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## Israelis Seen as Source of 'Carlos' Threat

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WASHINGTON—Israeli intelligence, not the Reagan Administration, was a major source of some of the most dramatic published reports about a Libyan assassination team allegedly sent to kill President Reagan and other top U.S. officials, The Times has learned.

The purpose of circulating details of the affair, such as assertions believed to come from Israeli sources that the international terrorist known as "Carlos" was in command of "hit squads" and that such teams were already in Mexico or Canada, was not immediately clear. Accounts of Carlos' involvement were carried in newspaper and television reports earlier this week.

### 'Wanted an Excuse'

But, Israel, which informed sources said has "wanted an excuse to go in and bash Libya for a long time," may be trying to build American public support for a strike against Libyan strongman Moammar Kadafi, these sources said.

An Israeli embassy spokesman here said he had no comment on the report of Israeli involvement.

Israel is not alone in wishing to curb Kadafi, of course. Senior political officials of the Reagan Administration also have looked hard for ways to undermine the Libyan leader, who is viewed here as a megalomaniac who uses his country's oil revenues to support terrorism around the world.

American officials insist that the specific details on the assassination plot that Israel fed to the news media had little effect on U.S. government decisions, although they say the dramatic details heightened public anxiety much more than the evidence merited.

Moreover, Reagan Administration sources themselves have said the United States has "unequivocal" evidence that Kadafi had teams trained to kill U.S. leaders, including U.S. diplomats abroad. And U.S. sources contributed to reports that additional but somewhat less conclusive evidence came from a defector about the dispatch of those hit squads toward the United States and the weapons they carried.

The Administration's decision to invalidate U.S. passports for travel to Libya, which is spurring an exodus of American employees there, and a U.S. diplomatic note to Kadafi promising "severe retribution" if Libyan teams do kill any U.S. officials, were prepared before last weekend's rash of alarmist stories, officials said.

### 'Hype' in Media

Israeli information, particularly on the alleged role of Carlos (whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez) in the plot, was part of what one high official earlier in the week called "the hype" given the story in the U.S. media.

One investigative source identified the Israelis as the distributors of the Carlos story. Another said the Israelis had "jumped on the bandwagon," with newsmen of several media organizations tipped at the same time.

It was one day after the news accounts appeared that the U.S. government received its first and apparently only report about a possible Carlos role.

### Reports on Mexico

Israel also was cited as being the source for reports this week that assassination squads were in Mexico waiting for an opportunity to cross into this country. Some U.S. officials have complained that such reports were more specific—and alarming—than the available evidence would warrant.

Chief among the possibilities is that the Israelis wish to intensify the U.S. public's concern about Kadafi so that Americans would support a strike at Libya, perhaps at Kadafi's Russian-supplied nuclear research reactor.

After Israeli warplanes bombed Baghdad in June to destroy Iraq's nuclear reactor, Menachem Begin, Israel's prime minister, charged that the Iraqis were planning to divert nuclear materials from the reactor to build an atomic bomb. "We shall not allow any enemy to develop weapons of mass destruction against us," he said.

The Libyan reactor is smaller and less threatening than that destroyed in Iraq, experts here said, but it could provide the rationale for a raid that might destabilize Kadafi's regime. Falling oil revenues already have produced signs of unrest in Libya.

Several years ago the French and Egyptian governments had tentative talks on an effort to overthrow Kadafi, according to reports. No detailed planning was done.

Reagan Administration officials expected to be asked to support the move if it materialized, but the electoral defeat of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing in the spring, followed by the assassination of Anwar Sadat of Egypt, ended the scheme. Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. initially sought ways to neutralize Kadafi but was persuaded that the most promising route was to "bleed" his forces occupying Chad; Kadafi suffered more than 1,000 dead in that neighboring country before abruptly withdrawing his troops last month.