

## Abramoff and Africa

In 1985, Jack Abramoff was the outgoing College Republicans national chairman. That year, Abramoff opened the Washington headquarters of the International Freedom Foundation (IFF), a front for the South African regime's secret police and military intelligence, which had other offices in London, Hamburg, Brussels, Rome, and Johannesburg. Abramoff chaired the IFF until it closed in 1993, when the South African government cut off its \$1.5 million per year covert funding.

Craig Williamson, a South African spy and assassin, ran the IFF's center in Johannesburg. After the black-majority government took power, Williamson confessed to numerous state-sponsored murders, and he and other officials revealed that Abramoff's IFF was part of a larger South African military intelligence initiative to counter the black anti-apartheid movement led by Nelson Mandela.

According to South African intelligence sources who were close to Williamson and Abramoff's work, the South Africans funded Abramoff during and after his 1981 takeover of the College Republicans, and Craig Williamson personally trained Abramoff in the arts of deception and political dirty tricks.

Also in 1985, Jack Abramoff created Citizens for America, in coordination with the Anglo-American imperial faction within the Reagan-Bush Administration, led by the Heritage Foundation, which was steered by the Fabian Society's Stuart Butler. Abramoff's group was part of a global network of mercenaries, illegal arms dealers, drug traffickers, money launderers, terrorists, and private spies, known collectively as "the asteroids."

Abramoff, his lieutenant Grover Norquist, and Williamson's South Africa National Student Foundation, ran a 1985 summit conference of rightist guerrilla movements, African diamond smugglers, heroin-trafficking Afghan mujahedin, and Oliver North's cocaine-smuggling Nicaraguan contras.