

Zionism's

This is the concluding part of the study written by Steve Goldfield entitled «The Israeli Role in the United States Global Strategy». We began the first part of this study in «Democratic Palestine» no.4.

Costa Rica

Costa Rica has not had an army since 1948. With Israeli assistance the country is now getting one. Israelis are training antiguerrilla units of the Costa Rican National Guard in Costa Rica²³⁸ while one hundred Costa Ricans are being trained in Israel.²³⁹

On February 14, 1983, Jack Anderson reported a multi-million dollar U.S.-Israeli «land development» project to buy up «land along the Nicaragua-Costa Rica border, clearing roads through the wilderness and moving in thousands of settlers...The U.S. Agency for International Development will ask Congress for \$10 million to finance the settlement for the first year. Israel will provide the technical expertise presumably based on its experience with settlements in the West Bank area». Anderson went on, «The Costa Rican border settlement, combined with the military buildup in Honduras, would create a giant strategic pincers physically isolating Nicaragua by land».²⁴⁰ Dial Torgerson of the *Los Angeles Times* reported a much more ambitious (\$240 million) proposal in the border area in a story filed just before he was killed.²⁴¹

Israeli military and economic relations with Costa Rica began in February 1982, when President Luis Alberto Monge was elected. Monge stated he preferred «the assistance of Israel in matters of security to that of others». In November 1982, *Ha'aretz* reported Israel would build another of its electronic fences this time on the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Israel and Costa Rica also have extensive and growing economic ties. Ignacio Klich wrote in *Le Monde Diplomatique* in February of 1983, «Madame Olsen (the Costa Rican ambassador in Israel) has revealed that Mr. Monge had been introduced, during his visit to the U.S., to the American Jewish Committee and officials of B'nai B'rith, who promised him support in its current negotiations with 170 American Banks about the rescheduling of its debt».²⁴² Costa Rica has been the first Latin American country to break ranks and send its ambassador back to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv.²⁴³ As a token of gratitude for this gesture, U.S. Zionists contributed half a million dollars to lay train tracks for a route paralleling and competing with the Panama Canal.²⁴⁴

Mexico

In 1975 Mexico bought five Arava short-take-off-and-landing transports. A small group of Mexican pilots and mechanics went to Israel for training²⁴⁵ Mexico has a \$20 million assembly plant for the Arava transport aircraft at Merida, where IAI provides technical assistance and holds 10 percent control.²⁴⁶

Mexico also provides Israel with about 40 percent of its oil imports²⁴⁷ and guarantees increased shipments in an emergency.²⁴⁸ The United States, incidentally, also guarantees Israeli oil supplies by agreement.²⁴⁹

U.S. Aid to Israel

Israel is by far the largest recipient of U.S. military and economic aid, even without counting the conveniently «forgotten» loans which range between half and one billion dollars each year²⁵⁰ (\$750 million out of \$1.7 billion in fiscal year 1983).²⁵¹ According to a General Accounting Office (GAO) study released August 24, 1982, from 1974 to 1982 Israel received \$22.5 billion in U.S. aid, \$2.7 billion in 1982.²⁵² If an additional \$700 million requested for 1984 is approved, the fiscal year 1984 total will be \$3.2 billion and the «total transfer of U.S. resources to Israel» from official tax-deductible sources will reach \$5 billion.²⁵³ In the first year of their Lebanese invasion, the Israelis spent about \$2.5 billion. (The official figure is \$1.2 billion.)²⁵⁴

Currently, the United States is increasing aid to replace ammunition and tanks used up in Lebanon. This was revealed in a censored report from the General Accounting Office on U.S. aid to Israel.²⁵⁵ The CIA, in the uncensored version, estimated that the U.S. would be paying for half the Israeli defense budget. The United States paid 37 percent of the Israeli defense budget in the fiscal year 1982.²⁵⁶ The report gives U.S. aid to Israel, from 1948 to 1983, as \$25 billion and as \$29 billion through 1984.²⁵⁷ Even these figures, which are low because they ignore a variety of forms of indirect aid, are much higher than those normally referred to by the U.S. government. For instance, the U.S. handed over as an outright gift \$172 million in excess construction material used to rebuild Israeli air bases