

Spoofing the Israeli-Jewish LOBBY

From



Washington

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WHO are the mysterious, creative, courageous and irreverent souls who had the audacity in recent days to spoof the infamous Israeli-Jewish lobby?

Just who is behind this most unusual, timely, and politically hilarious effort to embarrass the most powerful, feared, and hated organisation that is at the heart of the Israeli-Jewish lobby to try to track them down.

This little Washington drama -- maybe a sign of the new times that have Israel's friends a bit concerned -- began a few days ago.

On August 12 to be precise, an official looking memo began circulating through the corridors of the recessed Congress.

True, most congressman and senators are away during the recess. Still, in modern times, Congress never sleeps and the ever-present cadre of aides and professionals remains on duty busily preparing the way for the surge of new legislation in September.

Indeed, educated speculation has it that it was from the ranks of these professional staffers -- many long-abused by the pressures of the Israeli-Jewish lobby -- that this hoax memo now circulating on Capitol Hill hand to hand and via fax must have originated.

Ten Billion Dollar US Loan Guarantees for Israel: Your Marching Orders reads the memo's headline on what at first glance looks like stationary of the infamous American Israel Public Affairs Commit-

tee (AIPAC), the organisation everyone recognises as that of Israel's shocktroops on Capitol Hill.

And then, in just one page, the phoney satirical memo goes on to poke both fun and fingers at the upcoming \$10 billion handout for Israel that is expected to be approved by the Congress this month.

"For years we've outdone ourselves tossing out hoops for Congress to jump through," the memo begins. "We're proud to say that we've surpassed even our own expectations with the \$10 billion loan guarantee -- the ultimate hoop -- and the most exorbitantly risky and outrageous proposition yet," the memo continues. "Finally, our dreams can become a reality. Here's how!"

Of course by this time most readers have already begun to appreciate that this is hardly the real thing. Either, some kind of internal memo has been leaked ... or something else even more unusual is up.

That's when one begins to pay a bit more attention to the stationary. Though at first glance it does indeed really look like AIPAC stationary -- complete with six-pointed Jewish star -- upon closer examination one at first notices that there is no address or phone number. Then it becomes evident that the traditional stars on AIPAC's real logo have been replaced by dollar signs and few other rather blasphemous embellishments have been made.

Indeed the memo is rather

cleverly prepared. It takes a moment for it to become apparent that this is not really an "AIPAC". Indeed, the small top line reads "The American Israel Political Control Association" and another small line, this one below the organisational name notes, "We Know Where You Are, You Don't Need To Know Where We Are".

In the memo's introductory paragraph, after announcing "Here's how!", the spoofers go on as follows:

"First, we get some of our friends to believe, or at least pretend, that these are really loans which Israel will really repay. Then, we convince them that this is purely 'humanitarian aid' with no relationship whatsoever to the 40,000 new settlement units Israel announced last month. Finally we hoodwink our friends into believing that Israel will still come to the peace talks in October after Congress gives it the \$10 billion in September. This might seem a bit much to expect -- but then what are friends for?"

The rest of the memo is taken up with what are termed "our winning arguments" for pulling off this scam on the American public. "You should study them" the introductory paragraph concludes:

Winning Argument No 1
"Trust us, the money is for the immigrants"

"Israel had originally budgeted \$10 billion of its own funds over the next five years for such essential activities as

building new settlements, maintaining thousands of defence forces in the West Bank and Gaza, and buying bulk supplies of rubber bullets. When Israel found out the Soviet immigrants were coming, it had to revise its spending plans and relatively most of those funds to finance the massive resettlement. Now, with \$10 billion from the US dedicated to the absorption, Israel has no need to disrupt its original plan.

"The successful absorption of Soviet immigrants over the next five years is Israel's second highest priority is figuring out how to continue getting handouts without having to give up a single inch of the 'administered' territories."

Winning Argument No 2
"Those 'deep pockets' in the United States"

"Guaranteeing loans' for Israel, up to \$2 billion a year for the next five years (we always say it this way so some people don't realise it's \$10 lots of money and not have too much to say about what Israel does with it. Guarantees are not grants -- at this point, we can say truthfully that not one penny of US government funds will be transferred to Israel through these guarantees. Later, however, when it's clear that Israel hasn't a snowball's chance in hell of paying them back, and that some US banks are in danger of going belly-up, we plan to lobby Congress either to have these 'loan guarantees' converted to grants, or to just bail out the banks

(something Congress should be quite good at by then)."

Winning Argument No 3
"Many benefits for America"

"The US will not need to figure out which critical domestic programme -- housing, job training, education -- actually deserves all or part of the \$10 billion. One simple loan guarantee to Israel eliminates those tough decisions.

"Ted Koppel will have something else to talk about.

"Our staff are so busy lobbying Congress and producing memoranda such as this that they don't have the time to keep track of what members of Congress and the Senate we plan to target for removal in the next election."

Winning Argument No 4
"Israel's ability to repay"

"Israel has never defaulted on a loan, and maintains a highly favourable debt portfolio by international standards. This has been a relatively easy feat, in that Israel only pays the interest on its loans, and as mentioned before, Congress manages to convert most of them to grants before any principal is actually due. In fact, AIPCA has been so successful in supporting Israel's financial interests that we are now offering a \$395 course at the Capital Hilton one weekend a month to borrower nations that would like to learn our high-proven techniques."

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