



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Alexandria, Virginia
January 20, 2006

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia announced that Lawrence A. Franklin, age 59, from Kearneysville, West Virginia, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III on three felony counts: conspiracy to communicate national defense information to persons not entitled to receive it; conspiracy to communicate classified information to an agent of a foreign government; and the unlawful retention of national defense information. Franklin was sentenced to a total of 151 months in prison and ordered to pay a fine of \$10,000.

Mr. Franklin, a former Iran desk officer in the Office of the Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Alexandria on August 4, 2005 along with Steven J. Rosen and Keith Weissman, former employees of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) in Washington, D.C. The three were charged with conspiring with each other to unlawfully disclose classified national defense information. Franklin was also charged in the indictment with conspiracy to communicate classified information to an agent of a foreign government. Three additional substantive counts in the indictment, related to Franklin's disclosure of classified national defense information to Rosen and Weissman were dismissed by the government under the terms of his plea agreement. The charge relating to his unlawful retention of national defense information stemmed from an indictment previously filed in the Northern District of West Virginia and made a part of Franklin's earlier guilty plea in Alexandria.

US Attorney Paul J. McNulty stated: "The defendant violated his pledge to protect classified information. In doing so, he compromised national security and the system that protects it."

The case was investigated by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Kevin V. Di Gregory and W. Neil Hammerstrom, Jr. and Trial Attorney Thomas Reilly of the Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice.

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