

photography of potential direct threats to their systems. When I asked what materials had been drawn under that process for the last six months, I found not only a lot of information on Baghdad had been drawn but also on other countries substantially removed from Israel—Pakistan, Libya. And I made the decision as the deputy director of Central Intelligence, the acting director, to limit the process, to say that in the future they could draw material within 250 miles of the border, but beyond that, they would have to ask.

“The defense minister, General [Ariel] Sharon, was so furious he came to the U.S. to protest to Mr. Weinberger. The secretary of defense supported my decision. Casey had been on a trip down to Australia and New Zealand. When he came back, his favorite journalist and former campaign manager, Mr. Safire, complained to him about the decision. When we had a rather heated discussion, I recommended that Mr. Casey talk to Mr. Weinberger, who had supported me, and he elected not to override the decision. From that point on, if you will trace the [Safire] coverage, it’s been hostile.”

Numerous Washington intelligence specialists have noted that the Inman-Safire-Casey tiff in 1981 was the origin of the Pollard spy affair. Jonathan Pollard himself, in arguing for leniency from the court, had claimed that he undertook

his far-reaching espionage effort to provide Israel with satellite and other technical intelligence data that were being withheld.

It’s no wonder that the neo-conservative crowd became apoplectic when Inman’s nomination was announced. His selection came in the midst of ferocious political wrangling over the fate of Pollard, who has asked for presidential clemency and early release from federal prison, where he is serving a life sentence for espionage. Clinton had been expected to make a decision about the Pollard case before New Year’s, but a public brawl broke out over the case, with a majority of Pentagon and intelligence professionals urging against leniency. News outlets such as *Time* magazine for the first time published long-known data about Israel’s trading of Pollard data with the Soviet KGB in return for liberalization of Soviet laws for Jews to emigrate to Israel.

Even Sharon, who was in the United States on a “private” fundraising mission when Inman withdrew, admitted to a journalist that he had been accused of being involved in the Pollard spy ring, a charge he vehemently denied. As for the 1981 story about his effort to overturn the Inman restrictions on Israeli data access, his only comment was that he had “no recollection” of the incident.

Is DOJ out of control?

A team of Justice Department career lawyers and FBI agents has been continuing to work on the Whitewater investigation, despite the appointment by Attorney General Janet Reno of an independent counsel who is charged with taking over the investigation and hiring a new staff. This and other developments have led many on Capitol Hill to assert that the permanent Department of Justice apparatus is out of the control of the attorney general, and that career DOJ officials are running amok, doing whatever they want.

At Reno’s Jan. 20 press briefing, the new independent counsel, Robert Fiske, in response to a question about the appearance of a witness before the grand jury, stated: “My understanding is, and I asked this question before I accepted the assignment, that before I was appointed, the Justice Department itself, on its own, had put that investigation on hold until the independent counsel could pick it up and go forward. . . . I am satisfied that it was put on hold some time in the last few days, at least.”

Reno stated: “I instructed the lawyers to make sure that anything should be done that was necessary to maintain the integrity of the investigation, but otherwise it should cease until the independent counsel could be fully

briefed and proceed.”

But on Jan. 22 and 24, after the appointment of Fiske, the *Washington Times* reported that federal prosecutors were broadening their investigation in Little Rock, Arkansas and examining many additional entities beyond Madison Savings and Loan and Whitewater Development Corp. Some of the companies identified as targets of the expanding probe had figured prominently in accounts of secret operations around the Mena Airport which surfaced during the 1992 election campaign, and which allegedly involved Lt. Col. Oliver North’s “Contra” support operations in Central America.

In response to questions from *EIR*, DOJ spokesman Carl Stern insisted that Reno and Fiske were only referring to the appearances of witnesses before the grand jury, and he said that all other activity is continuing. A large number of document subpoenas had already been issued, Stern said, and investigators are continuing to receive these documents, and to catalogue, index, and analyze them. Stern would not respond to the reports of an expanding investigation, but he commented that there are a lot of federal employees in Little Rock working on the case, and they “are still earning their pay.” A team of lawyers from the DOJ Fraud Section had been sent to Little Rock after the local U.S. Attorney’s office had recused itself from the Whitewater-Madison probe.—*Edward Spannaus*