

## Middle East File by Joe Brewda

### Israeli-Central Asian dope deals flourishing

The January announcement that Kyrgyzstan has finalized the legalization of opium cultivation is the latest indication that the Israelis are busy throughout the former U.S.S.R. Fostering dope mafias is seen as a means of not only financing intelligence operations, but also extending Israeli and Anglo-American influence there, in particular, because much of the former KGB has submerged itself in criminal gangs.

Although Kyrgyzstan's announcement came at the same time that visiting State Department envoy Robert Fowler reported that the United States would be aiding the Central Asian republic in "privatizing" agriculture, the Israelis are expected to supervise much of the operation, particularly through Agricultural Ministry officials acting on behalf of the Mossad. Israel is opening up diplomatic relations with most of the Islamic republics, and agreements to develop their overall agriculture exports have already been struck.

Back in the 1960s, Israel's Agriculture Ministry was used as a cover for joint CIA-Mossad operations in Africa. Now the same technique is being used in Central Asia. Mikhael Dekel, the ally of Gen. Ariel Sharon who just took over the Agricultural Ministry, is someone to watch in this regard.

Part of the background to this operation goes back to a July 1 Moscow meeting among then-Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachov, David Kimche, the former chief of Mossad African operations, and Shaul Eisenberg. Among the items reportedly discussed at that gathering were Eisenberg's ex-

tensive "cotton development" project in Uzbekistan, a neighboring state to Kyrgyzstan.

Eisenberg, reportedly a senior figure in Mossad financial operations, spent most of the 1980s in Beijing, where he oversaw a multibillion-dollar "coal development" project in Yunnan province, the center of opium production for the P.R.C.

Kimche is now employed by Tiny Rowland's Lonrho Corporation, a firm with longstanding ties to not only the British, but also the Kuwaiti royal family.

It should be recalled that Kuwaiti intelligence documents seized by the Iraqis in early August 1990, showed that even the CIA was complaining that "Kuwaiti capital is being used to promote drug trafficking in Pakistan and Iran." Mideast-financed Central Asian and West Asian narcotics cultivation will now vastly increase.

### Russia still pushes 'Gulf coalition'

Despite the U.S.S.R.'s demise, the Russian establishment, and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, are apparently still committed to a condominium with the Anglo-Americans against the Third World that was pioneered by Mikhail Gorbachov.

In an address at Bar Ilan University in Israel in early January, Yeltsin adviser Nikolai Shishlin proclaimed that "the Gulf war has proved that the united Arab world does not exist any longer." "What exists nowadays," he proclaimed, "is a dangerous pan-Arab force."

Criticizing earlier Soviet regimes for being too pro-Arab, Shishlin said that "the Arab country's dictators can no longer rely on Russia; friendly rela-

tions with Qaddafi and Arafat do no one credit." He added that he favors moving Russia's Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, thereby recognizing Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem.

Similarly, Moscow Oriental Institute expert V. Isayev contributed an article in the publication *Argumenty i Fakty* in early January, warning of the dangers of the "Islamic bomb," which one might expect to find in the pages of the London *Times*, *Jerusalem Post*, or *New York Times*. Isayev claimed that uranium, allegedly missing from Iraq, has shown up in Algeria, together with Iraqi scientists. Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat was recently in Kazakhstan, Isayev claimed, to aid an Islamic bomb project that unites the Islamic fundamentalists of Algeria, Iraq, the PLO, and Turkic peoples.

### Algeria vows to reverse oil nationalization

Algeria's new military government, the High Council of State, ordered an emergency meeting of the still-existing civilian cabinet of Prime Minister Sid Ahmad Ghozali on Jan. 21, to "draw up concrete steps to relaunch the economy."

This relaunching will primarily occur through the ruthless implementation of Ghozali's "hydrocarbon law," passed last year before the aborted election, after much controversy. The law opens up Algeria's oil and gas fields to foreign partners, reversing a nationalization policy which had earlier virtually defined the Algerian revolution. It was as one of the first countries to nationalize its oil that Algeria played a key role in the creation of OPEC.