

to call his hearings.

The Bernstein brothers, Joseph, 37, and Ralph, 28, came out of nowhere several years ago, and achieved quick notoriety with their \$477 million bid to buy the New York Coliseum. According to newspaper accounts, the bulk of the money of the Bernsteins' firm, which specializes in placing "foreign investments" (i.e., flight capital), comes from their family members and business acquaintances in South America, Canada, and Israel.

Their mother, an Aleppan Jew named Olga Nasser, married one Victor Bernstein, an emigré from Hungary who moved first to Palestine and then to the Philippines. Olga's brother, Jack Nasser, is a leading Philippines textile magnate. After moving to the United States, the brothers worked for Nessim Gaon, head of the World Sephardic Federation. Gaon put on the Bernstein boys into real estate; Ralph married Gaon's daughter.

The Bernstein's first venture was a \$369 million bid for New York's Pan Am building. That same year, uncle Jack Nasser set the family up in a series of interlocked firms centered on the New York Land Co.

Based in Switzerland, Gaon was the subject of a series in the *Wall Street Journal* in 1981, on his shady international business empire. Gaon is a close associate of Solarz's benefactor, Stephen Shalom.

Gaon and Shalom are co-owners of the small Sephardi Tami Party in Israel, also funded by organized-crime figure Samuel Flatto-Sharon, who fled France and bought himself a seat in Israel's Knesset to avoid criminal prosecution. Liliane Shalom, a relation of Steven, convinced her good friend, drug-kingpin Edgar Bronfman, to also throw in a good chunk of money for Tami. Solarz sits on the board of the American Jewish Congress division of Bronfman's World Jewish Congress. Tami's leader, Aharon Abuhatzaira, won the key post

A record of sabotage of U.S. national security

U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS:

October 1980—Solarz spent two weeks in Moscow, the first congressman to visit there in over a year, following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. After long meetings with top Soviet foreign policy figures, Solarz reported upon his return: "Based on my conversations with the Soviets I met, my feeling is that they are very worried. Relations with the United States are the foundation of their foreign policy. Only the United States has the capacity to destroy all that they have achieved. They feel that present potential for an escalation of hostility between us is a great danger for both." This trip was only one of numerous "solo trips" Solarz has taken to Moscow.

1981—Congressional Budget Committee member Solarz recommended eliminating the U.S. Space Shuttle program.

June 1982—One week before the U.S.-Soviet talks on Strategic Arms Reduction started in Geneva, the House Foreign Affairs Committee passed a resolution for the nuclear freeze, led by Solarz.

January 1983—Solarz recommended that the United States pull back its nuclear weapons from the eastern borders of West Germany, "so that they would not be in such perilous proximity to the first wave of advancing forces." The proposal was rightly taken in West Germany as U.S.

consideration of abandonment of part or all of West German territory to the Soviet Union.

Jan. 21, 1985—In a *New York Times* op-ed, Solarz argued that the United States must "negotiate away or reduce the deployment of our MX and Trident II missiles, which are designed to give us a first-strike capacity against their land-based missiles."

July 3, 1985—Solarz met in Moscow with Col.-Gen. Nikolai F. Chervov, the arms control specialist for the Soviet General Staff. Upon his return, he and Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.) introduced a resolution calling for no deployment of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative, in return for cuts in Soviet offensive missiles.

1985—Solarz argued that the United States must not compile a list of countries sponsoring state terrorism, arguing that it is impossible to distinguish between terrorists and legitimate revolutionary groups.

ASIA:

1980—Over the bitter protests of South Korea, Solarz became the first U.S. congressman to visit North Korea in almost 30 years. The visit was timed with the Carter administration's proposal to pull all U.S. troops out of South Korea. After four hours of meetings with North Korean dictator Kim IlSung, Solarz stated, "I rather doubt they will attack the South. . . . I think war is unlikely because they feel over time they can achieve their objectives politically."

1980—Following several trips to China, Solarz stressed in a *New York Times* op-ed that the Reagan administration should not sell advanced weaponry to Taiwan, but should make the "China Card" the center of policy toward Asia. Solarz lied that "America's other friends in Asia find that friendly relations between Washington and Peking strengthen their security."

of Minister of Religious Affairs in the Likud government of Menachem Begin, which took office in 1977. Shortly thereafter, Abuhateira was convicted of embezzling and bribetaking.

When questioned, Joseph Bernstein says he cannot understand why Solarz is persecuting them, particularly since "he helped us so much in getting the Jews out of Aleppo." Look once again at the alleged Marcos frontmen, the Bernsteins, on whom hangs the entirety of Solarz's inquisition. The "prosecution" is Stephen Solarz, owned by the Aleppan Steven Shalom and friends. The "defense" is the Bernstein brothers, related by marriage to Steven Shalom's close associate, Nessim Gaon. The vast amount of money the Bernsteins wield, which Solarz claims to be Marcos money, is reported to be that of their business partners and extended family, a family that includes the likes of Isaac Kattan, Victor Kassim, and Edmund Safra.

1981—Solarz introduced a measure to curb U.S. aid to "countries which harass or spy on their own citizens living in the United States." The measure was aimed not at Iran or Libya, but at Taiwan.

1983—Solarz opposed the sale of F-16s to Thailand.

May 31, 1984—Solarz's subcommittee passed calls for a "shift of power" in Taiwan from the ruling Kuomintang Party, to the opposition.

1985—Solarz led the fight against a proposal to cut all funds to the U.N. Fund for Population Activities, unless the Fund ceased funding China's murderous population control program.

MIDDLE EAST:

Solarz has voted against all U.S. arms sales to moderate Arab allies. While pushing massive aid to Israel, he has demanded "a strong and sweeping austerity program in Israel," noting that unemployment would rise, the standard of living would decrease, but "such consequences are inevitable."

AFRICA:

1985—Solarz introduced a bill for trade sanctions against South Africa." He visited South Africa, where he met extensively with Winnie Mandela and helped to promote the Soviet-backed African National Congress as the sole representative of the black population.

IBERO-AMERICA:

January 1983—After meetings with Nicaragua's Sandinista leaders and Cuba's Fidel Castro, Solarz declared that he had "the impression that there is a potential basis for dialogue between the two countries."

May 1983—Solarz led the fight to pass a House resolution calling for a full cutoff of aid if the El Salvador government did not start peace talks with rebels within 90 days and "make progress on human rights reforms."

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