

GORDON THOMAS



GIDEON'S
SPIES

The Inside Story of
Israel's Legendary
Secret Service

THE MOSSAD

'Tells it like it was – and like it is.'
Meir Amit, Former Director General of Mossad.

Universal Critical Acclaim for *Gideon's Spies* & *Gordon Thomas*

“Literally impossible to put down.”

The New York Times Book Review

“Fascinating, spell-binding, ‘can’t-put-down’ reading.”

Los Angeles Herald Examiner

“If you buy one book this year, this should be the one.”

Toronto Globe & Mail

“A Blockbuster.”

New York Daily News

“Intensely readable. An excellent popular work.”

The New York Times

“Perfect and flawless . . . we get the feel of the time and the place.”

Washington Post

“It is spellbinding, with a suspense-novel pace. Timely, with a sense of tension, excitement and high drama.”

Houston Chronicle

“A convincing case for the thoroughness and responsibility of the research. This is a big and ambitious book”.

Michael Pakenham, Baltimore Sun

“It is not only magnificent journalism. It is *writing*, the kind of reportage that if Gordon Thomas were an American-born writer would earn him a Pulitzer Prize.”

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“Fascinating ‘can’t put it down’ reading. In the same league as ‘*Is Paris Burning?*’ but with brevity and economy of writing.”

Boston Globe

“Thomas handles highly dramatic material with clarity and impact.”

Washington Post Book World

“Gordon Thomas has a grasp of history . . . this is one of the few books to have captured the true nature of the Israeli Government and the thought process of the Israeli power elite . . . This book is a

must for any student of modern Middle Eastern history.”

~~Ari Ben-Menashe, Former Adviser on Intelligence to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the Israel Government~~

“Gripping and compulsively readable.”

Sunday Express (UK)

“Tells it like it was—and like it is.”

Meir Amit, former Director General of Mossad

“Riveting, written with passion, it should be widely read.”

Publishers Weekly

“Thomas provides readers with a good sense of how the Mossad trains its agents. Fun read.”

Kirkus (USA)

“A fascinating look at a spy organisation that has remained off limits to most journalists. Some of the incredible episodes Gordon Thomas writes about seem like they belong in fiction and yet this is a first-rate non-fiction account.”

Mary Fischer, GQ Magazine (USA)

“Gordon Thomas has kept his head above the orchestrated campaigns of disinformation and produced a document about the Mossad that is as balanced and as truthful as can be arranged. This book is neither a vilification nor a condemnation of the Mossad. Thomas clearly understood Israel’s dilemma when he put together this fine work.”

Barry Chamish, co-editor, Israel Today Intelligence Review; author Who Murdered Yitzhak Rabin

“Gordon Thomas digs deeply into the secrets of the Israeli intelligence service as a result of being given *exclusive* access.”

Soldier Magazine

“Great revelations. The author of this acclaimed history of Mossad has done it again.”

The Drudge Report (USA)

“A brilliant and exciting book.”

The Literary Guild Magazine (USA)

“Here is real insider stuff, written by an acknowledged expert. It is shocking and absorbing; rich and powerful. Go buy it!”

All American Radio, Washington D.C.

“A masterful job of reporting.”

Observer

“Gordon Thomas has written a major work on the history of the Israeli secret service, Mossad.”

Ireland on Sunday

“Using eyewitness accounts from director, agents, and even assassins, Thomas goes where few writers have gone before—inside the Mossad, Israel’s ruthless, super-secretive intelligence agency.”

“This is essential reading for anyone concerned with the Middle East and world affairs.”

Al Wasat (Saudi Arabia)

“Thomas meticulously documents the shadowy world of spies and covert operations. Espionage buffs will love every page.”

Booklist (USA)

“What he says is always ominous—but never judgemental. That is what makes this book one of the most trusted on the world of secret intelligence.”

The European

“A compelling read, with any number of disturbing revelations.”

For Him Magazine (USA)

“Reveals for the first time that all too often the truth exceeds all the fantasies that Mossad has attracted.”

Bolton Evening News

“Powerful and unforgettable. It is more than history. It is life, the onset of so much.”

Jerusalem Post (Israel)

“Entertaining . . . a winner here.”

Library Journal (USA)

“Perceptive, eloquent and enduring.”

New York Sunday Post

“Rich in detail . . . powerful in the writing.”

El Pais (Spain)

“This book will remain a benchmark for all time.”

Le Monde (France)

“Fascinating from beginning to end.”

Japan Times

“An epic account of struggle for power.”

Associated Press of America

“A story crying out to be filmed! All-action, great characters.”

Hollywood Reporter

“A hot book and highly controversial.”

Variety Magazine

“In just 60 years, Israel’s secret service has become a byword for ruthlessness and audacity. Gordon Thomas, author of the definitive history of Mossad, reveals the story of its most daring and deadly

vengeance.”

Independence

“Woven together in a narrative which rivals the very best thrillers, *Gideon’s Spies* reveals the Mossad as it truly is: ruthless, flawed, but ultimately awesome.”

Toronto Star

“A book which ensures that ignorance about the Mossad is inexcusable. Massive, highly readable and important.”

Los Angeles Times

“One of the leading chroniclers of Mossad gives a unique insight into its methods.”

Daily Telegraph

“Literally impossible to put down.”

New York Times

ALSO BY GORDON THOMAS

Nonfiction

DESCENT INTO DANGER
BED OF NAILS
PHYSICIAN EXTRAORDINARY
HEROES OF THE R.A.F.
THEY GOT BACK
MIRACLE OF SURGERY
THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE AND YOU
THAMES NUMBER ONE
MIDNIGHT TRADERS
THE PARENTS' HOME DOCTOR (*with Ian D. Hudson and Vincent Pippet*)
TURN BY THE WINDOW (*with Ronald Hutchinson*)
ISSELS: THE BIOGRAPHY OF A DOCTOR
THE DAY THE WORLD ENDED (*with Max Morgan-Witts*)
EARTHQUAKE (*with Max Morgan-Witts*)
SHIPWRECK (*with Max Morgan-Witts*)
VOYAGE OF THE DAMNED (*with Max Morgan-Witts*)
THE DAY GUERNICA DIED (*with Max Morgan-Witts*)
ENOLA GAY/RUIN FROM THE AIR (*with Max Morgan-Witts*)
THE DAY THE BUBBLE BURST (*with Max Morgan-Witts*)
TRAUMA (*with Max Morgan-Witts*)
PONTIFF (*with Max Morgan-Witts*)
THE YEAR OF ARMAGEDDON (*with Max Morgan-Witts*)
THE OPERATION
DESIRE AND DENIAL
THE TRIAL: THE LIFE AND INEVITABLE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS
JOURNEY INTO MADNESS
ENSLAVED
CHAOS UNDER HEAVEN
TRESPASS INTO TEMPTATION
MAGDALENE: THE WOMAN WHO LOVED JESUS
THE ASSASSINATION OF ROBERT MAXWELL: ISRAEL'S
SUPERSPY (*with Martin Dillan*)
THE SECRET ARMIES OF THE CIA

Fiction

THE CAMP ON BLOOD ISLAND
TORPEDO RUN
DEADLY PERFUME
GODLESS ICON
VOICES IN THE SILENCE

GIDEON'S SPIES

The Inside Story of
Israel's Legendary
Secret Service
The Mossad

GORDON THOMAS

R
BOOKS

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GIDEON'S SPIES
Acknowledgments

ISRAEL

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Otto Kormek

Stuart Winter

Zahir Kzeibati

Marcus Wolff

Emer Lenehan

David Yallop

each in their own way played their part

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST

William Buckley

William Casey

Joachim Kraner

Edith—of course

} among them they inspired the idea

MOSSAD DIRECTORS GENERAL

<i>1951–1952</i>	REUVEN SHILOAH
<i>1952–1963</i>	ISSER HAREL
<i>1963–1968</i>	MEIR AMIT
<i>1968–1974</i>	ZVI ZAMIR
<i>1974–1982</i>	YITZHAK HOFI
<i>1982–1990</i>	NAHUM ADMONI
<i>1990–1996</i>	SHABTAI SHAVIT
<i>1996–1998</i>	DANNY YATOM
<i>1998–2002</i>	EFRAIM HALEVY
<i>2002–</i>	MEIR DAGAN

GLOSSARY

Active measures	Operations to influence or otherwise affect other nations' policies
ANC	African National Congress
ANO	Abu Nidal Organization
AFR	Automatic fingerprint recognition
AI	Artificial intelligence
AL	Specialist unit operating under deep cover in the United States
Aman	Israeli military intelligence
ASU	Active service terrorist unit
AWAC	Airborne warning and control aircraft
Babbler	Counterbugging device
Backstopping	Fake identification papers
Base	Permanent station in foreign country
Bat leveyha	Female assistant agent
Better world	Euphemism for killing enemy agent; similarly, to “send a person on vacation” means to injure him/her—the extent of the injury depends on whether the “vacation” is to be brief or long
Bioleverage	Euphemism for blackmail—literally, the use of derogatory information to coerce someone
Blind dating	Meeting place chosen by a contact to meet his controller
Blow-back	Fake stories fed to foreign news media
Bodel	A courier
BND	BundesNachrichtenDienst, German Federal Intelligence Service, concerned with both foreign and domestic intelligence
Bug	Electronic device for hearing and recording
Burn	An agent deliberately sacrificed in order to protect a more valuable spy
BW	Biological weapons
Case death	Operation that fails for no obvious reason

Case officer	In charge of field agents
CAT	Computer-aided tomography
Chamfering	Technique for opening sealed mail
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CIO	Central Imagery Office
Cold approach	Attempt to recruit a foreign national
Comint	Acronym for communications intelligence
Cover	Identity assumed by intelligence officer when abroad
Cultivation	Establishing rapport with a source of information
CW	Chemical weapons
Daylight	Highest form of alert
Dardasim	Agents operating in China
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration
DI	Directorate of Intelligence
DCI	Director of Central Intelligence Agency
DIA	Defence Intelligence Agency
Diamond	Communications unit
DO	Directorate of Operations
Dry cleaning	Various techniques to avoid surveillance
ECM	Electronic countermeasure
EDP	Electronic data processing
Elint	Electronic intelligence intercepted from radar, satellites
Exfiltrate	Removing an agent from hostile country
Falach	Agent working in Lebanon
FACES	Facial Analysis Comparison and Elimination System
False flagging	Recruiting a person who believes he or she will be working for another country or interest
Fumigate	Sweeping an area for electronic bugs
Go-away	Prearranged signal not to make contact at previously arranged rendezvous
Grinder	Debriefing room, also used to interrogate suspects
Honey trap	Sexual entrapment for intelligence purposes
Humint	Intelligence gathered by agents in the field

IDA	Intelligence database
IED	Improvised explosive device
IFF	Identification, friend or foe
II	Image identification
Institute	Formal name of Mossad—Institute for Intelligence and Special Operations; originally called Institute for Coordination
IR	Infrared
ISA	Intelligence support activity
JIL	Joint Intelligence Center
Jumper	Agent working overseas on short-term assignment
Katsa	Case officer
Kidon	Operative specializing in assassination
LAKAM	Intelligence agency gathering scientific data
Legend	Bogus biography for katsa
LAP	Department of Psychological Warfare
Light cover	Katsa working under diplomatic cover
Loot	Intelligence gathered from operations
Mabuah	A non-Jewish informer
Measles	Assassination that appears to stem from natural causes
Meluckha	Recruiting department
Memune	Title given to director general of Mossad
Miketel	Bug for intercepting/recording telephone calls
Mishlashim	Dead letter box; a secure place for an agent to receive or drop off information
Music box	Radio transmitter
Naka	Writing system
Nativ	Agent working in former Soviet Union
Neviot	Surveillance specialist
NHITC	National Human Intelligence Tasking Center
NIC	National Intelligence Center
NSA	National Security Agency
NSTL	National security threat list
OAU	Organization of African Unity
Oter	Arab recruited to work with other Arabs

PFLP	Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
PLF	Palestine Liberation Front
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
Photint	Photographic intelligence
PROD	Technique for retrieving photographs from optical disc
Radint	Radar intelligence
Reg-sig	Recognition signal for <i>katsa</i> to make contact with field agent in public place
RAF	Red Army Faction (Germany)
Safanim	Unit to target PLO
Safe house	Apartment or house used for secret meetings or as an operations base
Shicklut	Surveillance department
Sleeper	<i>Katsa</i> /agent to be called upon in only the most dire circumstances
Slick	Hiding place for documents
Target	Intelligence assignment
Teud	Forged document
Telint	Telemetry intelligence
Vacuamer	Agent who provides details of all aspects of a target
Walk-in	Person who volunteers to serve
Wash	Recycling of a valid passport obtained by theft or purchased
Yahalomin	Special communications unit

BRIEF ARABIC GLOSSARY

<i>Ayatollah</i>	Title in the hierarchy of the Shite clergy
<i>Dawa</i>	Propagation of the faith; also a call to Islam
<i>Deobandi</i>	School of doctors of Islamic law founded in 1867 to preach against British domination in India
<i>Fatwa</i>	Legal opinion based on the holy texts of Islam; usually ratified by senior clerics
<i>Fedayeen</i>	Men ready to sacrifice themselves for a sacred cause; most recently applied to suicide bombers
<i>Fiqh</i>	Unchallengeable Muslim law
<i>Haj</i>	Pilgrimage to Mecca to be attained by every devout Muslim once in a lifetime
<i>Harb</i>	War, especially when waged in the land of infidels
<i>Hezbollah</i>	Party of God, prominent in Israel and Lebanon
<i>Hegira</i>	Flight of the Prophet in September 622 from Mecca to Medina, signifying the establishing of Islam
<i>Hudud</i>	Punishments in religious law, <i>sharia</i> , such as the stoning of a woman guilty of adultery, beheading for a crime, etc.
<i>Imam</i>	A mosque's director of prayer and the authority on all matters of religious regulation
<i>Intifada</i>	Uprisings; usually applied to the two Palestinian uprisings of 1987 and 2000
<i>Jihad</i>	Holy war to propagate Islamic faith and overthrow infidels
<i>Madrassa</i>	Religious school where Islamic law is taught
<i>Mujahideen</i>	(singular: <i>mujahed</i>) Jihad fighters.
<i>Pasdaran</i>	Members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards
<i>Shebab</i>	Arab youth
<i>Takir</i>	Excommunication from the Islamic faith
<i>Taliban</i>	Graduates of a religious school
<i>Ulema</i>	Doctors of Islamic law
<i>Wahhabism</i>	Founded by Ibn Abu al-Wahhab (1703–92); Puritan doctrine still dominating Saudi Arabia

OTHER INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

ISRAEL

IDF	Responsible for coordinating all intelligence for the General Staff of the Israeli Defense Forces. From time to time gives Mossad specific tasks.
AMAN	Intelligence branch of the IDF with specific responsibility for gathering military, geographic, and economic intelligence. Its prime focus remains the activities of Israel's Arab neighbors in the new millennium.
AFI	Intelligence branch of Israel's air force. Specializes in gathering signals intelligence and aerial reconnaissance. By the year 2001, the latter will be largely replaced by satellite, leaving AFI's role to provide conventional air support intelligence.
BP	Paramilitary-style border police in Israeli-occupied territories. Limited intelligence-gathering role.
NI	Naval intelligence unit of all Israeli seaborne forces. Work includes monitoring Israel's coasts and updating foreign naval resources.
GSS	Also known as Shin Bet or SHABEK. Responsible for internal security and defense of Israeli installations abroad such as embassies, consulates, and important Israeli organizations.
RPPC	Research and Political Planning Center advises prime minister of the day and his policymakers on long-term strategy.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CIA	Conducts covert operations, provides intelligence analysis for the incumbent president. Forbidden by Executive Order from conducting assassinations.
DIA	Coordinates all military intelligence for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
INR	State Department's small intelligence and research department (1999 staff approximately 500). Reports only to incumbent secretary of state.
NIO	Based in Pentagon The National Imagery Office controls all U.S. satellite intelligence gathering. Constantly "tasked" by the CIA and DIA.
NRO	Pentagon-based. Works closely with NIO and has specific responsibility for all satellite hardware and deployment.

Operates from Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. Over the years its “spy in the sky” image has given the National Security Agency a glamour once only the prerogative of the CIA. Specializes in signals intelligence, cryptography. Works closely with NIO on satellite intelligence gathering.

NSA

UNITED KINGDOM

Its 7,000 (approx. 1999) staff act as Britain’s “invisible eye in outer space.” Formally known as Government Communications Headquarters, it monitors and decodes radio, telex, fax, and e-mail traffic in and out of the United Kingdom. Regularly “tasked” by Britain’s two main intelligence services.

GCHQ

Also known as the Secret Intelligence Service. Staff of under 2,000 (1999) plan, carry out, and analyze worldwide clandestine operations and intelligence gathering.

MI6

2,000 staff (1999). Britain’s prime internal counterespionage service. Specializes in monitoring all designated subversives in the country and conducts surveillance on a large number of foreign diplomats and embassies, including, those of Israel.

MI5

RUSSIA

Glavnoye Razvedyvatelnoye Upravlenie provides Kremlin with military intelligence. Staffed with the best of the former Soviet Union’s intelligence services. Equipped with satellite surveillance.

GRU

Renamed the Federal Counter-intelligence Service, it is really the old KGB updated. Staff of 142,000 (1999). Focuses on border movement control, internal counter-intelligence, surveillance of all foreign diplomats, many journalists, and business people. Has a powerful secret police division with units in every major city in Russia.

FCS

Sluzhba Vneshnie Razvedaki runs worldwide, multi-layered intelligence-gathering operation. Specialist units gather political, industrial, and commercial intelligence. Conducts covert operations, including assassinations.

SVR

CHINA

Harmless-sounding International Liaison Department, the organization engages in a wide range of covert activities. Prime target is the United States.

ILD

Military Intelligence Department reports to the General Staff of the People’s Liberation Army. Brief includes updating all foreign military capabilities (especially the United States) and conducting satellite reconnaissance. Staff are attached to every PRC embassy and consulate.

MID

Founded in 1983, the Ministry of State Security is responsible for all counter-espionage within China. Has a fearsome reputation.

MSS

Based in Ministry of Defense, the large Science and Technology Department has two prime functions: to collate all signals traffic from the Chinese navy and overseas embassies; to target primarily U.S. firms working at the cutting edge of military and civilian technology.

STD

Nominally a news agency reporting on Chinese affairs. Has long been a cover for all other Chinese intelligence agencies engaged in clandestine activities.

FRANCE

- DAS** Miniscule (staff of under 50 in 1999). Focuses on assessing long-term defense planning work by other nations.
- DPSD** Direction du Production et de la Sécurité de la Défense. Responsible for gathering military intelligence abroad.
- DRM** At the coal-face of French satellite intelligence program. Divided into five sub-directorates. Reports directly to prime minister of the day.
- DST** The Directorate for Surveillance of the Territory is the largest and most powerful of France's intelligence agencies. Has several thousand employees. Operates both internally and overseas. Wide-ranging responsibilities include surveillance of all foreign embassies in Paris and conducting a large number of clandestine operations. Reports directly to incumbent minister of the interior.
- DGSE** Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure. Brief is to gather industrial and economic intelligence, penetrate terrorist organizations, and conduct old-fashioned spying.
- SGDN** Reports to the incumbent prime minister, the Secrétariat Général de la Défense Nationale provides an overview of military intelligence developments in countries of interest to France.

JAPAN

- NAICHO** Part of Cabinet Research Office. Has a large budget to analyse defense policies of all major nations of interest to Japan.
- MITI** Responsible for gathering commercial and economic data worldwide.
- PSIA** The Public Security Investigation Agency concentrates on counter-terrorism and counter-espionage. Primarily operates internally but increasingly by 1999 had developed a global approach.

GIDEON'S SPIES

CHAPTER 1

BEYOND THE LOOKING GLASS

When the red light blinked on the bedside telephone, a sophisticated recording device was automatically activated in the Paris apartment near the Pompidou Center in the lively Fourth Arrondissement. The light had been wired in by an Israeli communications technician who had flown from Tel Aviv to install the recorder, intended to allay any suspicions neighbors would have about the phone ringing at ungodly hours. The technician was one of the *yaholomin*, a member of a Mossad unit that dealt with secure communications in the safe houses of Israel's secret intelligence agency.

The one in Paris was like all the others. It had a bombproof front door and window glass which, like the panes in the White House, could deflect scanners. There were scores of such apartments in all the major cities in the world, either purchased outright or rented on long leases. Many were left unoccupied for lengthy periods, ready for the time they would be needed for an operation.

One had been conducted from the Paris apartment since June 1997, when Monsieur Maurice had arrived. He spoke fluent French with a slight Central-European accent. Over the years his neighbors had encountered others like him: men, and occasionally women, who arrived without warning, spent weeks or months among them, then one day were gone. Like his predecessors, Maurice had politely discouraged interest in himself or his work.

Maurice was a *katsa*, a Mossad field agent.

Physically he was nondescript; it had been said that even on an empty street he would pass virtually unnoticed. He had been recruited in what was still a halcyon time for Mossad, when its legend remained largely intact. His potential was spotted during Israel's compulsory military service, when, after boot camp, he had been drafted into air force intelligence. An aptitude for languages (he knew French, English, and German) had been noted, along with other qualities: he was good at filling gaps in a case study and drawing fact out of speculation, and he knew the limits of informed conjecture. Above all, he was a natural manipulator of people: he could persuade, cajole, and, if all else failed, threaten.

Since graduating from the Mossad training school in 1982, he had worked in Europe, South Africa, and the Far East. At various times he had done so under the guise of a businessman, a travel writer, and a salesman. He had used a number of names and biographies drawn from the library of aliases maintained by Mossad. Now he was Maurice, once more a businessman.

During his various postings he had heard of the purges back in "the Institute," the name its staff used for Mossad: corrosive rumors of disgraced and ruined careers, of changes at the top, and each incoming Mossad director with his own priorities. None of them had stemmed the loss of morale

within the service.

This had increased with the appointment of Benjamin Netanyahu as Israel's youngest prime minister. A man with a proven intelligence background, he was supposed to know how things worked on the inside; when to listen, how far to go. Instead, from the outset, Netanyahu had astonished seasoned intelligence officers by dabbling in operational details.

At first this was put down to unnecessary zeal, a new broom showing he was ready to look into every closet to make sure there were no secrets he should know. But matters had become alarming when not only the prime minister but his wife, Sara, wanted to peer behind the looking glass into Israel's intelligence world. She had invited senior Mossad officers to call on her at home and answer her questions, claiming she was following the example of Hillary Clinton's interest in the CIA.

The featureless corridors of Mossad's headquarters building in Tel Aviv had echoed with the scandalized whispers of how Sara Netanyahu had demanded to see psychological profiles of world leaders she and her husband would be entertaining or visiting. She had especially asked for details about President Bill Clinton's sexual activities. She had also asked to review dossiers on Israel's ambassadors whose embassies they would be staying in during overseas trips, expressing an interest in the cleanliness of their kitchens and how many times the bedding was changed in the guest suites.

Bemused by her requests, Mossad officers had explained to the prime minister's wife that obtaining such information was not in their intelligence-gathering remit.

Some of the veterans had been removed from the mainstream of intelligence and given responsibility for small operations that required little more than creating paperwork which went virtually unread. Realizing their careers were stagnating, they had resigned, and were now scattered across the length of Israel, keeping themselves occupied with reading, mostly history, trying to come to terms with the fact that they were also yesterday's people.

All this had made Maurice glad to be out of Tel Aviv and back in the field.

The operation that had brought him to Paris had provided another chance to show he was a methodical and careful agent, one able to deliver what was expected. In this case the task was relatively simple: there was no real physical danger, only the risk of embarrassment should the French authorities discover what he was doing and quietly deport him. The Israeli ambassador knew Maurice was in Paris but had not been told why. That was standard operational procedure: if things went wrong, the envoy could plead ignorance.

Maurice's task was to recruit an informer. This was known in the esoteric language of Mossad as a "cold approach," suborning a foreign national. After two months of patient work, Maurice believed he was now close to succeeding.

His target was Henri Paul, assistant chief of the city's Ritz Hotel, who also acted as chauffeur to its celebrity guests.

One had been Jonathan Aitken, a minister in Britain's last Conservative government. Aitken had held special responsibility for coordinating arms sales and had built up a raft of contacts with Middle Eastern weapons dealers. This had led to *World in Action*, a TV investigative program, and the *Guardian* newspaper publishing highly damaging reports about Aitken's ties to men not normally found in the company of government ministers. Aitken had sued for libel. The case had come to hinge on who had paid Aitken's hotel account when he had stayed at the Ritz to meet some of his Arab contacts. In court, Aitken had sworn on oath that his wife had settled the account.

Through a third-party source, Mossad had tipped off investigators acting for the defendants that Mrs. Aitken had not been in Paris. The case had collapsed. Mossad, who had long regarded Aitken's activities as a threat to Israel, had effectively destroyed him.

In 1999, after facing a lengthy criminal trial in London, Aitken was found guilty of perjury and

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