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Challenging the secret
"Israel Nuclear Weapons Gag Order" WNP-136

UPDATED: December 17, 2019

IRmep has filed a <u>39-page federal lawsuit</u> (PDF) challenging the secrecy of a gag order—<u>WNP-136</u> (PDF)—that forbids all U.S. government agency employees and contractors from discussing Israel's nuclear weapons program.

The classification bulletin, which took effect on September 6, 2012, forbids covered persons from making any comment on U.S. government information or information in the public domain about Israel's nuclear weapons program. The classification bulletin's first known use was against former Los Alamos National Laboratory nuclear policy specialist James Doyle after he wrote the following sentence in an article titled "Why Eliminate Nuclear Weapons?" which had been security cleared by his employer and published by the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

"Nuclear weapons did not deter Egypt and Syria from attacking Israel in 1973, Argentina from attacking British territory in the 1982 Falklands War or Iraq from attacking Israel during the 1991 Gulf War."

After an unknown congressional staffer read the article and demanded a review, it was referred to classification officials for a second review. Doyle's pay was then cut, his home computer searched, and he was fired.

IRmep alleges in the lawsuit that the American public has been harmed by being kept in the dark about U.S. policy toward the Israeli nuclear weapons program. Important questions include:

- Should Israel's nuclear weapons facilities be inspected by the International Atomic Energy Agency?
- 2. Where does Israel dispose of the toxic waste its program generates?
- 3. Is the U.S. still vigorously investigating (though not prosecuting) diversions of materials and technologies to Israel, as it did in the past over nuclear triggers (The Milchan-Netanyahu krytron smuggling ring), weapons grade uranium (NUMEC), oscilloscopes and other weapons development technology diversions (Telogy LLC)?
- 4. Are Israel's nuclear weapons used to coerce the U.S. into making adverse policy decisions?
- 5. Besides apartheid South Africa, has Israel offered any of its nuclear weapons for sale to other foreign countries?
- ${\bf 6.\ Has\ Israel\ mounted\ nuclear\ weapons\ onto\ its\ German-supplied\ Dolphin-class\ submarines?}$

As documented in the lawsuit, WNP-136 is not really a classification guidance, but rather a legislative rule designed to prevent covered parties from commenting on information already in the public domain, while prohibiting the release of additional information about Israel's nuclear weaponos program held by various government agencies. IRmep submits as evidence transcripts of reporter Sam Husseini's video documentaries of questions posed to executive agency and White House officials, as well as U.S. Department of State John Kirby's refusal to answer questions about former Secretary of State Colin Powell's statement that "Israel had over 200 nuclear weapons pointed at Tehran."





However, as stated in the lawsuit, one government employee, Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) in a position to know, but not covered by WNP-136, was pressured into admitting that Israel has a nuclear weapons program last year at the National Press Club



IRmep alleges WNP-136 serves an even more damaging purpose than misinforming the American public: WNP-136 is used to subvert U.S. Arms Export Control Act statutes on the provision of U.S. foreign aid to a country that has long possessed nuclear weapons but never signed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. The IRmep lawsuit notes that:

"On March 23 the President signed a \$1.3 trillion spending bill into law, after Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 mandating that \$3.1 billion in foreign aid be



1 of 2

given to Israel. The authority cited for this \$3.1 billion transfer (out of a total of \$5.7 billion) in taxpayer funds is section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act. The American public in general, especially taxpayers, therefore have an immediate and overriding interest in knowing whether 54% of funds enabled under one section of the Arms Export Control Act (section 23) are being spent only because Defendants are proactively undermining enforcement of another section of the very same act (section 22) via the secret WNP-136."

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

 04/05/2018
 IRmep Complaint (PDF)

 06/11/2018
 DOJ Answer to Complaint (PDF)

 07/26/2018
 DOJ DOS Motion to Dismiss (PDF)

 Statement of Facts (PDF)

Declaration of Edith Chalk, United States Department of Energy (PDF)
Declaration of Eric Stein, United States Department of State (PDF)

08/16/2018 IRmep Cross Motion for Summary Judgement (PDF)

Statement of Facts (PDF)

Proposed Order (PDF)

09/12/2018 <u>Defendants' Reply In Support Of Motion To Dismiss (PDF)</u>

Supplemental Declaration of Eric F. Stein (PDF)

Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Statement of Material Facts (PDF)

9/30/2019 <u>Memorandum Opinion (PDF)</u>

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Israeli Hatred for Children in Gaza

Is shocking, says Rep. John J.

The Wall of Silence on the in Somalia Genocide

Is starting to crack, says Jonathan

Trump on Trump

Ted Snider on the interviews

BREAKING NEWS

Israeli Strikes in Gaza Kill

Aid still hasn't reached Palestinians

US Launches Two Strikes

The White House claimed one strike killed 10 'iihadis'

US-Iran Talks To Be Held

Despite differences over uranium enrichment

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Joseph Solis-Mullen on war on the subcontinent

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Israel's Nukes Make US Aid Illegal

But the lies and coverups continue

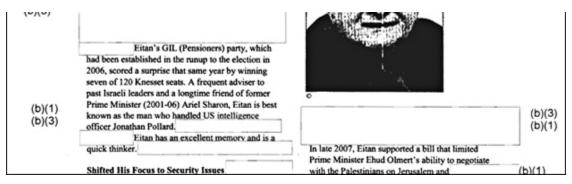
by Grant Smith / August 24, 2021

Peter Beinart's New York Times essay "America Needs to Start Telling the Truth About Israel's Nukes" earlier this month caused a firestorm. In it, Beinart noted how the prevalence of US "lies of omission" allow policymakers and politicians to pretend Israel does not have nuclear weapons. This in turn generates the false narrative that Iran's nuclear program could initiate a Middle East nuclear arms race. Beinart laments how US deceptions about Israel's nuclear arsenal undermine America's self-proclaimed status as a champion of non-proliferation.

What Beinart did not appear to know – until educated by Twitter users – is what machinery keeps the US in lockstep with Israeli so-called "nuclear ambiguity" and why it exists.

C068260	01 Approved for Re	lease: 2019/09/26 C06826001	(b)(3)
This profile does not reflect developments since 12 February 2008.			
	Rafael EITAN (Phonetic: ay-TUHN)	ISRAEL	
	Minister for Pensioner Affairs (since 2006)		
(b)(1)	Addressed as: Mr. Minister (U)		

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CIA redacted US nuclear materials theft from Israel spymaster Rafael "Rafi" Eitan's released profile. (PDF)

Much has happened in the decades since President Richard Nixon first promised Israeli Prime Minster Golda Meier never to publicly discuss Israel's nuclear weapons. US Senators Stuart Symington and John Glenn learned that Israel (with help from some proxies in the US) in the 1960s diverted enough US weapons grade uranium from the government contractor NUMEC to build a dozen bombs. Outraged that nothing was being done about it, the senators complicated presidential "strategic ambiguity" by amending US foreign assistance laws to condition aid to nuclear weapons countries that were not signatories to the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Israel and its US surrogates responded by <u>lobbying incoming presidencies</u> to ignore the law and commit in writing to upholding nuclear ambiguity.

In 2012 the Obama administration passed a <u>gag regulation</u> forbidding any US federal agency employee or contractor from discussing Israel's nuclear weapons.

The regulation severely restricts agency responses to Freedom of Information Act requests about Israel's nuclear weapons activities. For example, Israeli spymaster Rafel "Rafi" Eitan's covert operations team penetrated the NUMEC facility in 1968, the year of some of its most stunning losses. In closed briefings to top agency officials, CIA has never wavered in its conclusion that Israel – with the help of chemist Zalman Shapiro who ran the plant – diverted material to fuel Israel's nuclear weapons development.

After Eitan died in March of 2019, a great deal of formerly classified information about his exploits against America, which included running Jonathan Pollard, should have become available since privacy claims no longer prevailed. However, the CIA's internal profile of Eitan, while mentioning his 1960 operation to kidnap Adolf Eichmann from Argentina and Jonathan Pollard, carefully redacts his NUMEC operation in the 1960s chronology. (PDF)

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Why is such information continuing to receive protection? If multiple US government agencies reveal that the US has long known Israel has a nuclear weapons program, it raises uncomfortable questions about amount of foreign aid illegally delivered to Israel. Since Symington and Glenn became law, the US has transferred nearly a quarter of a trillion dollars in publicly known foreign assistance to Israel, and additional billions in covert assistance.

One of the principal tasks of Israel's US lobby is delivering enough campaign contributions to US politicians that upholding the law remains unthinkable. This has been a winning strategy but also makes the power of Israel's surrogates in the US increasingly visible and the subject of scorn and derision. However, not even the continually lobby-maligned members of the squad have dared to uphold Symington & Glenn to block US aid to Israel, which they could easily do.

Meanwhile, Israel and its surrogates have continued to feed Americans a rich banquet of justifications for attacking Iran on the pretext that it is on the verge of introducing the very weapons to the Middle East that Israel deployed long ago.

Grant F. Smith is the author of the book <u>Divert! NUMEC</u>, <u>Zalman Shapiro and the diversion of US weapons-grade uranium into the Israeli nuclear weapons program</u>. He is director of the <u>Institute for Research: Middle Eastern Policy</u> in Washington, D.C.

Author: Grant Smith

Grant F. Smith is the author of the new book <u>Divert! NUMEC</u>, <u>Zalman Shapiro and the diversion of U.S. weapons-grade uranium into the Israeli nuclear weapons program</u>. He is director of the <u>Institute</u> for Research: Middle Eastern Policy in Washington, D.C.

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27 September 2019

Mr. Grant F. Smith Director of Research Institute for Research: Middle Eastern Policy Calvert Station P.O. Box 32041 Washington, DC 20007

Reference: F-2019-01414

Dear Mr. Smith:

This is a final response to your 30 March 2019 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for a copy of all documents held by [our] agency concerning Rafael Eitan, an Israeli spy engaged in numerous clandestine operations targeting the United States on behalf of Israel. We processed your request in accordance with the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, and the CIA Information Act, 50 U.S.C. § 3141, as amended.

We completed a thorough search for records responsive to your request and located the enclosed document which we can release in segregable form with deletions made on the basis of FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3). Exemption (b)(3) pertains to information exempt from disclosure by statute. The relevant statutes are Section 6 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, as amended, and Section 102A(i)(l) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended.

With respect to any other records, in accordance with Section 3.6(a) of Executive Order 13526, the CIA can neither confirm nor deny the existence or nonexistence of records responsive to your request. The fact of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself currently and properly classified and is intelligence sources and methods information protected from disclosure by Section 6 of the CIA Act of 1949, as amended, and Section 102A(i)(l) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended. Therefore, your request is denied pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3).

As the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator, I am the CIA official responsible for this determination. You have the right to appeal this response to the Agency Release Panel, in my care, within 90 days from the date of this letter. Please include the basis of your appeal.

If you have any questions regarding our response, you may contact us at:

Central Intelligence Agency Washington, DC 20505 Information and Privacy Coordinator 703-613-3007 (Fax)

Please be advised that you may seek dispute resolution services from the CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) of the National Archives and Records Administration. OGIS offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. You may reach CIA's FOIA Public Liaison at:

703-613-1287 (FOIA Hotline)

The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road–OGIS College Park, MD 20740-6001 202-741-5770 877-864-6448 202-741-5769 (fax) ogis@nara.gov

Contacting the CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS does not affect your right to pursue an administrative appeal.

Sincerely,

Mul JU Mark Lilly

Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosure

(b)(3)

This profile does not reflect developments since 12 February 2008. Rafael EITAN ISRAEL (Phonetic: ay-TUHN) Minister for Pensioner Affairs (since 2006) Addressed as: Mr. Minister (U) (b)(1)(b)(3)Eitan's GIL (Pensioners) party, which had been established in the runup to the election in 2006, scored a surprise that same year by winning seven of 120 Knesset seats. A frequent adviser to past Israeli leaders and a longtime friend of former Prime Minister (2001-06) Ariel Sharon, Eitan is best (b)(1)(b)(3)known as the man who handled US intelligence (b)(3)(b)(1)officer Jonathan Pollard. Eitan has an excellent memory and is a quick thinker. In late 2007, Eitan supported a bill that limited Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's ability to negotiate **Shifted His Focus to Security Issues** (b)(1)with the Palestinians on Jerusalem and (b)(3)Israel had not promised to (b)(3)Eitan campaigned for the Knesset on a pledge to halt settlement construction within the municipal improve the lives of Israelis over the age of 65, but borders of Jerusalem. since the election he has devoted more time to (b)(3)Israel's strategic security issues with the Scoring a Surprise Victory Palestinians. Eitan in 2006 said that he would act to Eitan in 2006 stunned Israeli political expand medical support for the elderly, secure a commentators when GIL won seven Knesset seats in pension for every person, and increase the the national election. (b)(1)allowances for needy older citizens; however, his attempts to increase social welfare funding to (b)(3)pensioners have failed. In late 2007, Eitan was unable to increase payments to Holocaust survivors—a group that forms approximately one third of pensioners in Israel. Eitan caused By focusing on social controversy when he suggested paying for this by issues, Eitan demonstrated that GIL could ignore (b)(3)reopening the reparations agreement Israel signed diplomatic and security issues and still succeed (b)(1)(b)(3)with Germany in the 1950s. He later backtracked, but one Israeli pundit characterized the incident as a (b)(3)(b)(3)**Engaging in Risky Business** publicity stunt to improve GIL's image. Eitan's private business activities at times have Eitan (b)(1)described himself as pragmatic and realistic attracted public criticism, especially in the case of (b)(3)his controversial business ties to Cuba. His dealings on diplomatic and security issues, but by early 2007 in that country's agricultural sector made him he appeared more hawkish. wealthy but brought him unflattering publicity for (continued) LP 08-100213

12 February 2008

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

Central Intelligence Agency Information & Privacy Coordinator Washington D.C. 20505 NOVA 220 30 SEP 2019 PM 3L



Mr. Grant F. Smith Director of Research Institute for Research: Middle Eastern Policy Calvert Station P.O. Box 32041 Washington DC 20007

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December 22, 2010 12:06 PM Eastern Time

Obama Asked to Delay NUMEC Founder Award over Nuclear Weapons Material Diversions to Israel - IRmep

WASHINGTON--(BUSINESS WIRE)--The Obama administration has been asked to delay a 2010 National Medal of Technology and Innovation award to Zalman Shapiro over lingering questions about the theft and diversion of US weapons grade uranium to Israel. Shapiro, a talented inventor, was the former president of the Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation. Shapiro and NUMEC were investigated over the diversion of weapons grade uranium to Israel from the plant at Apollo, Pennsylvania. A March/April 2010 Bulletin of Atomic Scientists analysis estimates that 741 pounds of highly enriched uranium suitable for weapons production disappeared from NUMEC while Shapiro was president and was likely diverted into the Israeli nuclear weapons program.

Israel's top economic espionage case officer Rafael Eitan, who handled spy Jonathan Pollard in the 1980s, infiltrated NUMEC to meet with Shapiro in 1968. According to Anthony Cordesman, "there is no conceivable reason for Eitan to have gone [to the Apollo plant] but for the nuclear material." Former Deputy of the CIA's Directorate of Science and Technology Carl Duckett went on record verifying the agency came to the conclusion by 1968 that "NUMEC material had been diverted by the Israelis and used in fabricating weapons." NUMEC's venture capitalist had close ties to Israeli intelligence. CIA Tel Aviv station chief John Hadden went on record calling NUMEC "an Israeli operation from the beginning."

"there is no conceivable reason for Eitan to have gone [to the Apollo plant] but for the nuclear material."

An 80 page filing submitted by the IRmep Center for Policy and Law Enforcement argues that until all classified government files on NUMEC are released, honoring the plant's former president with the nation's highest honor to scientists, engineers, and inventors could be tantamount to rewarding theft and nuclear proliferation. According to Council on Foreign Relations scholar Sasha Polakow-Suransky, Israel attempted to sell nuclear-tipped Jericho missiles to South Africa. This occurred after the NUMEC incident but before the Apartheid regime left power.

Both the CIA and FBI have refused to release all unredacted NUMEC case files. NUMEC is now undergoing a \$170 million taxpayer funded toxic cleanup. According to the recently declassified GAO report "Nuclear Diversion in the US? Thirteen Years of Contradiction and Confusion" responsible US agencies failed to properly investigate the NUMEC diversion as required by the Atomic Energy Act.

Shapiro's application for the NMTI award obtained under the Freedom of Information Act includes testimonials from representatives of Covington & Burling, Arnold and Porter LLP, Westinghouse, the University of Pittsbugh, University of Maryland and Senator Kristen Gillibrand. It is now available at the Israel Lobby Archive http://www.irmep.org/ila/nukes/specter Documents also include the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's 2009 denial of requests that it "issue a formal public statement confirming that he [Zalman Shapiro] was not involved in any activities related to the diversion of uranium to Israel."

The Center for Policy and Law Enforcement and Israel Lobby Archive are units of the Institute for Research: Middle Eastern Policy in Washington.

Contacts

Institute for Research: Middle Eastern Policy (IRmep)

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Grant F. Smith, 202-342-7325 info@irmep.org

Permalink: http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20101222005875/en/Obama-Asked-Delay-NUMEC-Founder-Award-Nuclear



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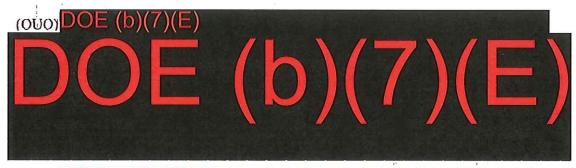
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September 6, 2012

CLASSIFICATION BULLETIN

WNP-136

(U) Guidance on Release of Information Relating to the Potential for an Israeli Nuclear Capability



(OUO)DOE (b)(7)(E) DOE (b)(7)(E)

DOE (b)(7)(E)

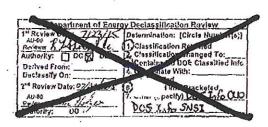
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Classified By: Glen D. Krc, General Engineer, DOE/HS-62
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(U) This bulletin will be incorporated into future changes or revisions to CG-NP-3.

Andrew P. Weston-Dawkes Director Office of Classification Office of Health, Safety and Security

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