

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT STILL MIFFED WITH ISRAEL OVER POLLARD CASE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (JTA) — U.S. officials are reportedly preparing to go to Israel shortly to interview two diplomats and others said to be "knowledgeable" in the case of Jonathan Pollard, the U.S. Navy counterintelligence analyst charged with spying for Israel. But whether U.S.-Israel relations are back fully on track remains to be seen.

The severe jolt they sustained when the Pollard case broke last month appeared to have been smoothed out by the complementary statements of Premier Shimon Peres and Secretary of State George Shultz December 1. But not everyone in the Reagan Administration is satisfied. Officials of the Justice Department, which is expected to bring Pollard to trial, are reported to be still irritated by what they perceive as Israel's lack of cooperation.

One official quoted by the media today said news dispatches from Jerusalem about Pollard's alleged activities have provided more information so far than has come through official channels.

Apology Follows A Conversation

Peres' statement last Sunday came a full week after Pollard was arrested by the FBI near the Israel Embassy in Washington and after two Israeli diplomats, one based at the Embassy and the other at the Israel Consulate in New York were called home.

It was an apology, not a formal denial of the charges against Pollard, and stressed that Israel was "progressing vigorously" with a full inquiry. "If the allegations are confirmed, those responsible will be brought to account," Peres said.

Shultz reacted promptly. In a statement from Houston where he was last Sunday, the Secretary called Peres' statement "excellent" and said "we are satisfied by it and wholeheartedly welcome it." But reports persisted in the U.S. and Israel that Peres' apology and Shultz's eager acceptance of it were the results of an early morning telephone conversation between the two men, eight hours before the Israel Cabinet met and Peres released his statement.

The implication, according to analysts here and in Jerusalem, is that the apology and its acceptance were agreed to by Shultz and Peres for diplomatic and political purposes. The Israel government and the Reagan Administration were, each for their own reasons, acutely embarrassed by the episode and anxious to put it behind them.

Peres vigorously denied such was the case. He acknowledged, however, that he received a telephone call from Shultz at 3 a.m. Sunday, Jerusalem time — he was awakened from sleep — and that they conversed for 30 minutes.

The U.S. understandably is anxious to find out exactly what information Pollard passed on to Israel over an 18 month period which ended last year, for a reported payment of \$2,500 a month and two free trips to Europe.

According to media reports, Israel was seeking information about the military capabilities of moderate Arab states friendly to the U.S. — Egypt and Jordan — which have been recipients of American

military aid. It has also been alleged that Pollard passed on to Israel American radar jamming techniques and other electronic information. It was not yet clear whether the U.S. will demand the return of the stolen documents or whether Israel will comply if it does. Another source of friction is over how soon U.S. agents will be allowed to interrogate the Israelis believed implicated in the affair. The Administration is said to be pushing for an early date; the Israelis prefer delay to let the publicity over the affair fade.

U.S. Officials En Route To Israel

Preliminary discussions began in Washington this week when two senior Israeli officials of the Defense and Foreign Ministries met with State Department officials for what was termed as the regular semi-annual review of the 1981 U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation agreement. Justice Department officials reportedly will arrive in Israel over the weekend.

The men they want to talk to are Dan Ravid, deputy science attache at the Washington Embassy, and Yosef Yagur, science attache at the Consulate in New York. Both were called home before they could be questioned by the FBI — much to the anger of the Justice Department.

Also on the list of interogees is Raphael Eitan, a former head of Mossad, Israel's secret service, and more recently an advisor to Premiers Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir on terrorism and security matters. Eitan has been named by the Israel media as Pollard's "handler" and the man who recruited the 33-year-old American Jewish civilian employee of the Naval Investigative Service to spy for pay.

Eitan is a former aide to Ariel Sharon and has been described as a protege of the outspoken Likud hawk who served Begin as Defense Minister and is presently Minister of Commerce and Industry in the Labor-Likud unity coalition government.

Sharon Denies Linkage To Pollard

Sharon, who returned to Israel Tuesday night from a visit to Latin America, angrily denied reports linking him or Begin with the Pollard case.

"Attempts in Israel to pin the Pollard case on previous governments and on people like Menachem Begin and on myself, who had no connection with the case are very serious and already have caused heavy damage," Sharon said. He implied the linkage was attributable to his enemies in the Labor Party.

Sharon shrugged off any connection between Eitan and Pollard — Eitan himself has denied it — and insisted that he, Sharon "didn't know anything and I wasn't involved."

**U.S. URGES SYRIA, AS WELL AS JORDAN,
TO AGREE TO DIRECT TALKS WITH ISRAEL**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (JTA) — The Reagan Administration today urged Syria, as well as Jordan, to agree to direct negotiations with Israel.

State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb stressed that it has always been United States policy that United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 called for negotiations on the Golan Heights as well as the West Bank and Gaza.

Kalb read a long prepared statement on the subject in the wake of reports that Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, told Israeli Premier Shimon Peres that King Hussein of Jordan was seeking a rapprochement with Syria in order to involve Damascus in the peace process.

Syrian President Hafez Assad has been opposed to Hussein's peace initiative. Most Mideast observers believe Hussein turned to Assad after he realized that Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat could not be relied upon to support Jordan's efforts at getting negotiations with Israel started.

Kalb's Statement

Kalb's statement, in full, said:

"Our current efforts are directed toward initiation of direct negotiations between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. If those efforts are to be successful they will involve difficult decisions and political risk by all parties. That is why we have consistently cautioned against looking for any sudden breakthroughs.

"Our ultimate objective is a just, comprehensive settlement between Israel and all of its Arab neighbors. We believe that UN Security Council Resolution 242 applies to all fronts involved in the 1967 war, including the Golan Heights, and that Syria has a place in the peace process if it wishes to participate.

"We continue to hope that all parties in the dispute, including Syria, will recognize the opportunity inherent in the current peace process and elect to participate constructively.

"The focus of our attention in all of the discussions has remained direct negotiations. In this regard, the Israelis, the Jordanians and the Egyptians have accepted the need for a supportive international context for such negotiations. A number of ideas have been put forward. The matter remains under consideration."

Obstacle To Progress

However, finding an international context still remains an obstacle to progress since Jordan wants an international conference which would include the Soviet Union. But the U.S. and Israel are opposed to Soviet participation as long as Moscow does not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

The other major obstacle is Hussein's insistence that the PLO must be represented on the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which both Israel and the U.S. reject.

There is speculation that an effort to solve this problem was the reason for the meeting Murphy had yesterday with nine Palestinians at the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem. Kalb said today that the State Department has decided not to release the names of the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, Kalb was reminded that during President Reagan's meetings with Israeli and Arab leaders earlier this fall, the President said he was confident that negotiations would begin by the end of the year, but it was now December. "The peace efforts are underway, remain underway" Kalb replied. "I am not in a position, obviously, to circle a date on the calendar."

HOSPITALS FACING CRISIS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 5 (JTA) — Israel's state hospitals are faced with paralysis and the danger of having

to close down, because of a shortage of funds to pay suppliers. The director of the Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer, one of the largest medical centers in the country, was quoted today as having begged the electric corporation not to cut off current to the hospital because of a large debt because "this will be condemning patients to death."

Other hospitals report they have been informed by the Tnuva Dairy Company that no more milk or dairy products will be supplied because of over \$1 million outstanding for past deliveries.

Other hospitals complain that they have run out of injection needles and equipment for blood testing and dialysis machines, and suppliers refuse to send in new stocks until old deliveries are paid for.

The Finance Ministry says the Health Ministry must play its part in overall budget cuts, and the shortage of hospital funds can be made up by prompt payment by the Histadrut Kupat Holim and other sick-funds, for patients' services for which the funds have been billed.

But the funds counter-claim that they have not received their promised subventions from the Finance Ministry.

The situation is not helped by personal animosity between Labor Party Health Minister Mordechai Gur and Liberal-Likud Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, who have been feuding in public, trading insults and blaming each other for mismanagement.

TWO LIKUD AIDES ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN LAND SALE FRAUD

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 5 (JTA) — The arrest of two senior Likud aides today for alleged involvement in a West Bank land sales fraud has sparked new tension between Likud and its Labor Party partner in the unity coalition government. Likud MK Haim Kaufman, chairman of the coalition executive, accused Police Minister Haim Barlev (Labor) of waging a political war and warned "he will pay the price."

The detained officials are Avi Tzur, spokesman for the Airport Authority, and Claude Malka, assistant to Transport Minister Haim Corfu of Likud. Both were formerly aides to Deputy Minister of Agriculture Michael Dekel who was named Deputy Defense Minister this week.

According to the police, Tzur allegedly gave a Jewish contractor — presently on trial — a letter informing the contractor that the government had approved the settlement of Kramim in the Samaria district when no such approval had been forthcoming.

Tzur is also suspected of having taken bribes. Police testified at the contractor's trial today that some of the bribe money went into Tzur's pocket and some to Likud.

Kaufman accused Barlev of political motives. He claimed financial scandals involving businesses close to the Labor Party were never investigated by the police.

Barlev retorted that the investigation into the Kramim affair began when Yosef Burg of the National Religious Party was Minister of Interior and in charge of the police. The NRP was a partner in the Likud-led coalition government at the time. Barlev stressed that the police is completely independent and succumbs to no pressure in its investigations, "not even from the Police Minister himself."

CLASH OVER 'WHO IS A JEW' ISSUE HAS REVIVED POLITICAL TENSIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 5 (JTA) — The sharp differences over the "Who is a Jew" issue that erupted among American Jewish leaders attending the meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations here this week has revived political tensions within and outside the Israel government.

"Who is a Jew" is the generic term for the provision in the Law of Return that defines as a Jew for purposes of automatic Israeli citizenship anyone born of a Jewish mother or converted to Judaism.

The Orthodox parties have been for years pushing an amendment that would add the words "according to halacha" with respect to converts. It would implicitly rule out conversions performed by Conservative and Reform rabbis which are not recognized by the Orthodox establishment that controls religious life in Israel.

Conservative and Reform leaders from the U.S. who forcefully oppose the amendment, urged Israeli leaders yesterday to reject the Orthodox demands. The leaders of six American Orthodox groups vehemently denounced Premier Shimon Peres' recent proposal to freeze the issue for 10 years. Both groups took time out from the Presidents Conference deliberations yesterday to hold separate press conferences on the issue.

The "Who is a Jew" amendment has come before the Knesset twice in recent years and was twice defeated. Peres declared in Tel Aviv yesterday that there would be "no compromise" with the religious parties on the amendment.

The latter indicated they would not bring it before the Knesset at this time. Political observers said they are aware it would probably fail again. But they are embittered toward Peres and the Labor Party. Menachem Porush, an Aguda Israel Party MK, charged that Labor "is apparently interested in being in power in the United States, not in Israel." A spokesman for Shas, another religious faction, said Peres' statement was "very serious and would have severe long term effects."

Labor Party Secretary General Uzi Baram said the party was keenly interested in reviving its political alliance with the religious parties, but not at the expense of a measure which would divide the Jewish people.

Sources close to Peres pointed out that he is prepared to accept religious positions on many other issues — for example, the measure just passed by the Knesset banning the sale of pork and the Sabbath ban on Haifa's funicular railroad. But he will not bend the "Who is a Jew" amendment because it is an issue that effects not just Israel but Jewish unity all over the world, the sources said.

A First For A British Commonwealth Court: AUSTRALIA SUPREME COURT PROHIBITS AUTOPSY ON AN ORTHODOX JEW

By Ben Gallo

NEW YORK, Dec. 5 (JTA) — The Supreme Court of Australia has prohibited an autopsy on a 71-year-old Orthodox Jew, who was killed in an auto accident, in the first such action taken by any court in the British Commonwealth. Allen Rothenberg, president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), reported today.

The accident which killed Jacob Sucher occurred last September in Melbourne, where Sucher lived. The Sucher family was represented in the case by Harry Reicher, an Australian who is chairman of COLPA's Australian chapter, with headquarters in Melbourne.

Rothenberg said that under the Australian Coroner's Act, a death in a public place must be reported to the coroner, who is empowered to call for a post-mortem to determine the cause of death.

The Crown Solicitor's office, which represented the coroner, contended that the coroner, under the Coroner's Act, had virtually unchallengeable authority to perform an autopsy.

But the Australian Supreme Court ruled last September that, in view of the victim's well-documented heart condition, an autopsy was not sufficiently necessary for the public interest to override the religious objections to the autopsy.

Rothenberg pointed out that there were important differences between U.S. and Australian legal systems. The Australian Supreme Court is in fact the trial court and its decisions can be appealed only to the House of Lords, the highest appeals court in Australia.

Rothenberg said the Crown Solicitor is roughly analogous to the office of the U.S. Attorney General. There is only one coroner for the country, in contrast to the U.S. approach, which is to have a coroner in every state. Rothenberg said he had been told the Crown Solicitor did not intend to appeal the lower court ruling.

Rothenberg said materials prepared by COLPA in developing a New York State law, the Silver Autopsy Act, passed by the State Legislature in 1983, had a major role in the successful Australian litigation.

Under that New York State law and a similar one in New Jersey, autopsies may be performed over religious objections only as part of an investigation of possible homicide or if the autopsy is deemed required by an immediate threat to public health and safety. The law is named for Assemblyman Sheldon Silver (D, Manhattan) who directed the legislative strategy for its adoption.

PROMINENT MONTREAL BUILDER SPONSORING \$8 MILLION PROJECT FOR TECHNION

MONTREAL, Dec. 5 (JTA) — David Azrieli, a prominent Montreal builder and former student at the Haifa Technion in Israel, announced last night that he is sponsoring an \$8 million project to construct a new building to house the faculty of architecture on the Technion campus.

It will replace a 74-year-old building erected in 1911 by Arthur Ruppin which is no longer able to satisfy the requirements of the profession. About 70 percent of Israeli architects graduate from the Haifa Technion.

The new structure, to be named the David J. Azrieli Building, will provide space for 860 students. It will house a 12,000-square foot library, the gift of the Riesman Family of Montreal and Rhode Island. The faculty of architecture has drafted a detailed list of its requirements. A jury of Israeli and international architects will begin in January, 1986 to examine competing plans submitted for the new structure and is expected to announce its decision in June. Construction is scheduled to begin by the end of 1986.

Azrieli, who is president of the Canadian Friends of the Haifa Technion, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the competition has generated considerable excitement among Israeli architects. (By Michael Solomon)

ISRAEL AND POLAND ARE NO LONGER POLES APART

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 5 (JTA) — The Poles are invading Israel this month — but it is an artistic invasion.

The Warsaw National Opera last night gave its Israeli premiere of "Mannikins," based on a story by Polish-Jewish writer Bruno Schultz, at a performance at the Cameri Theater, its hosts in Israel, attended by President Chaim Herzog, Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

As the Warsaw Opera group was preparing to go on stage, another Polish theater group — Tadeusz Kantor's "Cricot 2" was arriving at Ben Gurion Airport, to give the first performance here of its "Dead Class" at the Beit Lessin's Warehouse Theater in the old Jaffa port.

The performances of the two theaters mark the first visit by a Polish cultural group since Warsaw broke off diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967.

Puppets And Live Actors

Both theatrical productions use a combination of puppets and live actors, and the emphasis on visual effects make them accessible to audiences who do not understand Polish.

"Mannikins" deals with a Jewish tailor's attempts to transform his dummies into living things.

The Cricot 2 group is one of the best-known troupes in experimental theater. "Dead Class" is described as an exercise in nostalgia — what happens when a group of elderly citizens return to the school of their youth and see themselves as they were — in the form of puppets.

Plans for Polish performances here next year include visits by the Mazowsze Folklore Ensemble and the Warsaw Opera Ballet whose director, Josef Szajna, will also be coming to work at the Habimah National Theater.

A Possible New Approach To Israel

Observers are speculating whether the reopening of cultural exchanges heralds a new approach to Israel by the Warsaw government. The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra is reported to have an as yet unofficial invitation to visit Poland next year for a series of performances.

It was reported recently that Israel and Poland may soon exchange diplomatic representatives in a first step towards renewed full diplomatic relations.

Another Communist bloc artistic group to come to Israel is the Rumanian Rhapsody folklore dance group. It is due in Israel next week, for six performances. The group, which is bringing 26 dancers, singers and musicians was established over 100 years ago.

JDC PRESENTS PEOPLE OF GONDAR PROVINCE IN ETHIOPIA WITH SYMBOLIC KEY FOR A HEALTH CENTER

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Dec. 5 (JTA) — The people of the Ethiopian province of Gondar were today presented with a symbolic key for a health center in Tadar from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. It was accepted on their behalf by the Ethiopian Ambassador to the United Nations, Berhanu Dinka.

The Ambassador, in turn, presented the JDC with a plaque "in recognition of your humanitarian service in Ethiopia in 1985." It was presented to JDC president Heinz Eppler on behalf of Danit Wolde Giorgis, chief commissioner of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission of Ethiopia, the Ethiopian equivalent of the Red Cross.

Eppler accepted the plaque on behalf of American Jewry, which he noted is the primary source of funds for the JDC efforts. The bulk of the JDC's work extending to more than a half million people in more than 30 countries, is supported by the campaign of the United Jewish Appeal/Federation through the JDC regular budget.

The presentation of the key to the recently completed health clinic in Tadar in Gondar province was made during a luncheon at the 71st annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the JDC attended by about 200 persons at the Grand Hyatt Hotel here.

The health center is scheduled to serve primarily as an outpatient clinic, although it will also house a small hospital and pharmacy and will act as a training center for health attendants and village health workers. A second health center is under construction in Gondar City.

Over \$4.3 Million In Contributions

The JDC, after opening its mailbox for donations from the American Jewish community for Ethiopian relief, had received more than 25,000 contributions totaling altogether more than \$4.3 million during its first year of relief effort, including \$2.2 million in cash and \$2.1 million in donated supplies.

In acknowledging JDC efforts in Ethiopia, the Ambassador expressed hope that the JDC will continue to expand its programs there and aid in bettering conditions of Ethiopians who have been devastated by drought and famine in the past years. He estimated that nearly six million people will be suffering next year from shortages of critical food and supplies.

Addressing The Needs Of Israel's Elderly

Yesterday Israeli Health Minister Mordechai Gur urged the JDC to "fulfill its traditions in helping Israel's aged." Speaking to a special JDC luncheon here, Gur called this "a pivotal time" as a law before Israeli's Knesset addresses "the growing needs of Israel's aged, for care on the community level, care in the home and quality care in institutions, and JDC's involvement now is vital."

During the Board of Governors meeting, the JDC adopted a \$51.2 million 1986 budget and reaffirmed the JDC commitment to Jews and Jewish communities worldwide. Heinz Eppler of Palm Beach was re-elected JDC president, Henry Taub of Tenafly, N.J. was re-elected JDC chairman of the Board, and Dr. Saul Cohen of New York was re-elected executive vice president.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Madrid (La Universidad Complutense de Madrid) last month signed an agreement providing for academic, scientific and cultural cooperation between the two institutions. Proposed for implementation in the 1985-86 academic year are joint activities between the two universities in the areas of Bible studies, history, Hebrew and Spanish language, Jewish philosophy, medicine and biology.