

Diamond Intelligence Briefing

By Chaim Even-Zohar



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Goodbye...

Thanksgiving 2017

Dear Readers and Friends,

Last week we celebrated Thanksgiving. Dating back to the 1600s, the celebration is a feast to give thanks for the fruits of the previous harvest. It's the time to count our blessings. As an American-educated Israeli journalist, I reflected today on the Watergate scandal close to fifty years ago. The year was 1972. It was then that I started my journalistic career as a graduate student press intern in the U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C. Our contemporary heroes were the investigative journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein whose articles changed American history. As journalism students, we all dreamt to be so lucky – to be trusted by a “Deep Throat” (the pseudonym given to the secret informant who provided the information that steered the journalists in the right direction).

In the early 1980s, looking for challenges, I was fascinated by the wonderful, yet opaque and secretive, diamond industry. Back then, it was strongly controlled by an, at times, quite ruthless cartel. I saw an opportunity to join a team pioneering a new kind of investigative diamond trade journalism, not dependent on the “good will” of advertisers or easily influenced by vested interests in the diamond community.

In these earliest years, the DIB was airmailed from Switzerland to subscribers; the editorial staff worked with telex, and computers were huge boxes accommodating a small floppy disk.... When, over the years, the fax, internet and social media communications evolved, DIB adapted its formats – and, based on readership surveys and feedback, the “Briefs” became a “Briefing” some years ago, exclusively written by yours truly.

But forty-five years of deadlines, fact-checking, working around the clock, being subjected to considerable legal and physical threats, and constantly on the road all come at a price.

There comes a time when one needs to listen to family, doctors, friends and – especially – to colleagues. This ever-more arduous journalism work now belongs to a dynamic younger generation. The industry has moved from the West to the East. The focus of the hard news has moved accordingly, and I expect the DIB to move to Asia. I decided to heed the advice of my colleagues and loved ones. As a grandfather in my 70s, I realize that rearranging my remaining life's priorities is long overdue.

Therefore, today, I am reluctantly not only “signing off” but also “signing out.” I look back with gratitude for having had the opportunity to present a unique service to the industry, which, I hope, has contributed somewhat to its well-being. It has been a remarkable experience, and, indeed, I count my blessings. I must now let go... but not without thanking all of you from the bottom of my heart for the trust, confidence and friendship that I have enjoyed from so many stakeholders for so many years.

A special “thank you” to our devoted staff throughout the years. I wish each and every one of you godspeed and the best of success for yourself and your families. At the end of the day, that's what really counts.

Yours,

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Editor and Publisher
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