

Putin, Palestinian President Abbas Share KGB Past, Says Soviet Document

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Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas **Seth Wenig / AP**

Palestinian Authority
President
Mahmoud Abbas
may have been a KGB
agent, the New
York Times newspaper [reported Wednesday](#).

A 1983 document from
a British archive
makes
one reference to Abbas, identifying him
by the code name "Mole" and
"KGB agent." The document provides no information on
how, where or when he was recruited

by the Soviet intelligence agency.

The document's emergence coincides with a Russian attempt to broker new peace talks between Israel and Palestine. A

Russian envoy

met with

Israeli Prime

Minister Benyamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem this week.

Two researchers at the Truman Institute at Jerusalem's Hebrew University — Gideon Remez and

Isabella Ginor —

discovered the document and disclosed it to Israeli television.

They believe that Abbas and Putin's past work with the KGB

could be significant in attempts

to arrange an

Israeli-Palestinian summit.

Putin served in the KGB between 1975 and 1991, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Remez said that they are not attempting to sabotage potential talks.

However, their

distrust

of

Russian involvement

was the main reason for

the timing of their public

disclosure, the New York Times reported.

After Israeli media reported

on the document

, Palestinian officials quickly dismissed it as

an attempt to slander their leader. They have also pointed out that the Palestine Liberation Movement actively cooperated with the U.S.S.R. and that Abbas was in

contact with Moscow

in his role as leader of the Palestinian-Soviet friendship foundation.

The document naming Abbas

is one of thousands handed over to British intelligence

by former K

GB archivist Vasily Mitrokhin.

Mitrokhin, disillusioned with Soviet repression, painstakingly copied the KGB documents

by hand over many years, turning them

over

to

Britain after the fall of the Soviet Union.

The documents form a valuable resource for analysts and historians known as the [Mitrokhin archive](#).

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2016/09/08/soviet-archive-shows-mahmoud-abbas-was-a-kgb-agent-a55265>