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IDF OFFICER KILLED, ANOTHER WOUNDED IN CLASH WITH TERRORIST SQUAD

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 12 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force officer was killed and another soldier was slightly wounded in a clash between an IDF force and a terrorist squad on the border of the security zone, in the central sector of southern Lebanon, early Thursday morning. The dead man was later identified as Capt. Rami Ben-Zvi Hakman, of Kibbutz Ein Harod Meuchad.

A statement issued by the IDF spokesman said that in the pre-dawn hours, close to 2:30 this morning, an IDF force encountered a terrorist squad which tried to penetrate the central sector of the security zone north of Bint-Jbail.

In the exchange of fire, an IDF officer was mortally wounded and died on the way to a hospital, and another soldier was lightly wounded. The terrorists escaped, apparently unharmed, leaving only a back-pack and cartridge cases behind.

In the area where the incident occurred, a South Lebanese Army (SLA) force two days ago routed a terrorist squad which tried to penetrate the security zone in order to lay mines and attack SLA outposts.

The last time Israeli soldiers were hurt in a clash with gunmen in the security zone was at the beginning of February when an IDF unit encountered an armed gang near the village of Tibnit. Three IDF soldiers were wounded in that clash, and five terrorists were killed.

KNESSET UNIT BEGINS CLOSED HEARINGS ON POLLARD CASE, BUT CABINET'S EFFORT RUNS INTO SNAG AS JUSTICE LANDAU DECLINES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROBE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 12 (JTA) -- A Knesset subcommittee began closed hearings Thursday on the government's role in the Jonathan Pollard spy case. But the Cabinet's effort to launch its own probe hit a snag when one of the two men asked to form a "clarification committee" declined the task.

Justice Moshe Landau, former President of the Supreme Court, expressed his regrets in a letter to Premier Yitzhak Shamir. Landau issued a statement later that he had no objections in principle to the committee but could not accept the offer to sit on it.

The offer was accepted by Gen. (Res.) Zvi Tzur, a former Chief of Staff. The search for another public figure of equal stature was begun immediately by Cabinet Secretary Elyakum Rubinstein.

Although Justice Landau did not specify his reason for declining, it was evident from his letter that he did not want to be part of a committee that would lack the statutory powers of a state or judicial commission of inquiry such as the right to subpoena witnesses to testify under oath.

The idea of a "clarification committee" emerged from an eight-hour meeting of the Inner Cabinet Wednesday as pressure mounted at home

and abroad for a full-scale inquiry into the government's handling of the Pollard affair. The Inner Cabinet (five Labor and five Likud Ministers) fell far short of satisfying those demands. But it did give its assent, retroactively, to the independent probe undertaken by the intelligence subcommittee of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

Committee chairman Abba Eban announced the hearings on Monday when Premier Shamir was saying that the Pollard matter was "closed". The hearing opened under tight secrecy Thursday morning at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin was the first to testify. Subcommittee members refused any comment after the 3 1/2 hour session.

Meanwhile, the Knesset on Tuesday easily defeated three nonconfidence motions over the government's handling of the Pollard affair. The motions were introduced by the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM), Mapam and the Progressive List for Peace. Only one coalition member, Mordechai Virshubsky of the Shinui Party, crossed over to vote with the opposition.

Demonstratively absent from the session were Premier Shamir, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Rabin. Likud Minister of Transport Haim Corfu, replied for the government.

Reading a prepared statement, he reiterated that the espionage for which Pollard, a former civilian intelligence analyst employed by the U.S. Navy, received a life sentence last week was a "rogue operation" conducted without the government's knowledge.

SHULTZ DISTRESSED BY POLLARD CASE BUT WARNS IT MUST NOT DETRACT FROM STRONG SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, March 12 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz said Wednesday that he was distressed by the Jonathan Pollard spy case and "made it clear to Israel" but warned that this must not detract from strong support for Israel.

"I do think it is important to keep in mind the fundamentals and that to manage the problem (the Pollard case) doesn't mean we wind up shooting ourselves in the foot," Shultz said while testifying on the Reagan Administration's foreign aid proposals for 1988 before the House Appropriations Committee.

"There is a possibility of peace in the Middle East and we need to keep working at it and not allow our deep distress to prevent us from seeing the fundamentals," he said.

Shultz made his remarks in response to Rep. Matthew McHugh (D. NY) who said that the two Israelis implicated with Pollard "seem to have been rewarded." He was referring to Israel Air Force Col. Aviem Sella, who was given command of Israel's second largest air base last week, and Rafael Eitan, who was earlier appointed chairman of Israel Chemicals, the largest government-owned corporation.

Shultz said the State Department would have no dealings with either individual. "I made it clear to Israel my distress and the Prime Minister said

he was ashamed (of the Pollard affair). Of course, it's up to Israel to decide what to do internally," Shultz said.

PANEL REPORT ON WAR CRIMINALS IN CANADA URGES AMENDING CRIMINAL CODE TO PERMIT CANADA TO TRY WAR CRIMINALS FOR CRIMES THEY COMMITTED ELSEWHERE
By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, March 12 (JTA) -- The Deschenes Commission's report on Nazi war criminals in Canada, presented to the House of Commons by the government Thursday, recommended amending the Canadian Criminal Code to permit Canada to try suspected war criminals for crimes committed elsewhere.

It also urged that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Justice Department be given additional resources to track down suspects. But the report rejected the idea of setting up a special commission for that purpose, along the lines of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office Of Special Investigation (OSI).

In an immediate response to the report, Justice Minister Ray Hnatshyn said he would ask Parliament to amend the Criminal Code in accordance with the recommendations.

The report was praised by the League for Human Rights of B'nai B'rith Canada "for its stated intention to bring Nazi war criminals in Canada to Justice."

Findings Of The Commission

The report represents the findings of the Deschenes Commission, set up by the government at the end of 1985 under Quebec Superior Court Justice Jules Deschenes, to investigate Nazi war criminals living in Canada. It was submitted to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney last December 31 and was twice amended thereafter at the government's request.

Only portions of the report were released by the government Thursday. It states that the Commission "found strong evidence against 20 people as Nazi war criminals living in Canada" and recommends the extradition of one of them to Hungary and further investigation of the others. The names of the suspects were not disclosed.

A total of 392 cases were investigated and no evidence of wrongdoing was found in less than half of them, according to reports. Of the remaining cases, 80 suspects have died and further inquiry is needed into nearly 100 others.

The government insisted that the Commission submit a confidential report containing the names of war crimes suspects which do not appear in the public report.

The Commission also recommended that Canada's extradition laws be expanded, specifically its extradition treaty with Israel to cover crimes committed outside Israel and prior to ratification of the treaty in 1967.

Possible Changes In Deportation Procedure

It is not certain whether the Deschenes recommendations to deport persons found guilty of war crimes will be accepted by the government. But studies are under way of possible changes in the deportation procedure that would make it easier to strip war criminals of their Canadian citizenship and deport them.

The Deschenes Commission was opposed from the outset by Eastern European communities in Canada. Many war criminals tracked down in

recent years in both the U.S. and Canada were of Eastern European origin.

The Ukrainian Canadian Committee warned the government not to embark "on a witch hunt." It claimed that the KGB fabricated documents to be used against East European emigres. There are some 600,000 Ukrainians in Canada.

Statement By B'nai B'rith Canada

The problem of evidence from Soviet bloc sources was addressed in the statement released Thursday by B'nai B'rith Canada. "War criminals can only be brought to justice when sufficient, appropriate evidence is presented," the statement said.

"In light of concerns raised by the Eastern European community regarding evidence situated in the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc countries, the Commission is to be commended for establishing regulations for the collection of such evidence. The government is correct to consider such evidence on a case-by-case basis when it is gathered in accordance with Canadian standards and when there are specific, credible and serious war crimes."

The statement added: "The League for Human Rights appreciates the government's thrust to strengthen 'made in Canada' solutions" by "amending the Criminal Code to give Canada jurisdiction to try in Canada war crimes or crimes against humanity committed abroad."

Nevertheless, it urged the government "not to rule out the option of extradition when it would be an effective and responsible approach."

RABBI RELEASED FROM JAIL

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, March 12 (JTA) -- Rabbi Avi Weiss, released Thursday from jail for demonstrating in front of the Soviet Embassy here, said his imprisonment was "humiliating" and "dehumanizing."

Weiss, speaking at a press conference here attended by Natan Sharansky's mother, Ida Milgrom, and his brother, Leonid, said his jail term was "insignificant" compared to what Soviet Jews had suffered.

Weiss, who recently had bypass heart surgery, was permitted to stay in a cell in the jail's infirmary where he was segregated from other prisoners. He was visited by Rep. Ted Weiss (D. NY).

"I think jail is a way to try to strip you of your worship of God. It's a way for other people to control you and dehumanize you. You take off your clothes and six people come around to look at you. It's much more than just a strip search," Weiss said.

Weiss said he hoped to organize massive arrests in protest of Soviet Jews.

POC ZUNSHAIN, WIFE TO GO TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 12 (JTA) -- Prisoner of Conscience Zakhar Zunshain has completed his three-year term in a Siberian labor camp and will leave for Israel with his wife on March 19, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) reported Thursday.

Zunshain was arrested in 1984 for demonstrating in Moscow and was sentenced to three years for "anti-Soviet slander." SSSJ spokesman Glenn Richter said Zunshain endured extreme physical abuse in prison.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES U.S. JEWISH LEADERS VIEW THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE POLLARD CASE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 12 (JTA) -- The life sentence given to Jonathan Pollard, an American Jew, last week for spying for Israel is not expected to basically alter the close relations between the United States and Israel, according to American Jewish leaders.

Nor do they expect it to create a feeling in this country that Jews have dual loyalty, except, of course, among anti-Zionists and anti-Semites, who have always made this claim.

At the same time, concern was expressed that the "poor judgement" shown by Israel in promoting two Israelis, who controlled Pollard's espionage activities, could damage Israel-U.S. relations.

The whole subject is expected to be taken up when the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations meets in Israel next week.

Deeply Concerned By Public Perception

"The espionage activity for which Jonathan Pollard was justly sentenced was a serious crime and should never have taken place," Morris Abram, chairman of the Presidents Conference, said in a statement.

"I am also deeply concerned by the public perception of the official treatment accorded Col. (Aviem) Sella and Rafael Eitan, and will raise these concerns with the proper authorities next week during a visit to Israel."

Jewish leaders with whom the Jewish Telegraphic Agency spoke expressed little sympathy for Pollard, 32-year-old former civilian analyst for the Navy, or for his wife, Anne Henderson-Pollard, 26, who received two concurrent five-year terms for being an accessory to her husband's espionage.

The day before the Pollards were sentenced, a federal grand jury indicted Sella, who was Pollard's first contact in providing Israel with classified documents, for conspiring with Pollard. The indictment came shortly after it was learned that Sella has been made commander of Israel's second largest Air Force base.

Earlier, Eitan, the counter-terrorism expert who ran Pollard's now disbanded spy unit, was named chairman of Israel Chemicals, the largest government-owned corporation.

Reagan Administration Angered

These promotions angered the Reagan Administration. The State Department, while still maintaining that Israel has cooperated with the Pollard investigation, said Israel was expected to "call to account" those involved in the Pollard case.

Hyman Bookbinder, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee, said "you could almost sense the change" in the Administration after the Sella and Eitan promotions were revealed.

He said earlier he and others had been assured in talks with "key" officials that the Pollard case would not have any long-term effects. But after the promotions were revealed there was "a lot of anger" within the Administration among "people who are good, good friends of Israel."

He warned that there will be no immediate effects, but there could be an "erosion" in relations if the situation was not corrected.

David Brody, Washington representative of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, seemed to agree. He noted that the Pollard case has been around for over a year, but during that time Israel was granted the new status of a "major non-NATO ally" which allows it to bid on Defense Department research and development contracts.

But he, too, noted that Administration officials were upset by what they considered the "cavalier" attitude of Israel in promoting the two men.

Theodore Mann, president of the American Jewish Congress, and Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International, also called the promotions unwise. Reich called it "poor judgement" by the Israelis.

Problem May Have Been Alleviated

But David Brody said this problem may have been alleviated by the decision of the Israel Inner Cabinet Wednesday to name a two-man committee to investigate the Pollard case and to work with the Knesset intelligence subcommittee probing the affair.

Abram also pointed out that the appointment of an investigatory commission by the Inner Cabinet "is the kind of response one would hope for and expect from a vital and functioning democracy. All governments make mistakes, but democratic nations have a responsibility and a capacity to examine what went wrong and to take corrective action. I am encouraged that Israel has now acted in this spirit."

Whether the Pollard espionage was a "rogue" operation, as the Israeli government maintains, or not, Sella and Eitan should not have been promoted, Mann said.

Strong Reaction From JWV

But the strongest reaction came from the Jewish War Veterans which sent a telegram to Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne Wednesday calling for the promotions to be rescinded.

The JWV telegram, signed by the organization's national commander, Edwin Goldwasser, stressed that JWV members "detest all acts of treason" whether on behalf "of our adversaries, the Soviet Union, or by a Pollard on behalf of our ally Israel."

The JWV said the promotions of Sella and Eitan "presents America with a showing of an insensitivity by one friend to another friend on an issue of vital concern to the integrity of the United States."

"JWV calls upon Israel to recognize the American concern over the betrayal of its nation by immediately suspending both Sella and Eitan from their positions of trust pending a full and impartial investigation of the affair. The moral imperative in the relationship between our nations requires no less than that."

'Potentially Explosive' Issue

While there is little concern that Jews will be charged with dual loyalty, Bookbinder warned that the issue is "potentially explosive" and must be closely watched by the Jewish defense agencies.

It is certainly an issue on the minds of many Jews. Bookbinder said that when two or

three Jews meet the first topic in the last few weeks has been the Pollard case.

Brody said that except for anti-Semites, the only ones raising the issue of dual loyalty are Jews. He said Pollard was an individual who was solely responsible for his "misguided" acts and the responsibility cannot be transferred to other Jews.

Mann, however, said he was "angry" that an American Jew had been used to spy on Israel, breaking what he called "an unwritten rule between our two Jewish communities. I think it is an outrage."

Noting that Israeli officials have publicly apologized to the U.S., he said Israel also owes "an apology to the Jewish community." While he did not say how this could be done, he said there are ways to accomplish it.

Pollard Case Called An 'Aberration'

Reich called the Pollard case an "aberration" which he said is now "behind us." He stressed that the Jewish community does not "owe" Pollard any help for his illegal act.

However, he said he felt the life sentence was "harsh" considering Pollard pleaded guilty and had cooperated with the government.

"I know the relations between the United States and Israel, two democracies whose vital interests are intimately linked, are strong enough to justify this deplorable incident," Abram said.

"Israel needs America. America needs Israel. This interdependence will and must be the overriding consideration binding the two countries in their common devotion to freedom, to justice and to human dignity."

CONFERENCE RECALLS ROLE OF U.S. JEWISH LABOR DURING THE HOLOCAUST

By Henry Srebnik

Opinion Page Editor, Washington Jewish Week

WASHINGTON, March 12 (JTA) -- Though it was "small," "marginal," "late in arriving," and uneven in its flow, the monetary assistance sent to Jews in Poland during the Holocaust by the American Jewish labor movement was "a gesture of fraternity amidst despair," according to Prof. Kenneth Waltzer of Michigan State University.

Speaking to a conference held March 8-10 under the auspices of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council and the International Bonhoeffer Society, Waltzer told his listeners that, when news of the mass murders emerged, the Jewish labor leaders "responded actively."

They pressured the Roosevelt Administration to speak out, tried to mobilize American labor on behalf of rescue, and sent funds illegally, through the London-based Polish government-in-exile, to the Jewish underground in Poland.

The Jewish labor leaders -- heads of the needle trades' unions, fraternal organizations such as the Workmen's Circle, and Socialist and Yiddish groups -- were themselves immigrants with extended family ties in Europe, explained Waltzer. They also had political links to the Jewish Labor Bund in Poland.

As early as 1934, the union leaders had created an umbrella organization, the Jewish Labor Committee, to combat the effects of Nazism. During the war, when accounts of the genocide reached America, they stepped up their activities, noted Waltzer. A mass rally was held in New York's Madison Square Garden in July 1942,

and on December 2, 1942, 500,000 workers in New York stopped work during a Day of Mourning. David Dubinsky, head of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union, referred to Poland as "a slaughter house."

However, though a delegation of leaders met with President Roosevelt a few days later, and a Joint Emergency Committee on European Jewish Affairs was created in 1943, "they produced few results," observed Waltzer.

At the Bermuda Conference, held in April 1943, "it became apparent the Roosevelt Administration opposed doing much to rescue -- or even relieve the condition -- of Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe. Many of the Jewish leaders felt they had failed completely. Growing despair set in, and the Joint Emergency Committee collapsed."

Despite these domestic setbacks, the labor organizations continued to funnel money to the Jewish underground in Poland, via ZEGOTA, the Council for Aid to Jews, set up by the Polish resistance.

Between December 1942 and December 1944, a total of \$350,000 was sent, "to sustain the battered remnants of the underground, and to provide food, medicine, clothing, shelter, forged 'Aryan' documents, and arms," said Waltzer. The money was carried into Poland by parachutists wearing special money belts.

Though the amounts raised were "terribly small" by modern standards and arrived mostly after the destruction for the Warsaw and other Jewish ghettos, stressed Waltzer, "the money gave the Jewish underground added respectability with the Polish underground, with whom relations (during the war) were not always cordial."

STUDENTS DEMAND FIRING OF TEACHER WHO DENIES THE HOLOCAUST

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, March 12 (JTA) -- An exhibition of Nazi atrocities at De La Cite high school in Lausanne triggered a city-wide protest by students this week against the continued presence on the faculty of Mariette Paschoud, a rightwing activist who has publicly denied that the Holocaust occurred.

Students at La Cite boycotted classes taught by Paschoud. The student associations at other high schools and at the university joined them in a statement demanding that Paschoud be fired. She told a press conference in Paris last August 6 that she doubted there were gas chambers at Nazi concentration camps.

Paschoud taught history and French. Two weeks ago, the Swiss authorities relieved her of her history classes but allowed her to continue teaching French. That was the outcome of a seven-month inquiry which concluded only that Paschoud has been "naive" and "imprudent" in her remarks in Paris.

The students called the authorities "hypo-critical." Their statement said it was scandalous to allow a teacher who falsifies history to teach at their school and sent letters to government leaders demanding an explanation and investigation.

The protest has received extensive press and television coverage in Switzerland. Paschoud meanwhile has been isolated. No more than two or three students show up at her classes and other faculty members refuse to talk to her.