FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 11, 2010

Contact: Jason Warburg
(831) 647-3516
jason.warburg@miis.edu

MIIS Expert Authors Provocative Book on Israel’s Nuclear Policy
Avner Cohen of Center for Nonproliferation Studies Exposes The Worst-Kept Secret

Monterey, CA – Senior Research Associate Avner Cohen of the Monterey Institute’s James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) has authored what Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Rhodes calls a “brilliant, compelling, and definitive” study of one of the Middle East’s most controversial issues—Israel’s nuclear policy.

The Worst-Kept Secret: Israel’s Bargain with the Bomb (Columbia University Press, October 6) is a follow-up to Cohen’s widely praised 1999 book Israel and the Bomb, which detailed the development and implementation of Israel’s policy of “nuclear opacity” or purposeful ambiguity about its nuclear weapons capabilities. The Worst-Kept Secret delves further into Israel’s status as “the only nuclear-armed state that refuses to acknowledge its possession of the bomb” and the implications of that approach for both governmental policy and societal behavior in the Middle East’s only liberal democracy.

Along with a thorough appraisal of the policy's strategic merits, Cohen critiques its undemocratic flaws, arguing that the policy has become obsolete and undermines both domestic democratic values and international nuclear norms. He points out also the irony that Iran appears to be imitating Israel’s intentionally enigmatic reactions to questions about its nuclear capabilities.

“Avner Cohen is one of the world’s foremost authorities on nuclear policy in the Middle East,” noted CNS Director Dr. William Potter. “Although one may disagree with his arguments, one cannot ignore them. His association with CNS further broadens the scope and enriches the intellectual diversity of the nation’s largest research center dedicated to combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.”

# # #

The Monterey Institute of International Studies, a graduate school of Middlebury College, has been preparing graduate professionals for global careers in the private, public, nonprofit and educational sectors since 1955. Located in Monterey, California, the Institute offers advanced degrees in international policy studies, translation and interpretation, international environmental policy, language teaching, and international business, as well as a variety of specialized certificates and programs. The Institute, whose approximately 800 students come from more than 60 countries, is also home to the renowned James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. In July 2010, the
Monterey Institute became a graduate school of Middlebury College, one of nation’s leading liberal arts colleges. For more information about the Monterey Institute, visit www.miis.edu.

The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) strives to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by training the next generation of nonproliferation specialists and disseminating timely information and analysis. CNS at the Monterey Institute of International Studies is the largest nongovernmental organization in the United States devoted exclusively to research and training on nonproliferation issues. CNS news releases and photos are available at cns.miis.edu.