



# Gideon's Spies: The Secret History of the Mossad

By Gordon Thomas

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Six all-new chapters and updated appendices and glossaries examine:

- \*The London bombings: the untold full story of Mossad's involvement
- \*Mossad's key role in the G8 Summit in Scotland
- \*How Mossad discovered that by June 2005 Al Qaeda had acquired fissionable material from Pakistan and former Soviet Union Islamic Republics
- \*Secret phone calls to Washington that led to Tony Blair changing his position over war with Iraq
- \*WMD and Libya, North Korea, Iran, Pakistan, China, and the House of Saud
- \*The mega spy in the Bush and Clinton administrations
- \*The PLO, Fatah, and Hamas
- \*The technology wars, and North Korea's bird-flu war games and "ethnic bombs"
- \*The Chinese involvement in the Los Alamos fiasco

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

The Mossad was formed in 1951 to coordinate the intelligence-gathering efforts of the still-young nation of Israel. In the nearly half century since, it has become a force to be reckoned with, boasting an impressive track record of counterterrorist actions and assassinations. *Gideon's Spies* is loaded with anecdotes of their greatest exploits (and a few colossal blunders). Among the most interesting sections are the suggestions that Mossad agents killed media tycoon Robert Maxwell in 1991, that the agency's attempted recruitment of Henri Paul, the driver of Princess Diana's car that fateful night, may have caused sufficient emotional distress to be a contributing factor in the accident, and that Mossad operatives in America had tapes of the phone-sex conversations between President Bill Clinton and his lover Monica Lewinsky. There's also some extensive material on the links between the Israelis and the Vatican, including the Mossad's role in the investigation into the attempted 1981 assassination of Pope John Paul II and the agency's constant battles against the PLO. An interesting nonfiction read for fans of international spy thrillers.

#### From Publishers Weekly

Among the world's most respected and feared intelligence services, the Israeli Mossad encompasses shadowy networks of *katsas* (case officers) often operating undercover, from Washington to Tehran to Beijing. The third update of this well-received book adds expanded sections on postinvasion Iraq, the black market in nuclear material, and other topics, tying up several loose ends from the earlier editions. Large portions remain unchanged, however, giving the book an uneven quality, as some chapters were written in 1994, some in 1999, some in 2004 and some last summer. Thomas's engrossing stories about assassinations, target surveillance and other skullduggery keep the pages turning, but the serious student of the Middle East may be put off by some purple prose, for example, about Saddam in incarceration: "His shaggy salt-and-pepper beard is trimmed once a week, enhancing his sharp, penetrating eyes.... But he will have an opportunity to state his case—more than he had ever allowed those he murdered." Skeptics will wonder what ulterior motives inspired Thomas's many tight-lipped sources to open up to him and will question their information, particularly regarding the more incredible conspiracy theories he writes about. Overall, however, Thomas provides a rare and valuable glimpse at the inner workings of a very secretive organization. (*Jan.*)

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#### From Library Journal

The Mossad is one of Israel's elite security agencies, responsible mainly for operations outside the country's borders. Its reputation (somewhat tarnished in recent years) for efficiency and daring combined with more than a touch of ruthlessness still evokes fear in Israel's perceived enemies. Thomas, a prolific author of fiction and nonfiction on espionage and international security, has pieced together a book based largely on interviews with people both inside and outside the Mossad, as well as from other international intelligence agencies. Each chapter examines a particular action, operation, or political crisis and offers an entertaining and heavily anecdotal account. While the book is neither as scholarly in approach as Ian Black and Benny Morris's *Israel's Secret Wars: A History of Israel's Intelligence Service* (LJ 6/1/91) nor as controversial as ex-Mossad agent Victor Ostrovsky and Claire Hoys's *By Way of Deception* (LJ 11/15/90), Thomas has a winner here. Recommended for academic and larger public libraries, especially those collecting in Israeli politics or international intelligence. Stephen W. Green, Auraria Lib., Denver

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