

CAMERA: Summers' Israeli Fascists

by Anton Chaitkin

When Larry Summers attempted to hijack the Obama Administration's foreign policy in a speech at the Israeli Embassy in Washington on April 29—claiming that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will find a good reception when he visits the White House on May 18, and vowing that President Obama will not force Israel to sign a peace at “any price”—this was not Summers' first intervention on behalf of the fanatical Israeli right wing.

As president of Harvard University from 2001 to 2006, Summers waged political war against campus advocates of Middle East peace, on behalf of an Israeli intelligence front of extreme right-wing propagandists, whose operations are centered at Harvard. The Boston-based “Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America” (CAMERA) steered Summers' assault, until faculty resentment at his McCarthyite tactics led to a “no-confidence” vote and his resignation from the Harvard presidency in February 2006.

Harvard professor Ruth Wisse, a key sponsor of CAMERA in Boston, often functioned as *de facto* public spokesman for Summers while he circulated the lie that criticism of Israeli policy is anti-Semitic. Ruth Wisse's husband, Leonard Wisse, is secretary of CAMERA and chairman of its advisory board.

While Summers clung to his post, backed by a British-Boston Brahmin-Wall Street axis against the simmering resentment of the Harvard faculty, he married Ruth Wisse's close friend, Harvard Holocaust-studies/literature Prof. Elisa New, in December 2005.

CAMERA co-founder Charles Jacobs also founded the ironically misnamed “American Anti-Slavery Group,” which instigated the push for an American war against Sudan, in accord with a century-old British Empire hatred for that African nation. In 2003, Charles Jacobs, CAMERA, and anti-Muslim racist Daniel Pipes steered Summers in the rejection of a \$2.5 million gift to Harvard Divinity School,

thereby blocking the creation of an Islamic Studies program.

Harvard CAMERA leader Ruth Wisse is the Martin Peretz Professor of Yiddish Literature; her professorship was created by Marty Peretz, the neo-conservative editor of *New Republic*. Ruth Wisse, Marty Peretz, and Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz, a fanatical defender of Israeli militarism, were the most strident proponents of Summers in his attacks on Harvard faculty Mideast peace advocates.

What is CAMERA?

CAMERA was launched in 1982, at the height of the Jonathan Pollard spy operations, ostensibly to promote “accurate and balanced media coverage of Israel and the Middle East.” However, its actual mission has always been to suppress any news coverage critical of Israel, especially of Israel’s ultra-rightist Likud apparatus. Among its board members has been the late Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), who sponsored Congressional resolutions endorsing Ariel Sharon’s “preemptive assassination” and bulldozing policies as legitimate “anti-terrorist” actions. The group’s mission has also been endorsed, according to its literature, by one-time Israeli Interior Minister Natan Sharansky. Sharansky has his own ties to Russian and Israeli mafia networks, some of which have been implicated in the spy/dope operations in America.

One key to understanding CAMERA, is to look at the role of another CAMERA director, David P. Steinmann. An investment counsellor to the Rosenwald Family (Sears Roebuck), Steinmann has served as the CEO and president of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA), and also as chairman of the New York Board of Governors of *Middle East Quarterly* and a director of the Center for Security Policy, whose founder Frank Gaffney has long been believed to be tied to the “X Committee,” the Reagan-era network of Defense Department and National Security Council staffers suspected of having colluded with Pollard, who is still imprisoned for spying for Israel.

In 2001, when Fox TV produced a story on Israeli spy operations in the U.S., involving telecommunications companies, phony “art students,” and their suspected ties to the events of Sept. 11, CAMERA launched a pressure campaign, demanding that the story be pulled—which it was. Since Israel’s bloody assault on Gaza in 2008, CAMERA has been targetting any news outlet critical of Israel’s brutal offensive.