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Underground Dual Loyalists Washington

At Stake is Control of U.S. Intelligence, Foreign Policy

Foreign agents now have day-to-day control over America's espionage and covert-action operations.

EXCLUSIVE TO SPOTLIGHT

By George Nicholas

A brazen attempt by influential "Israel-firsters" in the policy echelons of the Reagan administration to extend their control to the day-to-day espionage and covert-action operations of the CIA was the hidden source of the controversy and scandals that shook the U.S. intelligence establishment this summer.

The dual loyalists, whose domination over the federal executive's high planning and strategy-making resources is now just about total, have long wanted to grab a hand in the on-the-spot "field control" of the CIA's worldwide clandestine services. They want this control, not just for themselves, but on behalf of the Mossad, Israel's terroristic secret police.

An exceptionally well-informed and responsible U.S. intelligence source—a brilliant young attorney, who quit a key national-security post only a month ago to protest the takeover by senior officials whose first loyalty is to Israel—said the high-handed intrusion of Mossad agents into some of the most sensitive enclaves of American statecraft has given rise, for more than a year, to growing concern, dissension and internecine conflict in the inner circles of Washington's intelligence and security establishment.

The resentment and friction are even more acute among America's overseas espionage and covert-action stations. In France, the CIA contingent, commanded by Israel-firster Aaron Meyer, tacitly collaborated in the Mossad's campaign of terror and disinformation that ousted the pro-American Giscard government.

This brought to power Francois Mitterrand, the socialist-communist candidate who had the personal support of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, a bitter foe of former President Valery Giscard D'Estaing.

MOSSAD RESISTED
But in other nations American CIA station chiefs have resisted—and at times bitterly protested—the brash demands by Mossad agents who expected U.S. intelligence support for their violent intrigues against the local government.

In Spain, Britain, Argentina and Austria, where the Mossad's saboteurs and destabilization experts are hard at work against national leaders who have drawn the ire of Premier Begin, senior U.S. clandestine-services officers have refused to make common cause with Israel's hit men.

In Spain, according to this source—who has had access to command-level intelligence memoranda before he quit and decided to talk to The SPOTLIGHT's investigative team in strict confidence—the three ranking officials of the CIA station have offered to resign rather than collaborate with the Mossad in replacing the legally elected government with a regime "less friendly to the Arabs."

Yet The SPOTLIGHT's best-informed sources, several of them intelligence officials with decades of experience, concurred in the view that gaining a large measure of control over the "input" of America's global intelligence network was a prime goal of the Israeli government and of its inner circle of agents and supporters in Washington.

These experienced sources were interviewed under a pledge of strictly protected anonymity in the course of the special inquiry—now 2½ months long—devoted by The SPOTLIGHT's investigative team to the crisis in American intelligence caused by the unprecedented infiltration of the Mossad. The sources assessed the situation, with visible concern, as "extremely dangerous" and "unconstitutional and unlawful." One said it is "simply unbelievable . . . there is no precedent for it in our history, or, so far as I know, in the history of any other nation."