

# Mossad agents busted selling arms to Iran

by Joseph Brewda

Seventeen individuals from Greece, Israel, Britain, and France, were indicted on April 22 by U.S. authorities for conspiring to ship over \$2 billion of U.S. anti-tank TOW missiles, F-4 and F-5 combat jets, cluster bombs, and other weaponry to Iran. The indictments, the largest arms-export case in U.S. history, represent a major blow against a penetration operation run by the Sharon faction of the Israeli Mossad into the U.S. military and intelligence community.

According to the criminal complaints filed in the Southern District of New York and intelligence sources, the leaders of this ring were Samuel Evans, an American attorney residing in London, and Israeli Gen. Avraham Bar-Am, a crony of Israeli strong-man Ariel Sharon. Both Bar-Am and Evans are currently in jail in Bermuda, where they had been meeting to work out details of the conspiracy.

According to Dennis Fagan, who headed the investigation of the Bar-Am ring for U.S. Customs, the weapons were apparently to be shipped from Israel to Iran under documents filed for false destinations. The falsified "end-users" of the U.S. weapons were alleged to be Greece, Turkey, Pakistan, and the Philippines. Oversight of the smuggling was to be directed by the Tel Aviv firm of BIT Co., Ltd., whose partners, in addition to Bar-Am, were Guri and Israel Eisenberg, and individuals only identified as Mr. Hermoni and Mr. Humposa, all of whom have been arrested.

Naturally enough, the Israeli embassy in Washington has been screaming, since the morning of the arrest, that General Bar-Am, the number-two officer in the Northern Army command during the Sharon-directed Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, was not acting under Israeli authority. Bar-Am, they claimed, was running a "rogue operation," and the focus on Bar-Am was purely an example of U.S. government "anti-Semitism."

Speaking from his Bermuda jail cell, Bar-Am begged to differ with his Mossad superiors. "The defense establishment [of Israel] knows about this group, of which I was an adviser," he said to Israeli press. "And if the state of Israel does not help us, we will tell all." Bar-Am revealed that he had a letter from Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, authorizing him to be engaged in arms deals. Bar-Am has reportedly

concentrated on Israeli government-sanctioned arms smuggling since his 1984 retirement as the chief of staff of the Israeli Defense Forces' manpower branch.

This is not the first time that the Sharon crowd in Israel government has been caught red-handed in actions hostile to U.S. national security, and has labeled the case a "rogue operation" or an "aberration." In December 1985, Jonathan Pollard, an employee of U.S. Naval Intelligence, was nabbed at the Israeli embassy in Washington with classified U.S. documents. Pollard, who subsequently admitted spying for Israel, had worked directly for Israeli spy-master Rafi Eytan, a Sharon flunky, like Bar-Am.

Shortly after the arrest of Pollard, whom the Israelis identified as a "rogue operative," the New England-based firm Napco was busted smuggling U.S. tank-barrel production-technique innovations to Israel. The arrest was again termed "anti-Semitic."

Last August, the FBI and other law-enforcement agencies arrested a San Jose, California-based smuggling ring which was attempting to smuggle 5,000 TOW missiles to Iran, as part of the same "shopping-list" that Bar-Am was working on. The leader of the ring, Paul Sjeklocha, (a.k.a. Cutter) had been recruited to Israeli arms smuggling networks in 1982 by Ariel Sharon personally, at a meeting held with him for this purpose in Israel.

The gun-running network now being mopped up has been in place since the Carter administration's deal with Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini during the 1979-80 Iranian revolution and the ensuing hostage crisis. It is well established that the Israelis were engaged in massive arms shipments to Iran during the U.S. arms embargo. *EIR* has documented over recent years how the pro-Khomeini terrorist network in the United States being protected by the Carter administration—centering around Iranian banker Cyrus Hashemi—was also the center of the Iranian gun-running operation. The Israeli side of the Hashemi gun-running network has been repeatedly documented by *EIR* since 1983, and has been well known to agencies of the U.S. government during this period.

However, it was not until 1984, when Hashemi and a group of collaborators were indicted, that this network began to be mopped up. The 1985 indictments of Cutter and others continued this clean-up.

Hashemi himself sued *EIR* in 1980 after he was identified as financing Iranian terrorism in the United States. One of his lawyers was former Justice Department official Stanley Pottinger, who was named as an unindicted co-conspirator in the 1984 Hashemi indictments.

Even after this time, Hashemi continued to be protected by a faction of U.S. intelligence which was collaborating with the Israeli Mossad and the KGB in back-door support of Khomeini. Now, it appears that the Mossad network within U.S. intelligence is being cleaned out. That Hashemi was reported to have aided in setting up the recent arrests, only confirms the long-overdue unravelling of this operation.