

AIPAC, the drug lobby, and ayatollahs in Congress

by Joseph Brewda

On Aug. 17, Reagan administration spokesmen officially confirmed earlier reports that the White House will submit to Congress a proposal for a \$1 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia to Congress when it reconvenes this fall. The proposed weapons sale, which will include 1,600 Maverick anti-tank missiles and 14 F-15 jets, is urgently required to build up Saudi Arabia's capabilities against the lunatic Iran regime, and to provide crucial support to the U.S. fleet now stationed in the Persian Gulf. Informed sources state that if the package is blocked by Congress, the political, and military, repercussions in the Middle East will be devastating.

The Saudi proposal is essentially a resubmission of an earlier package which had been announced by the White House last May. Within two weeks of the announcement, 260 congressmen co-sponsored a resolution calling for blocking the sale, and President Reagan withdrew the proposal. The reason for these congressmen's behavior is to be found in the operations of an obscure Washington-based organization called AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. Immediately after the announcement of the first proposed sale, AIPAC mobilized its congressional stooges. It is now hard at work sabotaging the second.

Insiders in the administration correctly see the upcoming September fight with AIPAC as the greatest test yet of whether the U.S. presidency, and this President in particular, has the will to overpower what is popularly referred to as the "Israel lobby." If Reagan cracks under AIPAC pressure, it is doubtful that anything of value will come out of the President's remaining months in office, despite the promise the Gulf deployment holds for reversing seven years of insane strategic policies pursued by the United States in the region.

AIPAC's capabilities within the Congress are impressive. As far back as 1970, AIPAC played an instrumental

role in derailing the Nixon administration's "Rogers Plan" to secure peace in the Middle East, by mobilizing 250 congressmen against it. As a result of the collapse of the Rogers Plan, the United States got Henry Kissinger as Secretary of State, "détente," the 1973 Middle East war, and the crippling increase in world oil prices. It was AIPAC that blocked a U.S. arms sale to Jordan in 1986, sabotaging motion for a Mideast peace plan at that time. On Aug. 5, AIPAC induced 100 congressmen to file an outrageous suit in U.S. District Court in Washington, to compel the President to invoke the War Powers Act as authority for his Gulf deployment.

What is this AIPAC, that it can so effectively deploy Congress against the U.S. presidency and vital U.S. national security interests?

The AIPAC empire

AIPAC had been formed as a registered lobbying organization back in 1951 by I.I. Kenen, then a paid, registered agent of the Israeli government. While the formal purpose of AIPAC is to lobby the U.S. government on behalf of "pro-Israel" policies, it would be more accurate to designate the lobby's policies as "pro-Meyer Lansky," reflecting its mob origins and control.

Being formally registered as a lobby, AIPAC is precluded by U.S. law from any involvement in electoral fundraising. Only Federal Election Commission registered "political action committees," or PACs, are legally allowed to engage in such fundraising. Despite the law, AIPAC effectively controls the largest group of single-issue PACs operating in the United States today, to the degree that AIPAC funds can make, or break, congressmen or senators. These PAC contributions are not the only source of power of an organization like AIPAC by any means. There is also blackmail, and the

conducting of vast amounts of illegal funds outside of PAC reporting procedures. But the money officially mobilized by AIPAC's PAC empire, in itself, goes a long way toward explaining Congress's bizarre behavior on Middle East-centered issues.

A recent study by the *Wall Street Journal's* John Fialka gives some insight into this syndicate.

AIPAC has two ruling bodies, its executive committee, and its national council. Of the 131 members of AIPAC's executive, at least 26 are known to be chairmen, treasurers, or controlling officers of PACs; of the 200 members of AIPAC's national council, at least 23 have similar positions. Typifying this arrangement, AIPAC's president, Robert Asher, directs a PAC, as does AIPAC's chairman of the board, and two of its six regional vice presidents. These 49 AIPAC officers control 40 PACs, whose total legal contributions during the 1986 congressional campaign was \$3.6 million. By comparison, the largest single-issue PAC empire, outside of AIPAC, that run by the National Association of Realtors, contributed \$2.7 million.

These 40 AIPAC PACs, moreover, are the leading edge of the estimated 80-90 "pro-Israel" PACs operating today, which contributed upwards of \$6.9 million in the 1986 campaign cycle. Most of these 40-50 other PACs give money based on AIPAC's lead, and many are most likely formally controlled by AIPAC.

The drug lobby and Congress's ayatollahs

Tables 1 and 3 list the top AIPAC congressional and senatorial recipients, drawn from an *EIR* analysis of Federal Election Commission records of PAC contributions to the 1986 campaigns. Tables 2 and 4, listing the committee positions of these congressmen and senators, give some indications as to why these individuals were chosen.

Any group which contributes 5% or so to a candidate in a tightly contested election, can determine the victory. But these figures only tell a small part of the story, as can be seen below. AIPAC has 55,000 members. One of its PACs, NAT-PAC, controlled by former AIPAC political director Richard Altman, has 41,000 members. The aggregate membership of AIPAC and its 40 PACs, even allowing for extensive overlapping membership, is consequently large, and obviously inclined to give large sums in an election. These contributions are all based on whether or not a candidate gets the AIPAC seal of approval, in the tons of AIPAC and PAC literature sent out each year to its membership and broader periphery.

What percentage does the combined AIPAC PACs, PAC membership, and sympathizers contribute? Take the case of former Illinois Congressman Paul Findley, whose 20-year tenure was ended by a AIPAC mobilization against him in 1982. According to AIPAC director Tom Dine, \$685,000 of the \$750,000 raised by Findley's successful opponent Richard Durbin, was mobilized by AIPAC's propaganda campaign. Thus, in this case, where AIPAC's known PACs officially contributed \$77,000 to the Durbin campaign, the

actual total funds mobilized for Durbin were almost nine times that amount!

Going to Table 1, we can therefore calculate that if the same "gear ratio" of AIPAC PAC contributions to total AIPAC influenced contributions is maintained, as in the Durbin case, 16 of the 27 top AIPAC PAC recipients in the 1986 congressional elections received more than 20% of their total receipts directly through AIPAC's mobilizations! Six of these 27 received over a third; and one, Edward Feighan, over half from the AIPAC network. Ask any congressional aide how his congressman would respond to the demands of a organized constituency bloc which accounted for over a fifth of his campaign financing. Even if AIPAC director Dine's projections are somewhat exaggerated, his account roughly corresponds to the perception of AIPAC's capabilities by Congress.

Moreover, AIPAC has the capacity to field large sums unexpectedly in remote states, for targeted campaigns. Thus the largest recipient of AIPAC PAC sums in 1986, Thomas Daschle of South Dakota, was flooded with funds from as far away as Miami, New York, and Los Angeles, in order to allow Daschle to successfully bounce Sen. James Abdnor, an Arab-American. One-third of the total contributions given in the 1984 congressional elections by self-defined pro-Israel PACs, went to members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations. Forty-four percent of the \$1.8 million raised by pro-Israel PACs for Senate in 1984 went to the opponents of five Republican senators who had voted for the 1981 AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia.

AIPAC is certainly an expert in PAC law. Its board member, and top attorney, David Ifshin, had been Walter Mondale's campaign counsel, and was implicated in Mondale's laundering of \$3.5 million in funds, through illegal Mondale PACs, in the 1984 campaign. Despite the fact that Mondale was caught red-handed in overt fraud, the campaign was merely required by to pay \$350,000 by the oh-so-understanding FEC. Perhaps this reflects the fact that Ifshin, a Humphrey-Mondale operative since his days as president of the CIA-funded National Student Association, helped draft the PAC guidelines in the 1974 amendments to the 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act.

And to say AIPAC is an expert in money laundering would hardly be an overstatement. AIPAC's board is graced by Kenneth Bialkin, for example, the attorney of mafioso Robert Vesco, whose firm helped launder \$250 million of Vesco's funds from Switzerland. Bialkin is joined on the board by Max Fisher, whose career as a mobster started as a bag man for the notorious Purple Gang, and later progressed to become the head of the Jewish Agency, which even the Israeli government bitterly complains is looting it.

Then there is former AIPAC director and current AIPAC board member Morris Amitay. Despite the efforts of AIPAC recipients like Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) to suppress any mention of Israel at the recent, farcical, Iran-Contra

hearings, the name Amitay has come to the surface. It was Amitay who approached National Security Adviser dewsigned Richard Allen back in 1980 to sound out the incoming Reagan administration on its policy toward Israel's arm sales to Iran. As the world now knows, the Reagan administration accepted Amitay's offer, made on behalf of then-Israeli military attaché in Washington Gen. Menachem Meron. Just how much of the millions, which subsequently flowed back and forth to Iran, went through the AIPAC PAC network? Look at the behavior of the Inouye crowd in suppressing the Israeli role in the Iran sales, and judge for yourself.

For such reasons, every incumbent senator running for reelection, but one, agreed to meet AIPAC during the 1985-86 campaign, according to AIPAC's Tom Dine, as did 49 senatorial and 205 House challengers. Former AIPAC director Morris Amitay, who now directs his own AIPAC PAC,

estimates AIPAC's "reliable base" as 200 members of 485 in the House, and 40-45 members of the 100-man Senate.

AIPAC does not restrict itself to buying congressmen. Already, most Democratic and Republican presidential campaigns are heavily infiltrated by AIPAC operatives, whose role is to secure large financial receipts—for a price. Naturally many of these candidates, such as Republican contender Robert Dole, will line up and oppose the Saudi arms package, or mouth similar AIPAC nonsense. Dole recently suggested that Israel serve as the military anchor for the "dangerously soft underbelly" of NATO, and suggested that the United States explore the willingness of Israel to fill the "strategic gap." Dole's deputy finance chairman is Leo Bell, a member of AIPAC's executive. Dole's chief campaign strategist, Noel Koch, had been a leading counter-terrorist specialist at the U.S. Defense Department, until he was ousted for his com-

TABLE 1
AIPAC PAC contributions to 1986 congressional candidate winners (above \$10,000)

Congressman	Total AIPAC-controlled PAC contributions (\$)	Total PAC contributions* (\$)	Total receipts (\$)	AIPAC contributions as % of total PAC contributions	AIPAC contributions as % of total receipts	% of election victory
Feighan, Edward (D-OH)	40,250	345,029	659,975	11.0	6.1	55
Smith, L. Jack (D-FL)	36,500	308,283	774,467	11.8	4.7	70
Carr, Bob (D-MI)	26,250	448,672	734,919	5.8	3.6	57
Wolpe, Howard (D-MI)	25,250	252,649	878,634	10.0	2.9	60
Gedjenson, Sam (D-CT)	24,529	294,448	975,785	8.3	2.5	67
Obey, David (D-WI)	22,750	261,906	473,017	8.7	4.8	62
Kostmayer, Peter (D-PA)	21,750	338,700	662,578	6.4	3.2	55
Weber, Vin (R-MN)	21,150	283,203	942,499	7.5	2.2	52
Robinson, Tommy (D-AR)	17,250	296,867	730,648	5.8	2.4	76
Collins, Cardiss (D-IL)	16,750	230,570	304,742	7.2	5.5	80
Levine, Mel (D-CA)	15,250	121,524	711,129	12.0	2.1	64
Lewis, John (D-GA)	15,250	157,994	381,754	9.7	4.0	75
Fascell, Dante (D-FL)	15,000	144,550	473,480	10.3	3.1	69
Coughlin, Lawrence (R-PA)	13,600	226,446	705,258	6.0	1.9	59
Owens, Wayne (D-UT)	12,600	389,113	699,328	3.2	1.8	55
Johnson, Tim (D-SD)	12,500	230,864	438,138	5.4	2.7	59
Wright, Jim (D-TX)	12,000	176,011	1,220,895	6.9	1.0	69
Hamilton, Lee (D-IN)	11,550	124,400	286,915	9.2	4.0	72
Gibbons, Sam (D-FL)	11,500	560,270	903,485	2.0	1.3	100
Evans, Lane (D-IL)	11,500	334,136	632,359	3.5	1.8	56
Stallings, Richard (D-ID)	11,250	271,815	474,969	4.1	2.4	54
AuCoin, Les (D-OR)	11,250	438,377	958,023	2.6	1.2	62
Torricelli, Rob. (D-NJ)	11,250	170,048	579,688	6.6	1.9	69
Miller, John (R-WA)	11,000	156,174	594,170	7.0	1.9	51
Cardin, Benjamin (D-MD)	10,958	143,977	518,530	7.6	2.1	79
Richardson, Bill (D-NM)	10,750	244,188	370,329	4.4	2.9	71
McHugh, Matthew (D-NY)	10,250	85,414	279,235	12.0	3.7	68

*Including non-Zionist lobby PACs.

TABLE 2

1986 congressional AIPAC PAC recipients by key congressional committee (over \$6,000)

Congressman	Total receipts (\$)	Committees
Feighan, Edward (D-OH)	40,250	Foreign Affairs Subcomm. on Europe & Mideast
Smith, L. Jack (D-FL)	36,500	Foreign Affairs Subcomm. on Europe & Mideast
Carr, Bob (D-MI)	26,250	Appropriations
Wolpe, Howard (D-MI)	25,250	Foreign Affairs Subcomm. on Africa, chair
Gedjenson, Sam (D-CT)	24,529	Foreign Affairs Subcomm. on Western Hemispheric Affairs
Obey, David (D-WI)	22,750	Appropriations Subcomm. on Foreign Operations, chair
Kostmayer, Peter (D-PA)	21,750	Foreign Affairs Subcomm. on International Operations
Weber, Vin (R-MN)	21,150	Appropriations Comm.
Robinson, Tommy (D-AR)	17,250	Armed Services Subcomm. on Mil. Installations
Collins, Cardiss (D-IL)	16,750	Gov't Operations Subcomm. on Gov't. Activities, chair
Levine, Mel (D-CA)	15,250	Foreign Affairs Subcomm. on Europe & Mideast
Lewis, John (D-GA)	15,250	
Fascell, Dante (D-FL)	15,000	Foreign Affairs Comm., chair
Coughlin, Lawrence (R-PA)	13,600	Appropriations Comm.
Owens, Wayne (D-UT)	12,600	Foreign Affairs Subcomm. on Europe & Mideast
Johnson, Tim (D-SD)	12,500	
Wright, Jim (D-TX)	12,000	Speaker of the House
Hamilton, Lee (D-IN)	11,550	Foreign Affairs Subcomm. on Europe & Mideast, chair
Gibbons, Sam (D-FL)	11,500	Ways & Means Subcomm. on Trade, chair
Evans, Lane (D-IL)	11,500	
Stallings, Richard (D-ID)	11,250	
AuCoin, Les (D-OR)	11,250	Appropriations Subcomm. on Defense
Torricelli, Rob. (D-NJ)	11,250	Foreign Affairs Subcomm. on Europe & Mideast
Miller, John (R-WA)	11,000	Foreign Affairs Subcomm. on Int'l. Economic Policy
Cardin, Benjamin (D-MD)	10,958	
Richardson, Bill (D-NM)	10,750	
McHugh, Matthew (D-NY)	10,250	Appropriations Subcomm. on Foreign Operations
Mrazek, Robert (D-NY)	9,900	Appropriations Subcomm. on Foreign Operations
Coleman, Ronald (D-TX)	9,500	Appropriations Subcomm. on Mil. Construction
Wolf, Frank (R-VA)	9,500	Appropriations Comm.
Glickman, Dan (D-KS)	9,250	Science, Space & Technology Comm.
Hayes, James (D-LA)	9,250	
Skaggs, David (D-CO)	9,250	
Sawyer, Thomas (D-OH)	9,000	
Kyl, Jon (R-AZ)	8,750	
Mica, Dan (D-FL)	8,750	Foreign Affairs Subcomm. on Int'l. Operations, chair
Bryant, John (D-TX)	8,500	
Burton, Dan (R-IN)	8,500	Foreign Affairs Subcomm. on Africa
Ballenger, Cass (R-NC)	8,500	
Baker, Richard (R-LA)	8,000	
Lancaster, Harold (D-NC)	8,000	
Sweeney, David (R-TX)	8,000	
Gordon, Bart (D-TN)	7,750	
Bunning, Jim (R-KY)	7,500	
Foglietta, Thomas (D-PA)	7,500	Armed Services Comm.
Gray, William (D-PA)	7,500	Budget, chair; Appropriations Subcomm. Foreign Operations
Owens, Major (D-NY)	7,500	Government Operations Comm.
Yatron, Gus (D-PA)	7,500	Foreign Affairs Subcomm. on Human Rts. & Int'l. Org., chair

TABLE 3

AIPAC PAC contributions to 1986 senatorial candidate winners, out of 34 races (above \$10,000)

Congressman	Total AIPAC-controlled PAC contributions (\$)	Total PAC contributions* (\$)	Total receipts (\$)	AIPAC contributions as % of total PAC contributions	AIPAC contributions as % of total receipts	% of election victory
Daschle, Thomas (D-SD)	163,780	1,153,906	3,515,482	14.2	4.7	52
Cranston, Alan (D-CA)	130,907	1,236,898	10,851,596	10.6	1.2	49
Reid, Harry (D-NV)	121,740	817,377	2,089,246	14.9	5.8	50
Specter, Arlen (R-PA)	120,863	1,256,626	5,450,763	9.6	2.2	56
Kasten, Robert (R-WI)	100,000	1,095,726	3,196,093	9.1	3.1	51
Leahy, Pat (D-VT)	70,000	822,931	1,919,740	8.5	3.6	63
Fowler, Wyche (D-GA)	68,350	600,086	2,912,638	11.4	2.3	51
Wirth, Tim (D-CO)	65,200	845,855	3,819,308	7.7	1.7	50
Sanford, Terry (R-NC)	58,500	571,787	4,181,701	10.2	1.4	52
McCain, John (R-AZ)	44,500	773,152	2,510,092	5.8	1.8	61
Inouye, Daniel (D-HI)	42,025	540,450	1,173,721	7.8	3.6	74

plicity in the Israeli arms sales to Iran.

Alexander Haig's chief campaign spokesman is Daniel Mariaschin, until recently the political affairs director at AIPAC, and prior to that the director of the leadership division of Kenneth Bialkin's Anti-Defamation League. Haig's chief liaison to Western Europe and Israel is Michael Ledeen, the central figure in the Irangate scandal, who was kept out of the Senate Irangate hearings by AIPAC's Inouye. It was Secretary of State Haig, and his aide Ledeen, who negotiated the initial Reagan administration Iranian arms deals with AIPAC-linked Israeli Gen. Ariel Sharon, back in 1980-81.

Who's funding George Bush? Ask his finance co-chairmen Max Fisher and Gordon Zachs—both from AIPAC, and

both members of the AIPAC-linked National Jewish Coalition of the Republican National Committee. The NJC claims it had been formed to represent "Jewish interests" to the White House. The NJC's actual nature is indicated by its treasurer, stock market swindler Ivan Boesky, and its director, Chris Gersten, former political director of AIPAC.

Then there is Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.), who was persuaded to run by AIPAC moneybags Nathan Landau, who was earlier a top funder of Mondale. Meanwhile, Delaware Democrat Joseph Biden's youth director, Jonathan Kessler, just left his job as youth director at AIPAC, while Biden's campaign organization was formed by ADL lawyer, and former FEC commissioner, William Oldaker.

TABLE 4

1986 senatorial AIPAC PAC recipients by key Senate committee (over \$40,000)

Senator	Total receipts (\$)	Committees
Daschle, Thomas (D-SD)	163,780	*
Cranston, Alan (D-CA)	130,907	For. Rel. Subcttee on East Asia & Pacific, chair; Select Intelligence Committee
Reid, Harry (D-NV)	121,740	*
Specter, Arlen (R-PA)	120,863	Appropriations Military Construction Subcttee; Select Intelligence Committee
Kasten, Robert (R-WI)	100,000	Approp. Subcttee on Foreign Operations
Leahy, Pat (D-VT)	70,000	Approp. Subcttee on For. Operations, ousted chair; Select Committee on Intelligence
Fowler, Wyche (D-GA)	68,350	*
Wirth, Tim (D-CO)	65,200	*
Sanford, Terry (R-NC)	58,500	*
McCain, John (R-AZ)	44,500	*
Inouye, Daniel (D-HI)	42,025	Approp. Subcttee on Foreign Operations

*First elected to Senate in 1986