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## COVENANT WITNESS DOCUMENT

DOCUMENT NO. 76

### PHILIP GIRALDI:

## A COVENANT WITNESS BEFORE CONGRESS

*Manufactured Wars, Intelligence Forgery, and the Capture of U.S. Foreign Policy*

Issued: May 15, 2026

<b>TO:</b>	Members of the United States Congress — Senate and House of Representatives
<b>FROM:</b>	Elder Kepha Arcemont, Founder — Miqdash Bethel Covenant Institution, Talisheek, Louisiana
<b>RE:</b>	The Testimony of Philip Giraldi — Former CIA Counterterrorism Officer — on Manufactured Intelligence, Iran War Planning, and Foreign Policy Capture
<b>STANDARD:</b>	<i>Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15 — Two or Three Witnesses</i>

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## PREAMBLE: THE EVIDENTIARY STANDARD

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This document is issued under the covenant evidentiary standard established in *Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15*:

DEVARIM19:15

*"One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth; at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established."*

Every substantive claim presented in this document is corroborated by a minimum of two independent witnesses — credentialed intelligence professionals, academic scholars, or government-documented findings. Uncorroborated assertions are plainly identified as such. Congress is urged to weigh testimony not by the political convenience of the speaker, but by the evidentiary weight of what can be substantiated.

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## PART I: WHO IS PHILIP GIRALDI — THE WITNESS IDENTIFIED

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Philip Giraldi (born c. 1946) is a former counterterrorism specialist and military intelligence officer of the United States Central Intelligence Agency. He holds a Bachelor of Arts with Honors from the University of Chicago, and both a Master of Arts and a Ph.D. in European history from the University of London. His operational languages include German, Italian, Spanish, and Turkish — languages that reflect nearly two decades of field deployment across the theaters most relevant to the intelligence matters addressed herein.

CREDENTIAL	DETAIL
CIA Service	18–19 years; counterterrorism specialist; field deployments in Turkey, Italy, Germany, and Spain
Field Positions	Deputy Base Chief, Istanbul field office (late 1980s); CIA Chief of Base, 1992 Barcelona Olympics; among first Americans into Afghanistan, December 2001
Academic Formation	B.A. (Honors) — University of Chicago; M.A. & Ph.D., European History — University of London
Post-CIA Work	President, San Marco International (security/risk consulting); Partner, Cannistraro Associates (co-founded with former CIA CT Chief Vincent Cannistraro)
Current Role	Executive Director, Council for the National Interest — advocates even-handed U.S. Middle East policy (est. 2010)
VIPS Membership	Founding member, Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity — coalition of former CIA, DIA, NSA, and military intelligence officers
Policy Advisory	Foreign policy adviser to Rep. Ron Paul, 2008 presidential primary
Media Appearances	Good Morning America, 60 Minutes, MSNBC, Fox News, NPR, BBC, CBC, Al-Jazeera, Al-Arabiya

This is not a partisan ideologue. This is an officer who spent nearly two decades inside the machinery of American intelligence — in the field, not behind a desk — in the theaters that produced the crises now before Congress. His testimony demands a hearing on its merits.

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## PART II: MANUFACTURED INTELLIGENCE — THE IRAQ WAR FORGERIES

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### A. GIRALDI'S TESTIMONY

In 2005, Giraldi wrote in *The American Conservative* that the Italian Niger/yellowcake documents — the documents claiming Iraq had sought uranium from Niger, which served as a critical pillar of the Bush administration's case for war — were forgeries. He identified specific actors: former CIA officers, **Michael Ledeen**, and officials inside the Pentagon's Office of Special Plans under Undersecretary **Douglas Feith**. He further wrote that officials in that office had forged the 'Habbush letter,' allegedly from Saddam Hussein's intelligence director, to corroborate the uranium claim.

Giraldi also disclosed in the same period that the outing of CIA officer **Valerie Plame** was not merely political retaliation — it was an effort to suppress the exposure of this very forgery operation. When Plame's husband, Ambassador Joseph Wilson, published his July 2003 *New York Times* op-ed denouncing the Niger documents as false, the administration's destruction of Plame's cover followed within days.

### B. CORROBORATING WITNESSES

WITNESS  
IGIRALDI/  
TAC2005

Niger/yellowcake documents were forgeries. Key actors: Office of Special Plans (Feith), Michael Ledeen, SISMI (Italian intelligence). The Habbush letter was fabricated by Pentagon operatives to falsely implicate Iraq in nuclear acquisition.

WITNESS  
2ROCCO  
MARTINOFINANC  
IALTIMES2005

Rocco Martino — the former SISMI officer who physically delivered the Niger dossier — admitted to the *Financial Times* that both the Italian and American governments were behind the eventual forgery of the Niger dossier as part of a disinformation operation. Authentic stolen documents were mixed with fabricated material to establish false authenticity.

WITNESS  
3UN /  
IAEA2003

The United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency examined the Niger documents shortly after President Bush's January 2003 State of the Union address and pronounced them crude forgeries. The IAEA's finding preceded the U.S. invasion by weeks — yet the war proceeded.

WITNESS  
4SENATE  
INTELCOMMITTEE  
E2004

The U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (2004) concluded that the Intelligence Community's pre-war assessments on Iraqi WMD were overstated, not supported by underlying intelligence, and that analysts were pressured. The Curveball defector — the primary source for biological weapons claims — was later confirmed by the CIA itself to have been fabricating his testimony.

The Devarim 19:15 standard is satisfied with compound witnesses on this matter. **The Iraq WMD case was manufactured.** Giraldi was not the first to say so — he was the first inside the CIA to say so publicly, by name, with his credentials intact.

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## PART III: IRAN WAR PLANNING — CHENEY'S NUCLEAR CONTINGENCY

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In August 2005, Giraldi published a disclosure in *The American Conservative* that Vice President Dick Cheney had instructed STRATCOM (U.S. Strategic Command) to prepare a contingency plan to be deployed in response to a '9/11-type terrorist attack' on the United States — a plan that included a large-scale air assault on Iran employing both conventional **and tactical nuclear weapons**. The stated justification for the nuclear component was that Iranian targets were hardened or deep underground. Critically: the plan was not conditional on Iran being responsible for the triggering attack. Iran could be bombed with nuclear weapons as a response to an attack it did not commit.

WITNESS  
1GIRALDI /  
TACAUGUST  
2005

Cheney directed STRATCOM to prepare nuclear strike plans against Iran — executable following any major terrorist event on U.S. soil, regardless of Iranian involvement.

WITNESS  
2SEYMOUR  
HERSHTHE NEW  
YORKER2006

Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist Seymour Hersh — drawing on separate intelligence community sources — independently published findings in *The New Yorker* that the Bush administration had active war planning against Iran underway, including consideration of tactical nuclear options against hardened underground facilities. Hersh's reporting corroborates Giraldi's timeline and substance from an entirely independent source network.

WITNESS 3VIPS  
LETTER2007

Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity — including Giraldi — transmitted formal memoranda to the White House warning that intelligence was being manipulated toward war with Iran, following the identical pattern that had produced the Iraq war. The VIPS letter of 2007 stated explicitly: 'We are concerned that you may not be getting straight intelligence on Iran.'

Congress must ask: **Who in the legislative body knew of these contingency plans? Was Congress briefed? If not, why not? If so, why was no action taken?** The constitutional war power rests with Congress. Nuclear strike planning against a nation that had not attacked the United States, executable without congressional authorization, represents a foundational breach of the separation of powers.

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## PART IV: THE LOBBY QUESTION — POLICY CAPTURE AND CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

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This section addresses the most contested dimension of Giraldi's body of work: his assertion that a network of neoconservative policy actors — disproportionately connected to Israeli governmental interests — has systematically steered U.S. foreign policy toward wars that serve Israel's regional objectives at the cost of American lives and treasure. This covenant document applies the Devarim 19:15 standard rigorously here, distinguishing what is corroborated from what is contested, and what falls outside the bounds of legitimate witness.

### A. WHAT IS CORROBORATED BY INDEPENDENT WITNESSES

WITNESS  
IMEARSHEIMER&  
WALTHARVARD /  
U.  
CHICAGO2006-2  
007

**John Mearsheimer** (University of Chicago, R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor) and **Stephen Walt** (Harvard Kennedy School, Belfer Professor of International Affairs) published 'The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy' — first in the *London Review of Books* (March 2006), then as a full-length book (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007). Their central argument: pro-Israel lobbying organizations, chiefly AIPAC, wield influence over both Congress and the Executive Branch disproportionate to America's strategic interests, and the policies this lobby has encouraged are 'in neither America's national interest nor Israel's long-term interest.'

WITNESS 2LRB /  
MEARSHEIMER&  
WALT —  
CONGRESS

Mearsheimer and Walt documented the lobby's influence specifically in Congress: 'Where Israel is concerned, potential critics fall silent. One reason is that some key members are Christian Zionists like Dick Armey, who said in September 2002: "My No.

1 priority in foreign policy is to protect Israel." One might think that the No. 1 priority for any congressman would be to protect America.'

WITNESS  
3PHILIP  
ZELIKOWFORMER  
EXECUTIVE  
DIR.9/11  
COMMISSION

Philip Zelikow — executive director of the 9/11 Commission and former National Security Council official — stated in 2002 that the real reason for the Iraq War was protection of Israel: 'The real threat from Iraq is not a threat to the United States. The real threat is to Israel.' Zelikow later indicated he regretted making this observation publicly. Giraldi has cited Zelikow as one of the few government insiders to acknowledge what he had himself witnessed operationally.

WITNESS  
4GIRALDIVIPS /  
MULTIPLEPUBLIC  
ATIONS

In his 2019 article on the Trump administration's Iran posture, Giraldi described the war threat as 'falsified and contrived' by National Security Adviser John Bolton in collaboration with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu — a claim consistent with subsequent reporting on the same period from *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and former Secretary of Defense James Mattis's own account of policy disagreements over Iran.

## B. WHAT THIS COVENANT DOCUMENT DOES NOT ADOPT

The Devarim 19:15 evidentiary standard requires this document to apply rigorous distinctions. Giraldi's 2017 article titled 'America's Jews Are Driving America's Wars' commits a category error that this document does not ratify: **attributing the policy conduct of a specific political-lobbying network to an entire ethnic and religious people.**

A covenant witness distinguishes between the documented conduct of identifiable actors (AIPAC, neoconservative think tanks, specific named individuals) and the collective attribution of that conduct to the Jewish people as a whole. The Torah itself makes this distinction: the prophets of Yisra'el indicted specific kings, priests, and ruling classes — not the nation as a collective entity devoid of internal diversity. *Yirmiyahu (Jeremiah)*, *Amos*, and *Yechezkel (Ezekiel)* each named the guilty specifically and called the righteous within Yisra'el to account — never collapsing all into one undifferentiated mass.

Giraldi's legitimate intelligence critique of a **specific political network** is substantiated. His broader ethnic framing exceeds the evidentiary standard and is explicitly rejected here. Congress may — and must — examine the documented influence of AIPAC and neoconservative foreign policy actors without accepting collective attribution as its frame.

## PART V: VETERAN INTELLIGENCE PROFESSIONALS FOR SANITY — THE INSTITUTIONAL WITNESS

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Giraldi does not stand alone. The Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS) — of which he is a founding member — represents a collective institutional witness from inside the American intelligence apparatus. Fellow members include:

OFFICER	AGENCY / ROLE	KEY TESTIMONY
Ray McGovern	CIA Analyst, 27 years; briefed Presidents including Reagan	Co-founder of VIPS; testified that pre-Iraq-war intelligence was systematically manipulated by political leadership
William Binney	NSA Technical Director, 36 years	NSA's surveillance programs far exceeded post-9/11 authorization; metadata collection was warrantless and unconstitutional
Larry Johnson	CIA / State Dept. Counterterrorism	Corroborated Plame outing as politically motivated suppression of WMD forgery exposure
Thomas Drake	NSA Senior Executive	Whistleblower; confirmed mass unconstitutional surveillance programs; prosecuted under the Espionage Act
Vincent Cannistraro	CIA Counterterrorism Chief (ret.)	Giraldi's partner in Cannistraro Associates; jointly reported on Turkey-Israel-Kurd intelligence dynamics in 2004

In September 2015, Giraldi and 27 other VIPS steering committee members wrote formally to the President challenging the release of a book that sought to rebut the Senate Intelligence Committee's findings on CIA torture. The pattern is consistent: VIPS has functioned as a standing institutional corrective to official narratives across administrations of both parties.

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## PART VI: COVENANT WITNESS VERDICT — WHAT CONGRESS MUST RECKON WITH

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The covenant witness standard having been applied, this document delivers the following findings to the Members of Congress of the United States:

- **FINDING 1 — The Iraq WMD Case Was Manufactured:** Philip Giraldi's 2005 testimony on the Niger/yellowcake forgeries is corroborated by Rocco Martino's admission to the *Financial Times*, the IAEA's contemporaneous finding of crude forgery, and the Senate Intelligence Committee's 2004 conclusion. Congress authorized a war on the basis of fabricated evidence. This has never been formally adjudicated.
- **FINDING 2 — Nuclear Strike Planning Against Iran Was Executed Without Congressional Authorization:** Giraldi's 2005 disclosure of Cheney's STRATCOM directive — corroborated by Hersh's parallel reporting — reveals that nuclear strike options against a nation that had not attacked the United States were prepared and held ready. The constitutional war power belongs to Congress. This directive was never submitted to Congress for authorization.
- **FINDING 3 — Foreign Policy Capture Is Documented, Not Conspiracy:** The documented influence of pro-Israel lobbying organizations on U.S. Congressional behavior is not a fringe claim. It is the conclusion of Mearsheimer and Walt (Harvard/University of Chicago, 2006–2007), has been acknowledged by former senior officials including Philip Zelikow, and is reflected in documented Congressional voting patterns and fundraising data. Congress must ask itself whether its Middle East policy votes reflect the interests of American citizens or the interests of foreign-aligned lobbying networks.
- **FINDING 4 — The Silencing of Credentialed Voices Is Itself Witness:** Philip Giraldi was fired from *The American Conservative* — a publication founded on the tradition of Pat Buchanan's anti-interventionist conservatism — for making arguments about foreign policy capture that Buchanan himself had made in 2002. The systematic exclusion of credentialed intelligence veterans from mainstream foreign policy discourse serves the interests of those whose conduct they critique. Silence imposed on a witness is itself testimony.
- **FINDING 5 — Ethnic Attribution Is Rejected; Policy Accountability Is Demanded:** This covenant institution does not adopt Giraldi's collective ethnic framing. The Torah condemns collective guilt and demands individual accountability. What this document demands, consistent with the Devarim 19:15 standard, is that Congress examine **specific named actors, specific documented organizations, and specific verifiable funding streams** — not ethnic communities as a whole.

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## COVENANT CONCLUSION

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The witness of Philip Giraldi — weighed against the Devarim 19:15 standard, corroborated by independent intelligence professionals, academic scholars, and government-documented findings — constitutes a body of testimony that the United States Congress has not formally confronted. American men and women have died in wars whose predicate intelligence was fabricated. The constitutional war power has been exercised through executive directives that bypassed Congress. Foreign lobbying networks have exerted documented influence over the legislative body sworn to serve the American people.

This institution calls upon every Member of Congress to read this document, to examine the corroborating sources cited herein, and to ask the questions that the intelligence community and the foreign policy establishment have penalized others for asking. The evidentiary record is assembled. The witnesses have spoken. What remains is the will to hear.

COVENANT  
INSTITUTION

*"Do not add to the word that I command you, nor subtract from it — to keep the commandments of Yahweh (יהוה) your Elohim (אֱלֹהִים) that I command you."  
— Devarim (Deuteronomy) 4:2*

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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All documents produced under the Devarim 19:15 two-or-three-witness evidentiary standard.