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## American-Israeli aggression documented

# US pilots aided Israel in '67 war

By Mark A. Bruzonsky

WASHINGTON — Ad-Dustour's decision to publish major excerpts from Stephen Green's new book 'Taking Sides: America's secret relations with a militant Israel' underscores the special importance of this unusual, unprecedented investigative effort.

Sales of the book are already quite brisk in Washington and William Morrow and Company, the American publisher, has already begun a third printing, having rushed the book to stores a few weeks ahead of the official publication date of 15 February. Faber books in the United Kingdom is now readying the English version of the book for early March publication.

Over the past weekend, the book was featured on both the NBC Evening News and a major United Press International story which focused primarily on Green's charge that American pilots stationed in Ramstein, Germany and American military photo technicians stationed at Upper Heyford in England were secretly flown to Israel's Negev to aid Israel with photo intelligence during the 1967 war.

Citing unidentified Air Force technicians whom he interviewed, Green indicates that the American Air Force men were forced to give up their military I. D. S and their uniforms when they changed planes in Moron, Spain. They then proceeded to Israel and landed at a deserted airbase in the Negev desert near Bersheba, from where they used both American planes and their portable photographic developing rooms called "cubes".

Green charges that the American pilots flew 'combat reconnaissance' missions for the Israelis using advanced camera and side-looking radar, which Israel did not then have. This intelligence information permitted the Israeli military to have information about the location and size of Arab forces which they otherwise would have lacked, helping make possible Israel's swift victories over all Arab armies.

Green adds that the American military personnel at the end of the '67 war were 'reverse cleansed' on their way back to their bases in Germany and England and ordered never to reveal what had taken place. At the time, President Johnson and other top-ranking American officials totally denied Arab charges that American forces were in any way involved in the war on Israel's side.

According to last weekend's UPI fea-

and preparing to invade Syria's Golan Heights.

### Three years research and declassified documents:

The result of nearly 3 years of painstaking effort, Taking Sides is based on numerous interviews with persons involved in American-Israeli relations during the period 1948 through 1967 and many documents recently declassified or obtained by Green through freedom of information requests.

safe Jewish homeland in the Middle East as an independent state with normalized political and economic relations with its neighbours, or will it finally have to become a formal dependency of the United States, deriving its economy and security from that relationship?"

Gradually, over the time span that is the focus of this book, Green concludes,.... "America took sides — not with Israel as such, but with the militarists within that country whose vision of



US Airforce: Pilots aided Israel against the Arabs in 1967

There are three central themes that run throughout Taking Sides:

1) That Israel has always been an aggressive, expansionist power in the Middle East, constantly desiring to capture and incorporate more territory. That only during the short period of Levi Eshkol's prime ministership did an Israeli government seriously consider attempting peace with the Arab states based on mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestinians and that at no time in her short history has Israel ever faced a threat of military defeat by the Arabs.

2) That American relations with Israel underwent a basic shift during Lyndon Johnson's presidency. Before that period, the United States had attempted a policy of distance from and restraint with Israel. But, according to Green, "in the early years of the Johnson administration, 1964 — 1967, US policy on Middle Eastern matters abruptly changed. It would perhaps be more accurate to say that it disintegrated. America had a public policy on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons

the future never allowed space for the others who were clinging to the plank. With American support and assistance of a different kind, there might yet be a future for all who wish to call Israel and Palestine their home."

### Impact on American opinion

Stephen Green is not a Middle East expert. Actually, he's one of the leading American experts on international disaster relief with three books to his credit on that theme. But as with other disaffected American Jews, the reality of Israel past and present — especially as Israel has come to affect American policies — has awakened a commitment to bring about change. Taking sides is one result.

Though the book is probably not "the most important book ever written about US-Israel relations," as Princeton Professor Richard Falk suggests, Taking Sides is something of a journalistic coup combining academic, political and journalistic efforts in a volume sure to be considered one of the classics on American-

According to last weekend's UPI feature, both the Department of Defence and the Israeli embassy in Washington have been asked to respond to the charges in Green's book — but to date have not chosen to do so.

Meanwhile, it has become known in Washington that a number of Green's sources have been contacted by Air Force intelligence and warned about legal prosecution should they discuss their involvement with anyone. Also now known is that Green uncovered evidence, but too late for inclusion in his book, that just prior to Israel's devastating air strikes on Arab air forces — the decisive first blow in the '67 war — American U-2 reconnaissance photos of Arab air force locations were shared with the Israeli Air Force.

Other major revelations in the book include:

— That the US either clandestinely cooperated with Israel or turned a blind eye in allowing Israel to get enriched uranium in the '60s from an American firm which lead to Israel's first nuclear devices. According to Green, "US policy helped, or at least permitted, Israel to build atomic devices from enriched uranium stolen in the United States."

— That Israel's attack during the 1967 war on the American reconnaissance ship "Liberty" which took 44 American lives was totally deliberate and that the Israelis even passed a warning of a possible attack to a military attache at the American embassy in Tel Aviv a day before the attack. According to the book, Moshe Dayan ordered the attack on the Liberty ship to prevent the American government from finding out that Israel was breaking the cease-fire with Jordan on the West Bank

disintegrated. America had a public policy on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, but suddenly had a covert policy of abetting Israel's nuclear weapons programme. We had a public policy on arms balance in the region, but secretly agreed, by the end of 1967, to become Israel's major arms supplier. Officially, the United States was (firmly committed to the support of the political independence and territorial integrity of all the Middle East nations), while consciously, covertly, the Johnson 'Middle East team' set about enabling Israel to redraw to her advantage virtually every one of her borders with neighbouring Arab states."

Green adds, "it was, of course, a policy without principle, without integrity." Furthermore, Green concludes, "US Israeli relations would never be the same again. The pattern established in 1964 — 1967 has continued more or less intact down to the present day... Israel has become America's client state."

3) Green's final theme incorporates his motivation for writing this book and for beginning work on the sequel which will cover the period 1967-1985.

Green quotes former Under Secretary of States George Ball in congressional testimony from July 15, 1982. "The burden of my comments this morning," Ball then noted, "is that our country urgently needs to recast its relations with Israel... United States Middle East policy has marched to an Israeli drum far too long."

But Green's final theme can best be captured with a series of his own questions which come on the final page of *Taking Sides*. "Will men like Menachem Begin and Ariel Sharon secure Israel's future with a mailed fist? Does truth really come from the barrel of a gun? Will Israel be a

considered one of the classics on American-Israeli relations.

But do such efforts really have impact on American policies?

When America's premier investigative reporter Seymour Hersh, labors for 3 years and gives birth to a devastating best-seller — *Kissinger: The Price of Power* — and still Henry Kissinger is running to again become secretary of state, does the written word still have major potency?

The answer to these questions is no doubt mixed. There does seem to be a gradual, marginal, accumulative impact of books of this type. Books that uncover the ruthless, aggressive, expansionist nature of the modern state of Israel, books that outline how the US has slowly gotten itself entangled on Israel's side of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, books that suggest a new approach — such books are no longer total pariah's even though substantial pressures are still brought to bear by Israel's supposed friends.

In the larger context, though Green's book is a sign of the times. American publishers, American public opinion, and American Jewish opinion, are changing.

And yet these changes, these long overdue reconsiderations of history and politics which make such a book like *Taking Sides* possible — and which in turn make other such efforts possible — may be too little, too late. There seems to be considerable and growing awareness that we may only be a few moments to midnight, with the possibility of reasonably partitioning Palestine between Jewish and Arab nationalists and with an even more desperate future ahead than the past which is finally being revealed.