

Special background information on Israel and the US

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The U.S.-Israel Special Relationship

HERE ARE ALL FOUR PROGRAMS OF THIS MINI-SERIES - BEGINNING WITH PART ONE AND STEPHEN WALT - SCROLL DOWN FOR THE MOST RECENTLY PRODUCED PART FOUR WITH MEMBERS OF THE CIA

The U.S.-Israel Special Relationship-Part ONE

Keynote: Stephen Walt

30 second [Preview/Promo](#) for Part ONE

The National Summit to Reassess the U.S.-Israel “Special Relationship,” was held March 7, 2014 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. It was the most high profile, public response and critique to-date of AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Israel’s foremost US Lobby, whose mission is to quote “urge(s) all members of Congress to support Israel through foreign aid, government partnerships, (and) joint anti-terrorism efforts.”

Just days earlier, from March 1st through 3rd, AIPAC had held its annual policy conference in our nation’s capital, celebrating the US Special Relationship with Israel. According to AIPAC’s web site more than half of the Senate, a third of the House of Representatives and countless Israeli and American policymakers were among the 14,000 attendees.

In face of that long established relationship granted by the US to no other country, the organizers of the “The National Summit to Reassess the U.S.-Israel ‘Special Relationship’” hoped to open the door to an informed and inclusive national discussion about what they consider the pitfalls of this “special relationship” with Israel. They said that quote “it is long past time for this critical national conversation to occur and for the American public to have a voice in U.S. foreign policies.” (Stated in the May 14 volume of the Washington Report.)

The National Summit was the result of a full year of preparation by staff of the magazine, Washington Report, in cooperation with the Institute for Research:Middle Eastern Policy (IRmep), the Council for the National Interest (CNI) and If Americans Knew (IAK). Speakers included some long term former intelligence officers, among them Phil Giraldi, Paul Pillar and Ray McGovern. "Spike" Bowman, a specialist in national security affairs, gave intriguing background on the Jonathan Pollard spy affair. Former elected representatives included Cynthia McKinney, speaking via video, and Paul Findley from Illinois; and the panel of journalists and academics included Gareth Porter, John Quigley and Stephen Walt, co-author with John J. Mearsheimer of their seminal book: The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy.

Stephen Walt was the keynote speaker at the National Summit and he spoke on: The "special relationship" and what has changed since publication of book, The Israel Lobby. Walt is Professor of International Affairs at Harvard, Kennedy School of Government. He previously taught at Princeton University and the University of Chicago. He has served as a consultant for the Institute of Defense Analyses, the Center for Naval Analyses, and the National Defense University. He is the co-author, with John J. Mearsheimer of The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy.

<<http://www.natsummit.org>>

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[The U.S.-Israel Special Relationship-Part TWO](#)

[Gareth Porter on Iran](#)

30 second [Preview/Promo](#) for Part TWO

The historian, investigative journalist, and author Gareth Porter specializes in U.S. national security policy. He was one of the speakers on Panel 2 at the National Summit: "Does Israel and its lobby exercise too much influence on U.S. decisions to wage war in the Middle East?"

His talk on the "manufactured crisis" and drive for U.S./Israel military actions against Iran was seen by many as an expose of government malfeasance - going as far back as the George Herbert Walker Bush and Clinton administrations and maintained through Bush Junior and the Obama White House.

Porter researched for his book, the Manufactured Crisis: The Untold Story of the Iran Nuclear Scare, published in February 2014, what he calls the false evidence that Iran had a nuclear weapons program. In his book and this talk Porter shows that the documents used to prove the existence of the weapons program were fabricated and that those who presented the evidence, as well as other intelligence agencies such as the German BND knew that they came from sources that could not be trusted.

Gareth Porter is the author of five books. He writes regularly for Inter Press Service, Salon.com, the Nation, Truthout, the Huffington Post, and Counterpunch.

Porter's work goes back to the time of the war on Vietnam. He was an anti-war activist and served as Saigon Bureau Chief for Dispatch News Service International from 1970-1971, and later as co-director of the Indochina Resource Center.

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[The U.S.-Israel Special Relationship-Part THREE](#)

[A brief history of un-prosecuted Israeli smuggling and espionage cases by Grant F. Smith - AND](#)

[What every American needs to know about Israel/Palestine by Alison Weir, founder of If Americans Knew](#)

30 second [Preview/Promo](#) for Part THREE

Alison Weir and Grant Smith were the lead organizers of The National Summit to Reassess the U.S.-Israel "Special Relationship" on March 7, 2014 at the National Press Club in Washington DC.

By strange coincidence one of the topics covered by Grant Smith became international news exactly as I was preparing his talk for broadcast on TUC Radio. On April 17th, 2014, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists released an article with the intriguing title: Did Israel steal bomb-grade uranium from the United States?

<<http://thebulletin.org/did-israel-steal-bomb-grade-uranium-united-states7056>>

The authors, Victor Gilinsky and Roger J. Mattson, had suspected that Israel, in the 1960s, stole the uranium from the Apollo, Pennsylvania, plant of NUMEC, the Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation. They now credit the release of classified documents in March 2014, that contain much of the proof they were looking for, to the work of researcher Grant Smith.

Grant Smith is Executive Director of the Washington DC based Institute for Research: Middle Eastern Policy. <<http://www.irmep.org/>>For the past ten years he has been investigating the role of Israel and its domestic lobby, AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, in influencing US Middle East policy.

Alison Weir is president of the Council for the National Interest, created by ambassadors and former Congressmen in 1989 and executive director of If Americans Knew.

<<http://www.ifamericansknew.org/>> That's a nonprofit organization she founded when she came to the conclusion that if Americans knew the history and present reality of Palestine under Israeli occupation US foreign policy in the middle east would no longer be so one-sidedly supportive of Israel. She writes and speaks widely on Israel-Palestine, and has given talks at Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Berkeley, and Georgetown.

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[The U.S.-Israel Special Relationship-Part FOUR](#)

[The U.S.-Israel Special Relationship - Is Israel really a U.S. ally?](#)

[Three retired members of the CIA present their answers.](#)

30 second [Preview/Promo](#) for Part FOUR

Three former high level CIA employees were the speakers on the last panel of the one day summit at the National Press Club in Washington DC. held on March 7, 2014. Paul Pillar, Ray McGovern and Philip Giraldi addressed the question: Is Israel really a U.S. ally?

Professor Paul Pillar retired in 2005 from a 28-year career in the CIA. His last position was National Intelligence Officer for the Near East and South Asia. He was Executive Assistant to Director of Central Intelligence William Webster. He studied at Oxford and Princeton and is now a non-resident senior fellow at Georgetown University's Center for Security Studies.

Ray McGovern is the retired CIA officer turned political activist. In his 27 years with the CIA McGovern chaired National Intelligence Estimates and prepared the President's Daily Brief. When he retired he received the Intelligence Commendation Medal. He returned the medal in 2006 in protest at the CIA's involvement in torture.

Philip Giraldi is a former counter-terrorism specialist and military intelligence officer who worked for 18 years for the CIA in Turkey, Italy, Germany, and Spain. He may be the most high profile ex CIA person on the panel, having appeared on Good Morning America, MSNBC, National Public Radio, the BBC, FOX News, al-Jazeera, 60 Minutes and many more.

This is the last of a four part series of reports from The National Summit to Reassess the U.S.-Israel "Special Relationship." For all speeches of that day in video, audio or transcript go to the web site of the national summit at <www.natsummit.org>

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[NOTE: This program with members of the CIA is the last of the four part series on: The U.S.-Israel Special Relationship](#)