

'...Thou shalt do war'

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BY HUMAYUN GAUHAR

Maria, a New Jersey housewife, spotted the five Israelis kneeling on the roof of a van in her parking lot and joyfully filming the burning Twin Towers.

"After the attacks...former Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, was asked what the terrorist strikes would mean for US-Israeli relations. He said: 'It's very good.' Then he corrected himself, adding: 'Well, it's not good, but it will generate immediate sympathy [for Israel from Americans]. If Israel's closest ally felt the collective pain of mass civilian deaths at the hands of terrorists, then Israel would have an unbreakable bond with the world's only hyperpower and an effective free hand in dealing with the Palestinian terrorists who had been murdering its innocent civilians as the second intifada dragged on throughout 2001."

Maria, a New Jersey housewife, spotted the five Israelis kneeling on the roof of a van in her parking lot and joyfully filming the burning Twin Towers. She alerted the police who called the FBI. The van, which belonged to Urban Moving, was found and the five Israelis arrested. Incriminatingly, apart from 4700 dollars in cash, also found were "a couple of foreign passports and a pair of box cutters - the concealed Stanley Knife-type blades used by the 19 hijackers who'd flown jetliners into the World Trade Center and Pentagon just hours before. There were also fresh pictures of the men standing with the smoldering wreckage of the Twin Towers in the background...The driver of the van then told the arresting officers: 'We are Israeli. We are not your problem. Your problems are our problems. The Palestinians are the problem.' His name was Sivan Kurzberg. The other four passengers were Kurzberg's brother Paul, Yaron Shmuel, Oded Ellner and Omer Marmari. The men were dragged off to prison and transferred out of the custody of the FBI's Criminal Division and into the hands of their Foreign Counterintelligence Section - the Bureau's anti-espionage squad. A warrant was issued for a search of the Urban Moving premises in Weehawken in New Jersey...The FBI questioned the firm's Israeli owner, Dominik Otto Suter, but when agents returned to re-interview him a few days later, he was gone...The owner had cleared out his family home in New Jersey and returned to Israel.

"Vince Cannistraro, former chief of operations for counter-terrorism with the CIA, says the red flag went up among investigators when it was discovered that some of the Israelis' names were found in a search of the national intelligence database. Cannistraro says many in the US intelligence com-

munity believed that some of the Israelis were working for Mossad and there was speculation over whether Urban Moving had been 'set up or exploited for the purpose of launching an intelligence operation against radical Islamists'. "Two weeks after their arrest, the Israelis were still in detention, held on immigration charges. Then a judge ruled that they should be deported. But the CIA scuppered the deal and the five remained in custody for another two months. Some went into solitary confinement, all underwent two polygraph tests and at least one underwent up to seven lie detector sessions before they were eventually deported at the end of November 2001. Paul Kurzberg refused to take a lie detector test for 10 weeks, but then failed it. His lawyer said he was reluctant to take the test as he had once worked for Israeli intelligence in another country. Even though the Israelis' lawyer, Ram Horvitz, dismissed the allegations, "US government sources still maintained that the Israelis were collecting information on the fundraising activities of groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad. "The respected New York Jewish newspaper, The Forward, reported in March 2001, however, that it had received a briefing on the case of the five Israelis from a US official who was regularly updated by law enforcement agencies. This is what he told The Forward: 'The assessment was that Urban Moving Systems was a front for the Mossad and its operatives employed by it'. Back in Israel, several of the men discussed what happened on an Israeli talk show. One of them made this remarkable comment: 'The fact of the matter is we are coming from a country that experiences terror daily. Our purpose was to document the event.' But how can you document an event unless you know it is going to happen? Following September 11, 2001, more than 60 Israelis were taken into custody under the Patriot Act and immigration laws. One highly placed investigator told Carl Cameron of Fox News that there were 'tie-ins' between the Israelis and September 11. The hint was clearly that they'd gathered intelligence on the planned attacks but kept it to themselves. The Fox News source refused to give details, saying: 'Evidence linking these Israelis to 9/11 is classified. I cannot tell you about evidence that has been gathered. It's classified information.' Fox News is not noted for its condemnation of Israel; it's a ruggedly patriotic news channel owned by Rupert Murdoch and was President Bush's main cheerleader in the war on terror and the invasion of Iraq. Jim Margolin, an FBI spokesman in New York, implied that the public would never know the truth, saying: 'If we found evidence of unauthorized intelligence operations that would be classified material.' Yet, Israel has long been known, according to US administration sources, for 'conducting the most aggressive espionage operations against the US of any US ally'."

So what should I call this article? 'By way of deception', which is the purpose of all intelligence agencies? Or 'Thou shalt do war', which seems to be only Mossad's diabolical objective? It's satanic, for Satan does war against God and his creation. E-mail queries and comments to: hgauhara@nation.com.pk

A defense mechanism of westerners is that Pakistanis thrive on conspiracy theories. We love them precisely because there have been so many conspiracies against us. Increasingly, Americans and westerners are asking whether Al Qaeda was indeed behind September 11, and if it was, have we been told all? Michael Moore concludes that it was the Saudis or disgruntled princes using their air force pilots. How could a man on dialysis hiding in an Afghan cave have orchestrated attacks of such precision? I suggested that by the same logic one could as validly conclude that it was Israel. ('Guy in a cave? Or Israel?' The Nation, October 12, 2003). I also showed in 'Was Mahathir all that wrong?' on November 9 that Israel does have inordinate control over US policy, to the point of blackmail, as demonstrated in the American cover up of the Israeli attack on USS Liberty. My contention that Israel through its intelligence agency Mossad could have been behind the September 11 attacks, or have something to do with them, is slowly gathering steam with startling revelations in the western press. Let not a 'conspiracy-theory loving Pakistani' but Neil Mackay writing in Scotland's 'The Sunday Herald' of November 2, tell it. "There was ruin and terror in Manhattan, but, over the Hudson River in New Jersey, a handful of men were dancing. As the World Trade Center burned and crumpled, the five men celebrated and filmed the worst atrocity ever committed on American soil as it played out before their eyes. Who do you think they were? Palestinians? Saudis? Iraqis, even? Al-Qaeda, surely? Wrong on all counts. They were Israelis - and at least two of them were Israeli intelligence agents, working for Mossad. Their discovery and arrest that morning is a matter of indisputable fact. To those who have investigated just what the Israelis were up to that day, the case raises one dreadful possibility: that Israeli intelligence had been shadowing the al-Qaeda hijackers as they moved from the Middle East through Europe and into America where they trained as pilots and prepared to suicide-bomb the symbolic heart of the United States. And the motive? To bind America in blood and mutual suffering to the Israeli cause."

Might one wonder whether they had not been tailing Al Qaeda knowing what they were up to but were actually observing and filming the handiwork of Mossad itself? We only have America's word that the hijackers were Arab, mostly Saudi, on such flimsy evidence as a blurry black and white security video from Boston's airport, flight training manuals in glove compartments and a Saudi passport that miraculously survived the inferno of the Twin Towers in which the planes and everything in them were vaporized. Strains credulity somewhat, does it not? Or could it be that Mossad recruited Arabs and fooled them into believing that they were working for Al Qaeda? I keep asking: who did September 11 benefit? The only ones are Israel, for it got America to fight their war by proxy, and for a time the US for it gave them the excuse to seize energy sources and routes. While the latter is going horribly wrong, things are working out beautifully for Israel, thank you. Here's what Mackay adds to support this point.