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Truth stands, even if there be no pub support. It is self-sustained.

– Mahatma Gai

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Why Did Feith Resign? Could it have had something to do with the Larry Franklin spy scandal?

by Justin Raimondo



The headline of **this** *New York Sun* article by Eli Lake on the progress of **the case** [.pdf] against Lawrence A. Franklin, a Pentagon analyst accused of handing over sensitive information to Israel, has got to take the cake for sheer gall: "Pentagon Analyst In Israel Spy Case Is Called a 'Patriot'!"

You can't make this stuff up.

Franklin was **recently** arrested and charged with revealing top secret information to two employees of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), who then informed Israeli

Archives

[Why Did Feith Resign?
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[The Pipeline From Hell
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[The Franklin Affai
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5/18/2005](#)

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officials. It turns out that the person calling Franklin a "patriot" is none other than his lawyer, the famed **Plato Cacheris**, whose clients have included Russian spy **Robert Hanssen**, Cuban spy **Ana Belen Montes**, and **Monica Lewinsky**, but even so: Come *on!*

Yeah, he's a "patriot" all right – but on behalf of which country? Surely not the United States of America.

As the Franklin spy scandal **metastasizes** from what his defenders were earlier calling a "**kerfuffle**" into a major deal, the news of his arrest bodes ill for **Israel's amen corner** in the U.S. In spite of a lot of **palaver** about how AIPAC is weathering the storm, the lobby's legendary power – **once touted** as among the top five most powerful lobbies in Washington – is permanently crippled. Until recently, AIPAC **stoutly denied** that any of their employees had engaged in illegal activities: it was only when the apparent scope of the charges against **Steve Rosen**, AIPAC's longtime policy director, and **foreign policy specialist** [.pdf] **Keith Weissman** was made known to AIPAC's legal counsel that they stopped denying the obvious and threw Rosen and Weissman **overboard**. They still insist that **AIPAC itself is not under investigation**, a delusion that may evaporate as quickly as their protestations on behalf of their two former employees.

Even more damaging, however, is the

Nightmare:
Made in Washington
5/16/2005

Iraq Falls Apart
5/13/2005

America's Global
Fifth Column
5/11/2005

Commemorating a
World War
5/9/2005

Larry Franklin
and the
Axis of Espionage
5/6/2005

The War Party's
War on the Media
5/4/2005

Iraq: 'Mission
Accomplished?'
5/2/2005

The Thirty Years V
4/29/2005

In Defense of Mar
Ruzicka
4/27/2005

Prime Minister
Chalabi?
4/25/2005

Shaking Up Israel
Spy Nest
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Waco as Metaphor
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Our Bizarro World
Foreign Policy
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Cashing in on the
Bush Doctrine
4/15/2005

An Iraqi Potemkin
Village
4/13/2005

Trouble South of t
Border
4/11/2005

Israel Goes
Extremist
4/8/2005

revelation that Franklin was maintaining a storehouse of top secret information in his West Virginia home, the basis for a second charge for which he was arraigned on May 27. We didn't hear much about that arraignment for unlawful possession of 83 classified documents spanning three decades – 38 of which were classified "top secret" – but a few local news outlets carried **the story**:

"The criminal complaint was based in part on the following six documents:

- *Terrorist Threat Integration Center, terrorism situation report – top secret/sensitive compartmented information (SCI), dated June 8, 2004.*
- *Central Intelligence Agency document concerning Al-Qaida – top secret/SCI, dated June 9, 2004.*
- *CIA document concerning Osama Bin Laden and Al-Qaida – secret/SCI, dated Oct. 7, 2003.*
- *CIA document concerning Al-Qaida – secret, dated May 12, 2004.*
- *CIA memorandum on Iraq – secret, dated June 4, 2004.*
- *CIA defense executive intelligence view concerning terrorists – secret, dated June 10, 2004."*

In disdaining the severity of the charges against Franklin, neocon ideologue David Frum **described** the information passed

Yushchenko's
Gambit
4/6/2005

In Defense of John
Paul II, Peacemaker
4/4/2005

'Dead Wrong'
- or Outright
Deception?
4/1/2005

Iraq: An Exit
Strategy
3/30/2005

How the East Was
Won
3/28/2005

The Lesson of
Kyrgyzstan
3/25/2005

Kyrgyzstan's
'Revolution'
3/23/2005

Dirty Tricks
Revisited
3/21/2005

The Character
Assassins
3/18/2005

Handmaiden of the
State
3/16/2005

Realists Rout
Neocons
3/14/2005

The Wonderful
Wizard
of Washington
3/11/2005

The Specter of
Fascism
3/9/2005

Who Killed Rafik
Hariri?
3/7/2005

A Fascist America
3/4/2005

Lebanon's Hollow
'Cedar Revolution'
3/2/2005

on to Israel via AIPAC as something "which anyone, even the Israelis, can purchase a copy of for 35 cents" – the price for a single copy of the *Washington Post*, which supposedly had revealed the contents of a policy paper on Iran. It now turns out that the policy paper was the least of it. One wonders if Frum is willing to reconsider his judgement. Somehow, I tend to doubt it.

'Politically Incorre
History Has Neocc
Steamed
2/28/2005

A Pattern of
Deception
2/25/2005

They've Only Just
Begun...
2/23/2005

Iraq: Bush Must
Negotiate
2/21/2005

Similarly, Michael Ledeen, **writing** in the same formerly conservative publication – where else but *National Review*? – screeched "McCarthyism!" (an odd charge to issue from the pages of a magazine whose founding editor **authored a book** defending Tailgunner Joe as heroic, albeit misunderstood). Ledeen challenged the investigators:

Sex, Lies, and Jeff
Gannon
2/18/2005

Syria in the
Crosshairs
2/16/2005

The Sharansky
Fallacy
2/14/2005

Iraq's Dodgy
Election
2/11/2005

"Put up or shut up."

Americans Die for
Sharia in Iraq
2/9/2005

Now that they *have* put up, it is Ledeen and his cohorts who have **apparently** shut up. The usually loquacious defenders of Israel, especially in the right-wing precincts of the "blogosphere," are inexplicably silent, too. Or perhaps their having been suddenly struck dumb is all too explicable: after all, what is there to say about Franklin's treasure trove of American secrets except that it could not be more incriminating? However, the question of who and what is being incriminated here goes way beyond Franklin.

The Myth of Iraq's
'Liberation'
2/7/2005

We've Been Warn
The state of our
union:
perpetual war
2/3/2005

Liberal Wimps for
War
2/2/2005

Iraq Election:
Sistani's Triumph
1/31/2005

Payola Pundits for
War?
1/28/2005

The Shadow War
1/26/2005

As **Matt Yglesias points out**, Franklin,

This Plastic Mome
1/24/2005

even with his intelligence background, would not have had access to highly sensitive compartmented information: the material dealing with al-Qaeda would certainly seem to fit into this category.

W and Dostoevsky
1/21/2005

Exporting
Democracy
– or Terrorism?
1/19/2005

The Scapegoat
1/17/2005

We have to ask: On whose behalf was Franklin storing a "terrorism situation report" labeled "SCI" – the **second highest** category of classified information, several degrees above "classified," "secret," and "top secret" – and, even more intriguingly, *where did he get it?*

Iraq and the El
Salvador 'Option'
1/14/2005

Heading for the E
1/12/2005

America's Death
Squads
1/10/2005

The **resignation** of Defense Undersecretary for Policy **Douglas Feith**, Franklin's boss, as investigators close in on the Israeli spy nest embedded in his department now has to be seen in a new light. As Professor **Juan Cole pointed out** back in January, when Feith's departure was announced:

Gonzales and the
Torture Cult
1/7/2005

Are We Safer Now
1/5/2005

Today's
Conservatives
Are Fascists
1/3/2005

The Great Crime
Spree of 2004
12/31/2004

More Archi

"Feith has been questioned by the FBI in relation to the passing by one of his employees of confidential Pentagon documents to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, which in turn passed them to the Israeli embassy. The Senate Intelligence Committee is also investigating Feith. There seems little doubt that he operated in the Pentagon in such a way as to produce false and misleading 'intelligence,' that he created an entirely false impression of Iraqi weapons capabilities and ties to al-Qaeda, and that he is among the chief facilitators of the US war in Iraq.

Justin Raimondo is the editorial director of Antiwar.com. He is the author of *An Enemy of the State: The Life of Murray N. Rothbard* (Prometheus Books, 2000). He is also the author of *Reclaiming American Right: The Legacy of the Conservative Movement* (with an Introduction by Patrick J. Buchanan), (Center for Libertarian Studies, 1993), and *The Case Against U.S. Intervention in the Balkans* (1996).

He is a contributing editor for *The American Conservative*, a Senior

"Feith is clearly resigning ahead of the possible breaking of major scandals concerning his tenure at the Department of Defense, which is among the more disgraceful cases of the misleading of the American people in American history."

Will the Franklin-Rosen-Weissman investigation implicate Feith – or someone higher up in the Washington food chain?

Get out the chips-and-dip, pull up a chair, and get ready for the trial that is going to rock the War Party to its very foundations. It's going to be quite a show. As a prelude, go and **check out my article on the Franklin affair** in the June 20 issue of *The American Conservative*: the editors have put up a link to give readers a preview of what promises to be yet another blockbuster issue.

NOTES IN THE MARGIN

For the real lowdown on the nature and extent of Israel's covert activities in the U.S., get yourself a copy of my short book, *The Terror Enigma: 9/11 and the Israeli Connection*. Buy it, read it, and then ask yourself: why would an Israeli spy want access to highly sensitive U.S. intelligence regarding al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden?

– Justin Raimondo



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