**EDITORIAL**

DE LIMA'S DILEMMA

The controversy between President Digong and former justice secretary and now senator Leila de Lima has heated up when De Lima made her first privileged speech at the Senate. Her privilege speech highlighted the continuous extra-judicial killings that have been recorded almost daily in the Philippines.

While it is true that there are those incidents where the Philippine National Police (PNP) was involved in their daily police operations known as "Operation Tukhang," there are also killings that appear to be suspicious, albeit, short of being characterized as summary killings.

President Digong in one of his public statements said, "I DON'T CARE" referring to what is happening in his illegal drugs campaign and all forms of criminalities. Even oligarchs are not spare from the President's desire to rid the society of legalized online gambling and mining.

It is a Herculean job for President Digong to precisely focus on his campaign on illegal drugs and criminality in the Philippines. He has shown his tight fist mark in all of his public indignation about the ills of our society, from all levels of the Philippine government as far as corruption is concerned.

The President might look a funny man, sometimes, but when he becomes serious, he shows the kind of metal he is made of, ruthless but firm in his thrust to domesticate the erring officials in the Philippine government. President Digong has also shown his soft heart for those soldiers who bravely faced the onslaught of terrorism in our own backyard in Basilan and Jolo, and even visited the wounded officers and soldiers in the government hospital.

Senator De Lima, even when she was appointed Secretary of Justice by former President Noy Aquino took 5 years to finally made her move to eradicate the "millionaire" inmates at the Bilibid Prison to contraband such as high-powered armaments, high-tech communication gadgets, millions of money hide in their "kubol" and illegal drugs.

Is there a truth to the allegation that De Lima was just trying to earn her media mileage in preparation to her candidacy as Philippine senator? And that she has known the illegal activities of the drug lords inside the blibid prison for years, and she was allegedly to be the beneficiary of millions of pesos in payola for protection?

President Digong has repeatedly said to let the Senator De Lima do her job as fiscalizer of the Duterte administration. Even if at this early stage of the President's campaign promise to eliminate illegal drugs and criminality in 3 to 6 months, the lady senator has decided to make her move by asking the Senate to conduct a public hearing on this issue. But President Digong has made it clear that he would not tolerate but instead directed PDG Bato Dela Rosa to start probing the allegations imputed against the PNP.

Let us give the President every opportunity to make good his campaign promise to eradicate illegal drugs and criminality in 3 to 6 months, and should the President fail to do his job, then let his critics advance their own way.

As the old adage says, "Rome was not built in one day."

**STRAIGHT**

By Ed Libranda

Revival of the Death Penalty

The Catholic Church in the Philippines has vehemently disagreed with the government in reviving the death penalty, and what is the business of the church in crafting laws that are primarily intended to protect the citizenry against heinous crimes, and those recidivists who, according to President Duterte are a menace to our society.

The 1986 Philippines Constitution was rewritten to abolish the death penalty, and therefore no one was executed during the term of President Corazon Aquino. But to fully enforce the law, there should be an accompanying enabling law to make the Constitutional ban on state executions.

But when President Fidel Ramos won the presidential elections against the late Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago in 1992, Ramos restored the death penalty in 1993.

Under the administration of President Gloria Arroyo, and with the passage of R.A 9346, abolished the death penalty and in turn made life imprisonment the highest form of punishment.

But why is it that in some other countries in Asia, like China, Indonesia, or Malaysia, death penalty has become a deterrent against crime especially in drug trafficking where many Filipino couriers were caught and put to jail, and then sentenced to death by executions.

No wonder Chinese shabu manufacturers would prefer to do their evil and nefarious ways in the Philippines for their own fear of being executed in their country.

President Duterte is determined to fight illegal drugs in any manner, shape or form against the drug lords and their cohorts who have shown and doubled up their propensity for committing crimes against the state.

It is true that President Duterte's term will end in 2022, being the term limitation as embodied in our Philippine Constitution on the term of the President. He has repeatedly said in his public speeches that he wants to leave a legacy to his successor that with the restoration of the death penalty, it has effectively deterred if not minimize the proliferation of the effects of illicit drugs in our society.

INNERVIEW

By Gina Villanueva, Editor-in-Chief & News Director

U.S. Taxpayers Pay for Israeli Military Bills

This is my third sequel on the United States' subservience to Israel --triggered by my curiosity (since I was in high school, about the US foreign policy on Israel).

A press briefing "Questioning Military Aid to Israel" was held on June 8, 2011, sponsored by the Council for the National Interest.

The guest speaker was Philip Giraldi, a former CIA Officer who talked about "Paying Off Israel's Military Bills."

Ariwatch.com silently abridged and copyedited for clarity, Giraldi's text.

Footnotes have been added based on the links within the original article.

Philip Giraldi said: "One good reason why Israel should not receive billions of dollars in military assistance annually is its espionage against the United States. Israel, a Socialist country where government and business work hand in hand, systematically steals American technology and use it in their own exports with considerably reduced research and development costs.

"The military technology sometimes winds up in the hands of a US adversary. For example, Israel sold advanced weapons systems to China that incorporated technology developed by American companies -- including the Python-3 air-to-air missile and the Delilah cruise missile (1) There is evidence that Israel stole Patriot missile avionics to incorporate into its Arrow system and that it used Us technology obtained in its Lavi fighter development program -- which cost the Us taxpayer about $1.5 billion -- to help the Chinese develop their J-10 fighter.

"The reality of Israeli spying is indisputable. Israel always features prominently in the annual FBI report called "Foreign Economic Collection and Industrial Espionage." The 2005 report, for example, states:

Israel has an active program to gather proprietary information within the United States. These collection activities are primarily directed at obtaining information on military systems and advanced computing applications that can be used in Israel's sizable armaments industry.

"It adds that Israel recruits spies and carries out computer intrusion to gain this information. The 2005 report concluded that the thefts eroded US military advantage, enabling foreign powers to obtain technologies that had taken years to develop. (2)

"A 1996 Defense Investigative Service report noted that Israel steals technology by exploiting the numerous co-production projects that it has with the Pentagon. "Placing Israeli nationals in key industries ... is a technique utilized with great success." (3) A General Accounting Office (GAO) examination of espionage directed against American defense and security industries, also completed in 1996, described how Israeli citizens residing in the US stole sensitive technology to manufacture artillery gun tubes, obtained classified plans for a reconnaissance system, and passed sensitive aerospace designs to unauthorized users. An Israeli company was caught monitoring a Department of Defense telecommunications system to obtain classified information, while other Israeli entities targeted avionics, missile telemetry, aircraft communications, software systems, and advanced materials and coatings used in missile re-entry.(4)

"In June 2006, a Pentagon administrative judge overruled an appeal by an Israeli who had been denied a security clearance, stating, "The Israeli government is actively engaged in military and industrial espionage." (5) Recently FBI counter intelligence officer John Cole reported that many cases of Israeli espionage are dropped under orders from the Justice Department. He provides a conservative estimate of 125 investigations into Israeli espionage involving both American citizens and Israelis that were stopped due to political pressure. (6)

"Stewart David Nozette, a U.S. government scientist who was arrested in an October 2009 FBI sting operation after offering to spy for Israel, has been waiting to go to trial on espionage charges. (Update: He was convicted in 2011.) Documents confirm that Nozette was a paid consultant for Israeli Aerospace Industries and it is believed that he passed the classified material in return for an estimated $225,00. The FBI's examination of his computer revealed that he was planning to crack into NASA and other scientists' computers to obtain more classified material. Other documents demonstrate that he was cooperating with two Israeli scientists who were administrators with Israeli Aerospace Industries, Yossi Weiss and Yossi Fishman. Nozette made several trips to Israel without reporting them, which his security clearance required him to do (7).

"Israel is set to buy twenty F-35 fighter planes, one of the most advanced fighter planes in the world. The $130 million planes would be purchased with US military assistance, meaning they would be a gift from the (largely unwilling) US taxpayer. But Israel is balking at the sale because it wants to install some of its own equipment and software in the aircraft. The Pentagon has already made some concessions but is disinclined to grant approval for all the changes because it would require giving the Israelis access to the plane's advanced avionics and computer systems.

"Israel also wants to independently maintain the aircraft, which again would require access to all systems. The reason for the standoff is that Lockheed-Martin and the Pentagon both know, judging from Israel's past behavior, that Israel will steal whatever it can if it gains access. (8)

ARI says: "Israel is our ally in the Middles East."

This is our ally?

Footnotes:

1 "Israel apologizes to U.S. over sale of technology to China" Defense News, June 2005.

Israel "apologizes" when it is caught, and carries on as before. Their apology is a puff of air designed to manipulate the victim. The article begins (bracketed comments by ARIwatch.com)

 Israel publicly apologized to the United on June 19 over arms exports to China that have drawn criticism from Washington and strained U.S.-Israeli security ties. (Not that such criticism ever has teeth to it or that the strain would ever break the tie.)

"It is impossible to hide the crisis between Israel and the United States with regard to the security industries. (They would have hit it if they could have gotten away with it?) We are doing everything possible to put it behind us," Israeli Foreign Miniter Silvan Shalom said on Israel Radio. ("everything possible" etc. means getting away scot free now, and trying not to get caught in future.)

US employees have twice "spotted Chinese technicians working secretly with one of the Israeli companies involved in the laser weapon program." A Chinese official in Israel exhibited hard knowledge of the super-secret program to build lasers to shoot down the Katyusha rockets used by Hezbollah on Israeli towns.

The article has disappeared from the Defense News website. The URL was [www.defensenews.com/story/.php?F+926633&C=mideast](http://www.defensenews.com/story/.php?F+926633&C=mideast)

2 "Annual Report to Congress on Foreign Economic Collection and Industrial Espionage -- 2005"

NCIX 2006-009 (August 2006)

Prepared by the Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive (NCIX).

[www.fas.org/irp/ops/ci/docs/2005.pdf](http://www.fas.org/irp/ops/ci/docs/2005.pdf)

3 "Defense Memo Warned of Israeli Spying; "Ethnic Ties' charge Draws ADL Rebuke"

By R. Jeffrey Smith, The Washington Post, January 30, 1996.

Selections from the article:

 A Defense Department security office issued a confidential warning to many military contractors in October that the Israeli government was "aggressively" trying to steal U.S. military and intelligence secrets, partly by using its "strong ethnic ties" to the United States to recruit spies.

 ...The warning about Israel was "canceled" and withdrawn by the Pentagon in December after senior officials decided its author had improperly singled out Jewish "ethnicity" as a specific counterintelligence concern.

 The warning..provoked a vigorous protest yesterday by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith, a prominent Jewish organization, which made the matter public and called on the Pentagon to conduct an internal investigation.

 ...Many military counterintelligence officials remain ...(worried) by the 1985 revelation that Navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Jay Pollard stole what the memo refers to as "vast quantities of classified information" on Israel's behalf over a 17-month period.

 Pollard, who is Jewish, said he was motivated partly by sympathy for Israel. The Israeli government since then has granted him citizenship and unsuccessfully appealed to senior U.S. officials for his early release from a sentence of life in prison. ...

...

The confidential memo ... said Israel "aggressively collects (U.S.) military and industrial technology," including spy satellite data, missile defense information, and data on military aircraft, tanks, missile boats, and radars.

Drawing on the example of the Pollard case and four other Israeli espionage operations in the United States, the memo said that the country's recruitment techniques include "ethnic targeting, financial aggrandizement, and identification and exploitation of individual frailties" of U.S. citizens.

"Placing Israeli nationals in key industries . . . is a technique utilized with great success," the memo said.

It alleged that Israeli agents stole "proprietary information" from an Illinois optics firms in 1986 and test equipment for a radar system in the "mid-1980s." The memo also repeated previously publicized charges - denied by Israel and never officially proven by the U.S. investigators - that Israel may have provided China with sensitive fighter jet technology obtained from the United States.

In publicizing the memo, which was first obtained by the Jewish weekly Moment Magazine, ADL director Foxman complained not only about its reference to Israeli recruitment techniques but also its harsh tone regarding an ally ...

Assistant Secretary of Defense Emmett Paige Jr., who has responsibility for military intelligence matters, replied in a letter to Foxman yesterday that "the content of this document does not reflect the official position of the Department of Defense."

He described the author as "a low-ranking individual at a field activity of the Defense Investigative Service."

"While we object to the document in general, singling out ethnicity as a matter of counterintelligence vulnerability is particularly repugnant to the Department," Paige wrote. "We have instructed appropriate personnel that similar documents will not be produced in the future."

4 "Defense Industrial Security: Weaknesses in US Security Arrangments with Foreign-Owned Defense Contractors" (1996) by the General Accounting Office, reported in "Pentagon, GAO Report Israeli Espionage and Illegal Technology Retransfer" by Shawn Twing.

The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, April 1996

 ... two reports from the Department of Defense and one from the General Accounting Office (GAO) highlighted Israel's espionage activities against the United States and Israeli thefts of U.S. military technology secrets, and confirmed that Israel has illegally retransferred U.S. technology from the largely U.S.-funded Lavi fighter program to China.

[www.wrmea.com/component/content/article/1951-pentagon-gao-report-israeli-espionage-and-illegal-technology-retransfer-.html](http://www.wrmea.com/component/content/article/1951-pentagon-gao-report-israeli-espionage-and-illegal-technology-retransfer-.html)

5 "Decision of Administrative Judge Roger E. Willmeth" ISCR Case No. 02-27647.

[www.dod.gov/dodgc/doha/industrial/02-27647.h1.html](http://www.dod.gov/dodgc/doha/industrial/02-27647.h1.html)

6 Scott Horton Interview of Sibel Edmonds and John M. Cole, October 26, 2009

[www.antiwar.com/radio/2009/10/26/sibel-edmonds-and-john-m-cole](http://www.antiwar.com/radio/2009/10/26/sibel-edmonds-and-john-m-cole)

7 "U.S. Jew indicted as possible Israel spy"

By Yossi Melman Haaretz Newspaper, Jan. 21, 2010.

"Court documents reveal ties between Israel Aerospace Industries and the man accused of spying for Israel."

[www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/u-s-jew-indicted-as-possible-israel-spy-1.265740](http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/u-s-jew-indicted-as-possible-israel-spy-1.265740)

8 "Pentagon refusing Israeli F-35 demands"

The Jerusalem Post, Jan. 20, 2010

[www.fr.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite](http://www.fr.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite)?

pagename=JPost/JPArticle/ShowFull&cid=1263147932342

Israel Is No Ally, But Is It Even A Friend?

Still, on Israel, I wish to share with you excerpts of a similar speech of Philip Giraldi on March 7, 2014, that he edited himself, for brevity. He delivered it at the National Press Center in Washington at the National Summit to Reassess the Israel-US Special Relationship. It was broadcast live by C-Span and is still available on their site. We have quoted some aspects of his speech, preceding this sub-title.

It touches, among other things, the USS Liberty attack that claimed the lives of 34 sailors and civilians, and the 9/11 false flag by Mossad.

"Inside the beltway types and the media constantly refer to Israel as an ally, which it is not. Israeli soldiers have never fought beside American troops and to be an ally you need an actual alliance on paper. No such legally binding document exists between Washington and Tel Aviv. Sycophants in Congress are also fond of calling Israel Washington's best or closest friend in spite of the fact that it does actual damage to the United States through using its considerable access to the government and media to promote policies that are good neither for the US nor for Israel itself. Recalling the expression that a friend does not let a friend drive drunk, one might observe that the United States has been driving drunk for quite some time, dangerous behavior that has to some extent been encouraged by Israel and its many supporters in Washington.

"Israel might or might not have been an actual enabler of the disastrous American invasion of Iraq but it is undeniably true that the Pentagon officials who contributed to the "Clean Break" recommendations prepared for Benjamin Netanyahu in 1996 were subsequently behind the rush to war and the forgery of phony intelligence that fed the process. And Iran is Iraq redux. If Washington goes to war with Tehran in the near future it will not be because Iranians actually threaten America, it will be because Israel and its powerful lobby in the US have succeeded in creating an essentially false casus belli to bring about such action.

"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who once commented that 9/11 was good for Israel, has repeatedly sought to commit the United States to draw red lines that would narrow options for the White House and de facto require it to take military action against Iran. Congress is meanwhile advancing legislation that would commit the United States to intervene militarily in support of a unilateral Israeli attack, meaning that Israel could easily be empowered to make the decision on whether or not the US goes to war.

"Nothing relating to Israel is quite like how the US interacts with other countries. Direct grants, forgiveness of loans, charitable exemptions, and Pentagon co-production schemes all contribute to the dollar costs that go to support Israel, measures that are not in place for any other nation. Congress also recently approved by a 410 to 1 vote the United States Israel Strategic Partnership Act which grants to Israel an exemption from the reciprocity mandated by the so-called visa waiver program. Israelis will be able to travel freely to the United States while their government will be allowed to refuse entry to American citizens, a privilege granted to no other visa waiver country. One congressman has even introduced a bill to cut off federal funding for any academic organization that engages in boycotting Israel. Boycotting other countries is apparently okay.

"Israel involves itself in American elections, most recently on behalf of Mitt Romney, it has corrupted our Congress, its head of government publicly humiliates our own head of state, its government ministers insult and ridicule John Kerry, and its intelligence officers actually provide alarmist and inaccurate private briefings for American Senators on Capitol Hill. No other country interferes in our system in as many ways as Israel.

"That Israel, accustomed to behaving with impunity towards its alleged friend and patron in Washington, might manufacture a pretext reminiscent of the Lavon Affair in Alexandria Egypt in 1954 of the false flag attack carried out on the USS Liberty in 1967 that killed 34 US sailors and civilians to draw the US into a new conflict is not unthinkable. Israel also strongly supports using force to intervene in Syria, a proposition that is opposed overwhelmingly by the American public. In short, Israel has no reluctance to use its enormous political and media clout in the US to pressure successive administrations to conform to its own foreign and security policy views. (Thank you for this unvarnished truth, Mr. Giraldi - GV)

"One other very good reason why Israel should not receive a free pass on its behavior, as well as billions of dollars in military assistance annually, is its persistent espionage against the United States. American friends of Israel stole enriched uranium from a Pennsylvania refinery to create the country's secret nuclear arsenal. More recently we have learned how Arnon Milchan, a Hollywood producer born in Israel, arranged for the illegal purchase of 800 nuclear triggers. He picked up his first Oscar on March 2nd without any interference from the FBI.

"The existence of a large scale Israeli spying network at the time of 9/11 has been widely reported, incorporating Israeli companies in New Jersey and Florida as well as hundreds of "art students" nationwide. Five Israelis from one of the companies were observed celebrating against the backdrop of the twin towers going down, the so-called "Dancing Shlomos." Did Israel know in advance about 9/11? Many in the intelligence community believe that it certainly had knowledge of some aspects relating to the terrorist attack. (Sidebar by GV: Former Italian President Francesco Cossiga, who revealed the existence of Operation Gladio, has told Italy's oldest and most widely read newspaper that the 9/11 terrorist attacks were a false flag attack run by the Mossad and the CIA and that this was common knowledge among intelligence agencies. In what translates awkwardly into English, Cossiga told the newspaper Correire della Sera: "All democratic circles in America and of Europe, especially those of the Italian centre-left, now know that the disastrous attack was planned and realized by the American CIA and Mossad with the help of the Zionist world, to place the blame on Arab countries and to persuade the Western powers to intervene in Iraq and Afghanistan.")

"So, is Israel an ally of the United States? The answer is most definitely no. Is it even a friend? Well, I suppose there are all kinds of friends in the world but if you judge Israel by its record on how it interacts with the American government and people I think the answer would also have to be no." (Email: gividiva@gmail.com