
Irangate

Kenneth Bialkin is next on the list

by Joseph Brewda

Former Anti-Defamation League (ADL) chairman and New York corporate attorney Kenneth Bialkin has become the latest target of the clean-out of U.S. intelligence known as "Irangate." Bialkin, who has held press conferences to put out lying denunciations of the anti-drug political leader Lyndon LaRouche, could end up behind bars as a result of ongoing investigations into the Soviet KGB-Israeli Mossad networks in the U.S. government and their ties to organized crime.

On March 19, the *Washington Times* ran an interview with Adnan Khashoggi, in which the wealthy arms merchant, and intelligence hand, made a point of emphasis that Bialkin has not only been his attorney, but has also been his liaison to the FBI in the Irangate affair. Khashoggi's implied threat of fully recounting Bialkin's role, was preceded by the March 12 indictment of Bialkin's business partner, arms merchant, and stock speculator David Sofer, together with Merrill Lynch's international mergers and acquisitions director Nahum Vaskevitch, for "insider-trading," following a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation. Bialkin has remained unavailable to reporters.

Insider trading, arms trafficking

A senior partner at the law firm Willkie, Farr and Gallagher, Bialkin is widely considered a top expert in coordinating foreign-based, hostile takeover bids of U.S. concerns. Bialkin has such clients, as Swiss banker Edmund Safra, who also controls American Express and Republic National Bank. Bialkin is also the attorney for a number of top arms smugglers, including the Mossad's Shaul Eisenberg, who supervises the Israeli arms trade to Iran, often in partnership with his crony Ya'acov Nimrodi, the central Mossad arms smuggler implicated in Irangate.

In the summer of 1985, Bialkin was very active with another one of these Israeli traffickers, David Sofer, in a Merrill Lynch-financed plot to take over Ampal Corporation, a subsidiary, and intelligence arm, of the Israeli Bank Ha-poalim. The Sofer-connected Merico Shipping, had been caught the previous year shipping Israeli arms to the Italian Red Brigades terrorists, and is known to run arms to Central America.

Bialkin's associate in the Ampal takeover bid was Merrill Lynch acquisition director Nahum Vaskevitch, a Mossad agent who entered Merrill Lynch in 1981, the same year that its chairman, Donald T. Regan, was detailed to become U.S. treasury secretary. Vaskevitch's assignment at Merrill Lynch included setting up the financial arrangements necessary for expanded joint U.S. National Security Council-Mossad arms sales to Iran. The takeover bid for Ampal was part of this scheme.

The most significant Swiss-based figure in this complex financial network has remained Bialkin's client, Edmund Safra, who has long served as a key financial and logistics officer of Israeli intelligence. Closely working with Safra is Bialkin's former partner Willard Zucker, who established every single Swiss account used to manage the NSC-Mossad arms sales to Iran, including the one used to conduit Adnan Khashoggi's funds for this purpose. Zucker and Safra, moreover, were partners in the aviation companies which shipped the arms to Iran.

The genesis of this Swiss-Mossad financial network was the notorious Investors Overseas Services, which had been formed by Meyer Lansky's financial adviser John Pullman in the 1960s, for the joint use of the mob, the Mossad, and the bankers' faction of U.S. intelligence. Control of the day-to-day operations of IOS, however, were detailed to Bialkin's Willkie, Farr and Gallagher, which maintained three members on the board of directors. Among these Willkie, Farr directors was Willard Zucker, who also ran IOS's legal department. Bialkin and Zucker later ran the reorganization of IOS, which installed Robert Vesco in control of the firm. Vesco, now based in Havana, supplies the cocaine used by both the Contras and the Sandinistas to swap for Israeli arms, carried by such firms as Sofer's Merico Shipping.

Thus the following picture on Irangate emerges: Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi arms merchant who is credited with getting the arms sales to Iran going, and who put up the millions of front money for the sales, was represented by Kenneth Bialkin, who was also his liaison to U.S. intelligence. The arms sales to the Iranians were overseen by Mossad arms dealer Ya'acov Nimrodi, a business partner of Bialkin's client Shaul Eisenberg. The Iranian arms profits diverted out of the Swiss accounts, reportedly to the Contras, were diverted out of accounts created and operated by Bialkin's former law partner Willard Zucker. The Contras received arms from Israeli arms merchants, among whom a favorite shipper is the Sofer-linked Merico Shipping. The Contras and the Nicaraguan government purchase Israeli arms with cocaine, or cocaine profits, derived from their dealings with Bialkin's Robert Vesco.

All this, and much more, is well known to Adnan Khashoggi, who since Irangate has been "hung out to dry" and subjected to efforts to bankrupt him by his former "handlers," including his former attorney. What Khashoggi will say, is just one element determining the fate of the ADL's Kenneth Bialkin.