

INNER CABINET DECIDES TO ESTABLISH 'CLARIFICATION COMMITTEE' TO EXAMINE ISRAEL'S HANDLING OF POLLARD AFFAIR

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 11 (JTA) -- The Inner Cabinet decided Wednesday to establish a non-Ministerial "clarification committee" to examine Israel's handling of the Jonathan Pollard spy case and report back to the Cabinet as quickly as possible.

It also gave its retroactive assent to an investigation of the government's role in the Pollard affair by a special intelligence subcommittee of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee which begins closed hearings Thursday.

These developments came as pressure mounted for a full-scale probe of Israel's involvement with Pollard, the former U.S. Navy civilian intelligence analyst sentenced to life imprisonment in Washington last week for spying for Israel. At the same time, American Jewish leaders visiting here expressed serious concern over the impact of the Pollard affair on U.S.-Israel relations. (See separate story.)

Eight Hours Of Deliberation

The Inner Cabinet (five Labor and five Likud Ministers) deliberated for more than eight hours Wednesday, one of the longest sessions ever held by the government's top policymaking body. According to Israel Radio, two prominent public figures were proposed to constitute the "clarification committee" -- former Supreme Court President Justice Moshe Landau and former Chief of Staff Gen. Zvi Tsur.

One has already accepted the assignment and the other promised a reply shortly, Israel Radio said without identifying either of them.

According to observers, the two-man committee is less than the full-scale government or judicial commission of inquiry demanded by several Ministers, Knesset members and a growing body of public opinion. But it appears to be more than Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin had been willing to accept a few days ago.

It was not immediately clear what legal or other powers would be vested in the two-man panel or what their terms of reference will be. Some commentators believe it will have no legal powers and will not be authorized to subpoena witnesses to give evidence under oath.

Eban Appears Satisfied With Decision

Nevertheless, Labor MK Abba Eban, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, appeared satisfied with the Inner Cabinet's decision. He said the Pollard affair will now be investigated by both the Cabinet and the Knesset. Eban announced his intelligence subcommittee's investigation Monday in face of a flat statement by Premier Shamir that the matter was "closed."

Observers said that until the two investigations are completed, no action could be taken with respect to Air Force Col. Aviem Sella and former Mossad operative Rafael Eitan, the Israeli officials most closely linked to Pollard's espionage activities.

Pollard testified at his trial that Sella had recruited him and gave him his espionage assignments. Eitan headed Pollard's spy unit, "Lekem," now disbanded. Israel incurred American anger last week when Sella was given command of the Tel Nof Air Force Base, one of the largest in Israel, despite his indictment by a federal grand jury in Washington for espionage. Friends of Sella said Wednesday he has not been asked to resign.

Eitan was earlier appointed chairman of Israel Chemicals, the largest government-owned corporation. He said Wednesday that only the company board of directors was empowered to remove them.

ADL DELEGATION IN ISRAEL READS RIOT ACT TO GOVERNMENT LEADERS OVER THE WAY THEY ARE HANDLING POLLARD AFFAIR

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 11 (JTA) -- Abraham Foxman, associate national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, suggested here Wednesday that the Israeli government is treating the Jonathan Pollard affair "somewhat cavalierly" and warned that there is a serious concern in the U.S. over the long-term impact of the spy case on Israel-U.S. relations.

Foxman, who heads an ADL delegation which came here to discuss the matter with Israeli leaders, told Israel Radio it is not their intention to tell the government what to do. "But I think we have a responsibility to give them a sober analysis of what is the reality in the U.S."

Referring to the current Congressional probes of the Reagan Administration's sale of arms to Iran and diversion of the proceeds to the Nicaraguan rebels known as contras, Foxman stressed that "The U.S. cannot ask of its friend and ally to do less than the American people, the American media, the American institutions are asking of themselves."

U.S.-Israel relations, Foxman said, are "based on credibility, on mutual trust and on good faith that today is under a cloud. Some of these values are being tarnished by an attitude and approach which is coming from this (Israeli) government which is treating the matter somewhat cavalierly, hoping it will go away and hoping to continue business as usual."

Foxman said "the experience of the 'Iran-gate' (affair) should be a clear and realistic lesson to the State of Israel that here is a President -- Ronald Reagan, possibly one of the most popular Presidents since Franklin Roosevelt -- and yet the American people demand of him to set up committees of inquiry, to admit mistakes and to take the consequences of it."

He added, "It's not a question of double standard. It's the same standard the American people are expecting of its friend and ally. I think that's the reality of our relationship, which means -- I don't know what the institutions here would be the equivalent -- but the truth has to be out, whether it's a Tower type of inquiry or something similar."

Foxman was referring to the three-man panel headed by former Sen. John Tower of Texas which Reagan established to investigate the

activities of his National Security Council. Foxman also referred to Israel Air Force Col. Aviem Sella and former Mossad operative Rafael Eitan, the top Israeli officials involved in Pollard's spying activities for Israel, both of whom had their careers advanced even while Pollard was on trial and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Draws An Analogy

He drew an analogy between them and Vice Admiral John Poindexter, Reagan's National Security Advisor and Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North, a Poindexter aide, who were dismissed for their roles in the Iran-Contra scandal.

"Poindexter and North are as much American national heroes in terms of fulfilling the role of the American national interest, whether you like them or not, as Rafi Eitan and Avi Sella, and yet if the consequences of a mistake are such, there is a price to be paid," Foxman said.

"That's what the American people have asked for, demanded and received from their own institutions and their own elected and appointed officials. They are not going to be satisfied with less from the State of Israel."

Reference to the Pollard case and its consequences for U.S.-Israel relations was also made Wednesday by veteran Hadassah leader Charlotte Jacobson who is chairing the Women's Zionist Organization's diamond jubilee celebrations in Jerusalem.

"It is a little sad to see a dent in the friendship between the U.S. and Israel because we are very proud of that friendship, and any event, even if we are confident it will pass, is of course, an unhappy situation," Jacobson said.

Responsibility Towards Israel

President Chaim Herzog referred indirectly to Israel and the Pollard case in his address at the opening of the Hadassah celebrations Tuesday night. He said that while Israel has a responsibility to the Jewish communities of the world for its actions and policies, those communities abroad also have a responsibility towards Israel.

"The importance of an increasing awareness of this mutual responsibility has been emphasized in a most telling manner by events which have been at the center of our public consciousness over the last few days," the Israeli Chief of State said.

"There is no doubt that grave mistakes have been made and Israel has accepted responsibility for them. Criticism is in order, and indeed self-understood . . . But in an imperfect world in which no one is immune to error, I would urge all of us, both abroad and in Israel, to maintain a sense of proportion and allow the necessary process in this democratic society of ours to take its due course," Herzog said.

ISRAELI CITIZENS SEEK TO RAISE \$200,000 FOR POLLARDS AS MORAL SUPPORT

JERUSALEM, March 11 (JTA) -- A group of private individuals has established a fund here to raise \$200,000 for Jonathan Pollard and his wife Anne Henderson-Pollard, who were sentenced to prison in Washington last week for spying for Israel. The Israelis insist their action is not political.

Pollard, a former civilian intelligence analyst employed by the U.S. Navy, received a life sentence and his wife drew a five-year term as an accessory. According to Joshua Gilboah, one of

seven Israelis who initiated the fund, "we heard from the media that they are in need of money" and "decided that this would be a nice thing to do which will also show them our moral support."

Gilboah said the response to newspaper advertisements his group ran Tuesday was "unbelievable. The telephones have not stopped ringing since the ads appeared."

He explained, "We established the fund because we felt that this is the only way we can help the Pollard couple without committing ourselves to any of the political sides of the affair. That we don't want to touch at all."

Gilboah said that although the Pollards "did something possibly quite stupid, I am sure they had other emotions which pushed them to do it-- including the Jewish point -- and we felt, as Jews and as Israelis, that even if the government of Israel cannot react, or is unable to, we as citizens should give them some sort of moral support."

Premier Yitzhak Shamir stated Tuesday that the Pollards' predicament "is not a problem with which the State of Israel has to concern itself." He said the State "has no connection with Pollard or his family." It "did not hire him and did not assign him espionage missions," Shamir said.

RABBI SENTENCED FOR PARTICIPATING IN RALLY IN FRONT OF SOVIET EMBASSY By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, March 11 (JTA) -- A two-day sentence was imposed Wednesday morning in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia on Rabbi Avraham Weiss of Riverdale, The Bronx, for his participation in a demonstration of prayer and song in front of the Soviet Embassy in Washington last March on behalf of Soviet Jews. The demonstrators violated a Washington, D.C. statute that prohibits demonstrations within 500 feet of an Embassy.

The sentencing was pronounced by Judge Robert Shuler, who refused Weiss's request to surrender himself, and ordered that he be escorted from court to the D.C. jail by a corrections officer.

On Monday, following the setting of the sentence, Shuler refused a request by Weiss's attorney, Barry Boss, that Weiss be permitted to serve his time in another facility.

Weiss was part of a group of 21 rabbis arrested for taking part in the protest, which was part of a series of demonstrations at the Embassy since May 1985. Of the entire group Weiss was the only one to have pleaded not guilty. The others entered a guilty plea, subject to the court of appeals reviewing certain questions which were denied before, including the constitutionality of the statute under which they were prosecuted, under the First Amendment. A case is expected to be decided by the Supreme Court later this year based on the right to free speech and to assemble, questioning the constitutionality of the 500-foot stipulation.

Several rabbis have already served time in jail for their participation in such demonstrations. In December 1985, five rabbis served 12 days of a 15-day sentence for demonstrating in front of the Soviet Embassy. Over 100 rabbis, ministers, cantors, Hebrew teachers and students have taken part in the Soviet Jewry protests there.

Weiss, who is senior rabbi at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale and national chairman of the Center for Russian Jewry/Student Struggle for

Soviet Jewry (SSSJ), suffered a heart attack last September after being beaten by angry concertgoers emerging from the Metropolitan Opera House in New York following a tear-gas bombing at a performance of the Moiseyev Dance Company, a Russian folkloric group.

Although responsibility for the bomb was claimed by the Jewish Defense League, Weiss was a conspicuous target for the ire of exiting audience members as he stood in front of the opera house wearing a yarmulke and passing out leaflets, trying to dissuade people from attending the concert. Two other members of the SSSJ were with him at the time. Weiss, 42, was hospitalized for two months at that time. Then, in December, six days after the rabbis' trial was held, and at which time Weiss pleaded not guilty, he was readmitted to the hospital with a serious coronary condition that required an immediate quadruple bypass operation of a particularly serious nature.

Although the prosecution agreed with Weiss's defense that a continuance of sentence should be accorded Weiss because of his health, hearing Commissioner Thomas Gaye disagreed, said Boss. Weiss would also not accept unsupervised probation, because he felt that he had done nothing wrong.

Weiss's cardiologist, Dr. Mark Greenberg, wrote a letter to the judge explaining that because of Weiss's recent bypass operation, a jail term was problematic and could subject him to extra stress. Greenberg also asked that Weiss's medications not be interfered with and be administered as prescribed.

Boss said that Avi went to jail because the court was unwilling to consider any additional leniency. He said the other rabbis received a two-day suspended sentence, but Weiss rejected a suspended sentence and \$100 fine. Weiss is expected to be released Thursday morning, because any time spent on the second day is credited as a full day served.

Boss said that an appeal will be filed challenging the statute's constitutionality and selective prosecution, based on the fact that demonstrators in front of the South African Embassy were not charged with violation of the statute.

UKRAINIANS IN CANADA ARE RAISING MONEY FOR THE DEFENSE OF DEMJANJUK

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, March 11 (JTA) -- Canada's large Ukrainian community is raising money for the defense of John Demjanjuk, currently on trial in Israel for crimes against humanity and the Jewish people. There are about 600,000 Ukrainians in Canada.

According to Peter Jacyr of Mississauga, 1,340 Ukrainians across Canada have so far donated \$120,000. The Ukrainian community in Toronto has started a Demjanjuk defense fund. His son-in-law, Ed Nishnic, came here to help.

The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, a retired automobile worker from Cleveland, Ohio, was extradited to Israel last year. So far in his trial, four Holocaust survivors have positively identified him as the sadistic Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible" who operated the gas chambers.

Nishnic told the Toronto Star "We could lose this case through financial default. Our finances are about to be tapped out." He said money was needed for legal expenses and the cost of sending

experts to Israel to testify for Demjanjuk. The accused war criminal is defended by an American lawyer, Mark O'Connor, who contends that Demjanjuk is a victim of mistaken identity.

ARGENTINE PUBLIC SHOCKED BY CATHOLIC CLERIC'S ANTI-SEMITIC STATEMENTS

BUENOS AIRES, March 11 (JTA) -- Blatantly anti-Semitic statements made by a ranking member of the Catholic hierarchy in the course of an attack on the democratic regime of President Raul Alfonsin have shocked the Jewish community and the general public.

Msgr. Antonio Plaza, former Archbishop of La Plata, charged that "The government is full of Jews." He went on to say, "Those people of the government made us squander three years discussing those issues (human rights) and mistreating the people. There are many Jews in the government of Alfonsin and I do not know whether there is anyone left who is not Jewish."

Plaza was obviously referring to the efforts to prosecute members of the former military junta responsible for the disappearance of some 30,000 Argentines, many of them Jews, including teenagers, and the torture of countless others perceived to be political dissidents.

Plaza, who left his post in La Plata, capital of Buenos Aires Province, a year ago because of his age, apparently justifies the crimes of the military regime. David Goldberg, president of the DAIA, the umbrella body of Argentine Jewish organizations, said his remarks would be protested to the Church.

Cesar Jaroslavsky, majority leader in the Argentine Parliament, suggested that the archbishop should be brought to court. Alluding to his Jewish origin, he said "If I had been in his hands I would be soap by now."

NEW YORK NAMES BEN-GURION STREET AT SITE OF FORMER BILTMORE HOTEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 11 (JTA) -- Mayor Edward Koch of New York, who is known to do almost everything his own way, Wednesday unveiled the street sign designating "David Ben-Gurion Place" here while standing in a truck-cane.

Koch had torn the covering of the sign at East 43rd Street between Vanderbilt and Madison Avenues, necessitating the crane. His elevation was met by applause from the hundreds of spectators there to honor the centennial of the birth of Israel's founding Prime Minister.

The square is at the site of the old Biltmore Hotel, where 45 years ago Ben-Gurion and other Zionist leaders formally established the goal of the Jewish State of Israel during the Biltmore Conference.

City officials, Israeli diplomats, including Israel's Consul General in New York, Moshe Yegar and Jewish leaders, as well as leaders of different faiths and ethnic communities, participated in the ceremony, under clear and chilly skies.

The street-naming was one of several civic, governmental and academic events and tributes to David Ben-Gurion, organized by the David Ben-Gurion Centennial Committee of the U.S. The Committee was formed last year by the Knesset to promote recognition of Ben-Gurion's achievements and accomplishments.

REFUSENIK PLANS MOSCOW PROTEST DEMONSTRATION ON MARCH 17

By Elsa Solender

NEW YORK, March 11 (JTA) -- A brave man, his wife and his son will demonstrate in front of the Lenin Library in Moscow on March 17 to protest the Soviet government's refusal since 1979 to let the family emigrate to Israel.

At a time when many Soviet Jews are waiting to see whether Soviet leader Gorbachev's "liberalization" program will extend to Jewish emigration, Mikhail (Mischa) Fuchs-Rabinovich, a 50-year-old meteorologist -- dismissed from his job, stripped of his Ph.D. and working as a boiler-watcher -- has informed the Moscow municipality in writing of his intention to demonstrate, with due regard to the free flow of traffic.

For his meticulously legal enterprise, he expects the authorities to impose a 15-day prison sentence and hopes a harsher penalty does not await him: KGB operatives often beat Jewish demonstrators and jail them on trumped-up charges of anti-Soviet hooliganism.

The Soviets denied Fuchs-Rabinovich's application to emigrate under the pretext that he was privy to "secrets" during his work as director of the Laboratory for Numerical Methods of Weather Forecasting. In fact, he never held a post requiring security clearance, the USSR has shared all his research with the 35 nations which signed the Helsinki Accords, and it is party to an international agreement declassifying all weather forecasting jobs.

Staged A 30-Day Hunger Strike

Mischa and Marina Fuchs-Rabinovich went on a 30-day hunger strike in January after receiving an invitation from Temple Elohim in Wellesley, Mass. for young Mishka to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah with that Reform congregation. The first correspondence that the family had been permitted to receive from the West in four years was a copy of that invitation, relayed via the government. Rabbi Ronald Weiss of Temple Elohim has adopted the case for the Fuchs-Rabinovich family's freedom as a personal crusade.

When Soviet authorities told Fuchs-Rabinovich to submit a new emigration application, he refused, convinced that their objective was to divert him from his hunger strike with the arduous, time-consuming application process. He had previously filed all necessary documents in prescribed form and nothing had changed in his application. The response of Soviet authorities was silence.

The Fuchs-Rabinovich case has not attracted the same international attention as more "famous" refuseniks such as Ida Nudel, Josef Begun or Natan Sharansky. Weiss recently organized a committee to mobilize cables and letters to Gorbachev and to Soviet ambassador Yuri Dubinin in Washington in hopes that international attention may inhibit KGB reprisals against the family for its protest demonstration.

Mikhail Fuchs-Rabinovich previously urged Western visitors to concentrate on the principle of Soviet Jews' right to emigrate to Israel rather than press for the release of specific refuseniks. Now, facing personal danger, the family requires as much support -- and protection -- as world opinion can muster.

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING AGAINST HIGHER UNIVERSITY FEES ARE DISPERSED BY POLICE USING TEAR GAS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 11 (JTA) -- Police used tear gas to disperse an unruly demonstration by Hebrew University students protesting increased tuition fees Wednesday. The Jerusalem demonstration followed a larger but slightly less unruly protest at Tel Aviv University Tuesday. Other protests are being organized in universities nationwide.

In Wednesday's protest, the students were to have gathered on the campus and then marched in an orderly fashion to the Prime Minister's office. But they suddenly swerved from their announced and licenced path and surged towards the Finance Ministry building and tried to enter.

Mounted and foot policemen used tear gas to force them back towards the Jerusalem Rose Garden north of the government complex. One student was injured in the clash and Uriel Ben-Hur, chairman of the Hebrew University Students Union, and seven other students were detained.

The students thereupon sat down on the ground and said they would not leave until their companions were released. Demonstrators were also arrested.

In Tuesday's demonstration in Tel Aviv, a large police force clashed with thousands of students outside Tel Aviv University, when demonstrators protesting against increased university tuition fees tried to move their campus protest into the streets outside in a march towards the Haifa-Tel Aviv highway. Eight students were arrested, but there were no injuries.

Some 2,000 students, from Tel Aviv University with fraternal delegations from other universities throughout the country, opened their protest by singing songs on campus. Speakers protested plans to raise tuition fees again. They want the fees reduced from the present \$1,300 a year level to the previous \$800.

But the Finance Ministry demands an increase to \$1,400, while the universities themselves say they cannot operate the establishments unless the fees are raised to match government subsidies.

The demonstrating students dispersed after the eight detained during a shoving match between police and students were released.

LEAFLETS DEPICT JEWS AS CHILD KILLERS

TORONTO, March 11 (JTA) -- Leaflets depicting Jews as child killers, received by at least 13 day-care centers in Winnipeg, may be linked to the "Aryan Nation," a white supremacist, anti-Semitic group active in the U.S. and Canada, according to police investigating the mailings.

They were sent from a fictitious company in Penhold, Alberta, near where an "Aryan Nations" group is located. Sgt. Ted Waller said a special crime unit assigned to the case will extend its investigation into Alberta. The Manitoba Child Care Association has instructed its agencies to turn over such material to the police.

The leaflets accuse Jews of killing Christian babies and try to link the unsolved deaths of hundreds of North American children to a "Jewish conspiracy," Israel Ludwig, vice president of the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council, said.