

December 2023

## Chancellor's Update

## Follow the Money

The following is taken by Kit Klarenberg. The one below is from the Times of Israel of 10/29/23 by Sharon Wrobel.

As many people have said over the years just follow the money. Today people are following the money in reference to the Vatican's 100 million or more scandal involving the Vatican hotel in London. But more important is the money game that is going on in the Middle East, the "War".

"Since 2015, Britain has pumped <u>vast sums</u> annually into a "Middle East Peace Process Program."

"In an <u>official summary</u> of the effort, lofty rhetoric about protecting the vulnerable, upholding humanitarian law, and working for peace abounds. Yet its core – if not sole – objective is made very clear from the start. Namely, constructing institutions within the Palestinian Authority (PA) that are "ready for statehood, [and] supportive of UK values and interests."

"Leaked files reviewed by *The Cradle* show these British initiatives have a "particular emphasis on the security sector," which is understandable. After all, it is arguably only through maintaining a powerful and repressive security apparatus that the corrupt, unelected, Israeli-directed PA can remain in power.

"These documents show that London plays an intimate role in shaping, managing, and staffing the PA's Security Forces and its methods of repression – by way of Adam Smith International, a controversial British government contractor.

"Since 2012, the company has reaped millions "building the capacity of the Palestinian Authority Security Forces," and "discrete areas of the Ministry of Interior," in order to "professionalize" the Authority's other "security institutions."

"Conducted primarily in the context of the United States Security Coordinator (USSC) mission to Israel and the Palestinian Authority, through a nexus of "embedded mentors," the British firm provides "technical assistance, training, and on-the-job guidance" to different Security Force departments, including the Palestinian civil police, intelligence agencies, and "civil protection" units.

"Strategic advice" is also provided directly to the US Security Coordinator "on the institutional development of the police sector," while the PA's Media Centre receives assistance in "strategic communications" campaigns to "support their programme for achieving statehood by maintaining public support" – in other words information warfare operations, designed to manipulate and pacify Palestinians. This is 'Not the easiest of tasks'...

"Israel announced on Sunday that 12 licenses have been awarded to six companies, including British multinational oil and gas firm BP plc and Italian energy giant Eni, to explore and discover additional offshore natural gas fields.

"Energy Minister Israel Katz said that the investment commitment by large natural gas exploration companies during this period as Israel is at war with the Hamas terror group is a sign of confidence in Israel's resilience.

"The announcement comes after Israel decided to temporarily shut down the Tamar offshore natural gas field on October 9, two days after the Hamas massacre, which saw some 2,500 terrorists burst across the border into Israel from the Gaza Strip by land, air and sea, killing some 1,400 people and seizing some 230 hostages of all ages under the cover of a deluge of thousands of rockets fired at Israeli towns and cities.

"The winning companies have committed to unprecedented investments in natural gas exploration over the coming three years, in the hope of discovering new natural gas reserves," said Katz.

"The discoveries would "strengthen Israel's energy security, international ties, lower the cost of living and provide energy support to accelerate the transition of the economy to renewable energies," Katz added.

"Major offshore discoveries, including the Leviathan field, which contains an **estimated 22 trillion cubic feet of gas,** have attracted large oil and gas explorers, such as US energy giant Chevron to partner with local companies.

"Back in 2020, Israel started pumping natural gas to Egypt from the Leviathan gas field. In June of last year, Israel, Egypt and the European Union signed a memorandum of understanding that could see Israel export its natural gas to the bloc for the first time."

These 22 trillion feet of gas are the reason for the fighting in the Middle East more than any other reason given.

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