that is, abandonment of allies in Europe and Asia. Wohlstetter was one of the founders of the Rand corporation, a center of crackpot strategies, together with Andrew Marshall, Henry Rowen, and Herman Kahn. In former days, Wohlstetter, Rowen, and Kahn were known as "the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost of Rand." Others in Washington added Rand founder Bernard Brodie to the group, and condemned them as the "Four Pursemen of the Apocalypse."

Altogether, the list includes:

Henry S. Rowen. Currently a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, Rowen joined Wohlstetter and Kahn at the newly formed Rand corporation in 1951, following graduation from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His most recent government post was chairman of the National Intelligence Estimates Board at CIA, 1980 to 1983.

In 1951, Rowen and Wohlstetter succeeded in expanding their penetration of U.S. defense circles through a Rand study on the vulnerability of Strategic Air Command bases to Soviet surprise attack. Rowen and Wohlstetter designed the insane doctrine of "flexible response" and "controlled escalation" at Rand, and later sold it to Defense Secretary Robert

McNamara.

In 1959, Rowen, Wohlstetter, and Andy Marshall became key figures in the John F. Kennedy campaign. Following Kennedy's election, Rowen was appointed Deputy Assistant Defense Secretary under McNamara, where he advocated the "Mutually Assured Destruction" deterrence thesis, in opposition to the traditional military doctrine of "war-winning." Rowen successfully imposed his views during the 1961 Berlin Wall crisis, one of the most important and cowardly U.S. capitulations to the Red Army in the postwar period.

Rowen served as President Johnson's assistant director at the Bureau of the Budget, and then returned to Rand. Rowen reemerged as the leader, with Wohlstetter and Kahn, of the team which wrote Jimmy Carter's notorious PD-59, a policy which removed the strategic nuclear umbrella from Western Europe. As CIA intelligence estimates director in the first Reagan Administration, Rowen ensured consistent CIA misestimation of the Soviet strategic threat.

Andrew Marshall. Currently the director of the Defense Department's Office of Net Assessment, a post he has held since 1973, Marshall oversees all Pentagon studies comparing the relative strengths of the U.S. and Soviet military. The office's assessments have been notoriously incompetent. A founder of Rand, Marshall assisted Albert Wohlstetter and his wife, Roberta, in their influential study on the vulnerability of the Strategic Air Command. While at Rand, Marshall also trained future Defense Secretary James Schlesinger.

In 1957, Marshall joined H. Rowan Gaither in directing the Council of Foreign Relations-linked Gaither Committee, which concluded that the United States would not be able to follow the doctrine of "massive retaliation," and had to, they insisted, accept the idea of U.S.-Soviet strategic parity. The committee's ideas were later picked up by Henry Kissinger. In 1973, Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger hired his mentor Marshall to become director of the Office of Strategic Assessment. Under Marshall, it became the key Pentagon office overseeing the subcontracting of strategic assessments to private firms, such as Rand. Marshall has also served as the key liaison with the Israeli Defense Ministry. In 1982, Marshall, Fred Iklé, and Richard Perle co-authored the Reagan Administration's guidelines on defense guidance.

Fred Charles Iklé. Product of an elite family associated with the National Bank of Switzerland, Iklé was trained at the Rand Social Sciences department under Wohlstetter and Marshall. From 1981 through February 1988, Iklé was Undersecretary of Defense for Policy. He is the co-author with Wohlstetter, of the recent Pentagon study, *Discriminate Deterrence*.

In addition to serving in his family's Zurich-American Insurance Company and teaching at MIT, Iklé directed the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency under President Ford. He has served as the main patron of the "X Committee's" Richard N. Perle and Stephen D. Bryen within the Defense Department.

Richard N. Perle. From 1981 through April 1987, Perle