

**POLLARDS REPORTEDLY GETTING AID
FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES IN ISRAEL;
GOVERNMENT DENIES ANY INVOLVEMENT**
By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA) -- A private fund established a week ago to raise money for Jonathan Pollard and his wife Anne Henderson-Pollard wound up its activities Monday following Israeli media reports that official sources in Israel were indirectly assisting the American couple convicted of spying for Israel.

The Voice of Israel reported Monday that official sources had paid out \$80,000 towards the Pollards' legal expenses which are estimated at about \$120,000 and have promised to cover the full amount if possible. There were no reports of where the money originated or how it was transferred to the Pollards. A government spokesman on Monday denied that the government was involved in any way with providing the Pollards with funds.

Jonathan Pollard, a former civilian intelligence analyst employed by the U.S. Navy, was sentenced to life imprisonment two weeks ago for his espionage activities on behalf of Israel. His wife received a five-year sentence as an accessory.

The severity of the sentences rallied public sympathy in Israel for the Pollards. An opinion poll published in Yediot Achronot last Friday showed that 68 percent of the respondents favored government assistance to the Pollards, 22 percent preferred public assistance, and only eight percent thought no assistance should be given.

The government's position from the outset has been that Pollard's spying was a "rogue" operation without the authorization or knowledge of the government. It has not deviated from that position. After Pollard was sentenced, Premier Yitzhak Shamir stated that his fate was of no concern to Israel since Israel neither hired him nor gave him espionage assignments.

Two Official Probes Are Under Way

Meanwhile, two official probes are under way into the government's involvement with Pollard and its handling of the affair. A two-man committee of inquiry established by the Inner Cabinet will begin reviewing documents Tuesday and will call its first witnesses Wednesday.

The committee is headed by Yehoshua Rotenstreich, a prominent Tel Aviv lawyer. Its other member is Gen. (Res.) Zvi Tsur, a former Chief of Staff. Rotenstreich took the assignment after it was rejected by retired Supreme Court Justice Moshe Landau because the committee has been given no statutory powers such as the right to subpoena witnesses and have them testify under oath.

It will report directly to the Cabinet. According to Rotenstreich, its work will be completed "no later than the end of April."

The second investigation is being conducted by the intelligence subcommittee of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee which began hearings last Thursday. Its first witness was Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The Knesset body meets in closed session and while it has subpoena powers it lacks the broad scope and prestige of an official commission of inquiry, such as, for example, the Kahan Commission which investigated the conduct of the Lebanon war in 1983.

The opinion poll published Friday, conducted by the Dahaf Institute, showed that 51 percent of Israelis favored an investigation of the Pollard affair by an independent body with limited authority. Thirty-five percent was opposed. An investigation by a judicial commission with broad powers was opposed by a margin of 46-41 percent.

Rabin: Suspicion Is Erroneous

Rabin, addressing the diamond jubilee celebrations of Hadassah here Monday, charged that some official circles in the American Administration are deliberately keeping the Pollard affair alive in a mistaken effort to find other Israeli agents involved.

His suspicions are erroneous, Rabin said. "Israel does not carry out any espionage activities in the U.S. There are no Americans or non-Americans who serve as spies for Israel against the United States. This should be clear to the American people and to everyone," the Defense Minister declared.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES
THE IMPACT OF THE DEMJANJUK TRIAL**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA) -- Two 14-year-old school girls braved the Jerusalem winter and the wrath of their teacher last week to wait in line from six a.m. for seats at the Demjanjuk trial. As it turned out, their teacher was far from angry and used their experiences as a basis for the class discussion next day. She had already reserved seats for the class to attend the war crimes hearings in six weeks time.

The queues outside the Jerusalem concert-hall-turned-courtroom are so long each day that the authorities have opened an additional hall with simultaneous television transmission of the trial.

Some of the regular spectators are themselves Holocaust survivors -- one bearded man, who does not fail to come to each session, lost his wife and two children at Auschwitz.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir attended an afternoon session and Gen. Yossi Peled, commander of the northern front, sat barely hiding his emotions, as he remembered the sound of the gestapo jackboots over the cellar in Poland where he was hidden as a child of four.

Daily Heart-Rending Proceedings

The heart-rending proceedings of the trial of John Demjanjuk, accused of slaughtering tens of thousands of Jews at the Treblinka gas chambers, follow Israelis wherever they go.

Bus passengers sit silent as they listen to the radio transmission of the hearings over the bus loudspeaker. Every corner grocery store seems to have the radio tuned in to the trial, and drivers stare grimly ahead as they hear the gory

details of the daily business of death at Treblinka. It is the minutiae of the running of the death camp that are being described -- at exactly which window did the witness sit as he sorted the gold teeth he had to tear from the mouths of the corpses? What was the exact construction of the incinerator where the bodies were burned when the Nazis realized the burial pits were too full? Who was the SS man who identified Jews showing marks from beatings the previous day and then had them shot?

One question of detail made the President of the court, Justice Dov Levin, show a rare flash of anger. "How can you ask where exactly the washing was hung in a place where 850,000 Jews were killed?" Levin pleaded. But when Demjanjuk's attorney, Mark O'Connor, insisted he needed that detail, the judge allowed the question to be asked.

Testing Witnesses' Memories

American Attorney O'Connor appears to be testing the memory of the witnesses. Sometimes he discovers inconsistencies between their evidence now and their testimony at the Eichmann trial in 1961, or in sworn statements to Yad Vashem Holocaust Center researchers.

O'Connor does not question the terrible experiences of these survivors of Treblinka, but he does challenge their ability to remember the face of their tormentor, known at Treblinka as "Ivan The Terrible."

The witnesses have all identified photos allegedly of Ivan, the then 25-year-old mechanic who operated the equipment for the gas chamber, and who delighted in beating his victims before they went to their deaths.

Yehiel Meir Raichman, a survivor now living in Uruguay, recalled an occasion when Ivan, hearing the wails of a new transport of Jews arriving at the gas chamber, eagerly left the supply cart he was driving and ran to fetch his iron bar to join the guards beating the Jews.

The Main Document Presented

The main document presented so far by the prosecution is an SS identity card, received recently from Moscow, bearing Demjanjuk's name and picture. The defendant, who as a Ukrainian had served in the Red Army, claims to have been captured by the Germans and placed in a Prisoner of War camp during the period he is accused of being at Treblinka.

O'Connor says this document, which the prosecution obtained through the Israeli Foreign Ministry with the help of American-Jewish oil tycoon Armand Hammer, is a KGB forgery. He claims that the Russians want revenge against Ukrainians who left the USSR and settled in the United States. The defense attorney says he has an expert who can prove the forgery chemically but that the prosecution fears he will destroy the evidence.

The defense also plans to bring seven witnesses, whom O'Connor refuses to identify, to testify on Demjanjuk's behalf.

Meanwhile, conversations the accused had in his Israeli prison with a Russian-speaking police officer disguised as a prison warder were reported to the court.

Chief Superintendent Arye Kaplan, who immigrated from the Soviet Union in 1973, related how Demjanjuk continually protested his innocence.

However, on several occasions the defendant challenged Kaplan with the statement: "When your commanding officer orders you to do something, you obey." (The prosecution claims Demjanjuk agreed to take the position at Treblinka in order to escape the rigors of the German POW camp.) And, when referring to Jews, Demjanjuk used the derogatory Russian term "Zhid."

SHAMIR TO SHULTZ: ISRAEL WILL HONOR EXISTING CONTRACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA BUT WILL NOT ENTER INTO NEW ONES

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir informed U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that Israel will honor existing contracts with South Africa but will not enter into any new ones, Israel Radio reported Monday.

The question of sanctions and Israel's trade with the Pretoria regime was raised at Sunday's Cabinet session by Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein. It will be discussed at the Cabinet meeting next Sunday.

According to Israel Radio, it is possible that a ministerial committee will be appointed, headed by Shamir, to determine the nature of sanctions against South Africa. Israel is expected to be on the list of countries doing business with South Africa to be made public on April 1 by the General Accounting Office (GAO), a Congressional body.

OIL DISCOVERED IN THE NEGEV

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA) -- Israel struck oil Sunday, but not enough to strike it rich. The Energy Ministry announced Monday that a small but commercial quantity was discovered in the Negev.

The gusher, known as Well 29 in the Kochav field about 15 kilometers southeast of Ashkelon, is expected to produce about 100 barrels a day from a depth of about 1,600 feet. Oil geologists believe the well holds oil pockets at three different levels.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal said on a Voice of Israel Radio interview that he still pins his hopes on another oil field, the Agur near Nitzana, which is operated by the Armand Hammer group. Israel has been prospecting for oil almost since the State was founded.

So far, its finds have been marginal compared to the country's needs. Israel presently buys most of its oil from Egypt.

ISRAEL REJECTS ARAB PROPOSALS FOR A NEW SEAPORT IN GAZA

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA) -- Israel has rejected proposals from Arab businessmen in the West Bank and Jordan to build a new seaport in Gaza. Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a group of them at a meeting Sunday that the project was neither economical nor practical and Israel does not have the budget for it.

Marwan Doudin, Jordan's Minister for the administered territories, raised the proposal at a press conference last week. He said a new port in Gaza would further Jordan's efforts to improve the economy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which are administered by Israel.

He argued that the port would promote Arab exports, especially agricultural products, which are unable to compete with Israeli exports, partly

because of lack of access to the sea. Rabin said he would be willing to consider specific plans for a Gaza port if they were submitted.

CANADIAN CRIMINAL CODE TO BE AMENDED TO EXPEDITE TRYING WAR CRIMINALS IN CANADA FOR CRIMES COMMITTED ELSEWHERE By Michael Solomon

OTTAWA, March 16 (JTA) -- The Canadian government will amend the Criminal Code to allow suspected Nazi war criminals to be tried in Canada for crimes committed elsewhere, as recommended by the Deschenes Commission. But it rejected another recommendation by the Commission to facilitate the extradition or deportation of war criminals to other countries, mainly West Germany and Israel.

"Rather than dumping war criminals on other countries, we should have the maturity and strength to face the issue in Canada," Justice Minister Ray Hnatshyn said after the Deschenes Commission's report was presented to the House of Commons last Thursday.

The report, the result of more than a year's investigation of Nazi war criminals living in Canada by the one-man Commission of former Quebec Superior Court Justice Jules Deschenes, was submitted to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney last December 31. It was amended twice at the government's request before being given to Parliament last week. Only selected portions were made public.

Satisfaction With The Report

Leaders of both the Jewish and Ukrainian communities in Canada expressed satisfaction with the report and its proposals. The Jewish community considers the prosecution of war criminals in Canadian courts an important step forward in the advancement of justice.

The 700,000-member Ukrainian community and others of Eastern European and Baltic origin are satisfied and relieved that extradition or deportation have been virtually ruled out.

Jewish reaction was expressed by Irwin Cotler, a McGill University law professor and legal advisor to the Canadian Jewish Congress. He said on radio and television interviews over the weekend that the federal government's decision to prosecute war criminals was an important accomplishment.

It took 40 years before the government recognized that "there is no room in a democratic society for war criminals and Canada must never become a safe haven for those monstrous crimes," Cotler said.

Emil Grigorovitch, president of the Canadian Ukrainian Committee, also had kind words for the Commission's report. The Ukrainians are pleased because Deschenes specifically rejected a charge by the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center that many members of the Galicia SS Division, which included large numbers of Ukrainian nationalists, were guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"We have asked the Wiesenthal Center to submit evidence beyond doubt, but they could not show us such evidence," Judge Deschenes said in his report.

But despite public statements to the contrary, some Ukrainian leaders are displeased with the report and have expressed their feelings by direct attacks on Jews. Conservative Party MP William Lessick of Edmonton, Alberta, was quoted

in a newspaper interview as saying "The Ukrainians suffered more than the Jews and the Jews don't have a Simon-pure war record."

He added, "The Ukrainian Holocaust was a greater one, if you want to call it a Holocaust, than the Jewish Holocaust. And who did Stalin put in charge of the Ukrainian Holocaust? It was a Jewish chap," Lessick said, referring apparently to Stalin's Minister of Industry, Lazar Moisevitch Kaganovitch.

Sol Litmann, Canadian representative of the Wiesenthal Center, called Lessick's remarks "an essentially anti-Semitic position that pits Ukrainians against Jews." Cotler expressed the same view. "It is this kind of statement that raises tension between the communities . . . this is not an ethnic issue and cannot be seen in that perspective," he said.

There is considerable evidence nonetheless that the government acted under pressure from the Ukrainian and Baltic communities in Canada, which number over a million, when it rejected extradition.

The Deschenes Commission stated that it "found strong evidence against 20 people as Nazi war criminals living in Canada" and further investigation was warranted in the cases of 238 others. None of the suspects was identified by name in the public report.

Official Jewish circles are urging the government to act swiftly to initiate legal action against the suspects. They noted that some 21 suspected war criminals left Canada for unknown destinations since the Deschenes Commission began its work at the end of 1985.

Liberal Party MP Robert Kaplan, a former Solicitor General, warned in the House of Commons that any delay could allow some of the 20 prime suspects to flee the country before prosecution is begun. "It is absolutely essential that we do not let them slip through the fingers of justice in this country because time is slipping by," Kaplan said.

MP Svend Robinson of the New Democratic Party urged the Justice Minister to get the required legislation through Parliament "within a matter of weeks." He also called for further study of extradition or deportation as an alternative to domestic prosecution.

Dorothy Reitman, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, commended the Deschenes Commission. "We are gratified by the stated intention of the government to bring war criminals to justice and make them answer for their crimes," she said.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN AUSTRIA

VIENNA, March 16 (JTA) -- A survey conducted by Austria's four major opinion poll institutes showed that seven out of every 100 Austrians are self-declared anti-Semites. The survey of a cross-section of the population, totalling 9,000 people, sponsored by the Austrian National Bank, showed that the lowest rate of anti-Semitism -- four percent -- was in the 14-29-year age group and the highest among those over 60.

Only three percent among those with higher education had anti-Semitic feelings, while eight percent among those with lower education harbored the same feelings. But the survey also showed that some 33 percent of all Austrians are prejudiced against foreigners generally. A similar survey in the late 1960's showed that 12 percent of Austrians were anti-Semitic.

SHUNI FORTRESS TO RISE AGAIN

By Susan Birnbaum

SHUNI FORTRESS, Jabotinsky Park, Israel, March 16 (JTA) -- Nearly every leader in the history of Israel has passed through the road between Zichron Ya'acov and the coastal plain, known as the Shfela. Here, on a hilltop overlooking Israel's Carmel wine-growing district, about halfway between Haifa and Netanya, at the place known as Shuni Fortress, the slightest touch of a trowel turns up artifacts dating from 40 years ago, 100, 1,000. . .

There used to be a Roman amphitheater about 1,000 years ago on the site now known as Shuni Fortress. It was built on the ruins of a Talmudic Jewish village called Shuni, and there are indications that Rabbi Akiba was killed here, following his revolt against the Romans begun in Caesaria.

The Crusaders were here, too. It was they who built a fortress on foundations laid in Herodian times, and, later, the Arabs converted this place into a granary. The Arabs called this place Bar Akab, a name strongly recalling the Hebrew Akiba.

Before the British left Palestine, Menachem Begin came to this place with the Irgun, and, under the nose of the British, set up an underground haven -- aboveground. Who would have even thought that the Jews would set base right under the British Army's nose? asked Shlomo Arich, who in the early 1940's shared his lot with Begin and other members of Etzel -- acronym for Irgun Zva'i Le'umi.

Dig They Must

Arich, whose hobby is archaeology, showed the members of the Jewish National Fund assembly around the 30-acre site where American amateur archaeologists dug their way down through the promising layers of soil. Smiling and sweating under the noon sun, despite the wind, about 10 American volunteers -- middle-aged women and one man, organized through B'nai B'rith, Hadassah and JNF -- were exulting in their toil, digging down to untold treasures.

Charlotte and Saul Weinstein of Philadelphia have come to do something they have thought about for a long time, and more will come, over 100, for two or three months, to fulfill a lifelong dream, to dig up the past of Israel.

Once restored, Shuni Fortress is expected to become the center of a major JNF recreational park to commemorate Ze'ev Jabotinsky, Zionist Revisionist, and Israeli legend.

Main Base Of Irgun Operations

"This was the main base of operations of the Irgun," said Arich, gesturing here and there, showing people through a villa under renovation which, when complete, will reproduce the Irgun headquarters that was not at all hidden. He pointed up the hill, within easy sight of the dig, where, he said, the British were encamped.

For two full years, Arich and fellow Irgun members lived in the building being revamped. The villa with the windows onto the coastal plain was the Irgun central commanders' school, and it was from here that the Irgun embarked on their missions, including the attack on the Acre Fortress, which they emptied of prisoners in order to free their comrades sentenced to die.

Two years ago, JNF began sending in paid workers and volunteers to rebuild Shuni Fortress.

An international youth camp was started here for educational and archaeological studies.

Helga Reder, a young Israeli woman volunteering on the dig, is looked upon as an expert by the Americans, who ask her for help at each step. "This is a young dig," said Reder. "We know that a Roman theater existed here, but we don't know in what condition we will find it."

There five weeks, Reder said she had turned up some bronze coins. "There are stories that there were rooms with statues here," she said. She continued digging.

JNF Plans For The Area

The land around Shuni Fortress was purchased in 1914 by Baron James de Rothschild's Pika Land Purchasing Company for development by Jewish farmers, who were taught the tools of the agricultural trade at Shuni. After learning necessary skills, these farmers established the pioneer communities of Zichron Ya'acov (Ya'acov being Sir James Hebrew name), Givat Ada, Bin-yamina (another Rothschild) and Nahiat Jabotinsky.

Since 1948, Shuni has been uninhabited.

The JNF's plans, estimated to cost \$1 million, include a thoroughly developed area of about 15 acres, called Jabotinsky Park, neighboring Nahlat Jabotinsky. They intend to set up an amphitheater for special events, picnic areas, hiking facilities and parking areas. But its piece de resistance will be an archaeological garden surrounding Shuni Fortress. And, of course, there will be tens of thousands of trees, named for Jabotinsky.

B'NAI B'RITH GIVES IRAN'S UN ENVOY THE 'HAMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD'

UNITED NATIONS, March 16 (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith's "Haman of the Year Award" came home to Persia Monday night when it went to Said Rajaie-Khorassani, Iran's Ambassador to the UN.

The award was presented by Dr. Harris Schoenberg, director of the United Nations Affairs for the International Council of B'nai B'rith. The occasion was the International Council's Fourth Annual United Nations Purim Party.

Rajaie-Khorassani was cited for his extraordinary solution to the United Nations financial crisis. In a speech to the General Assembly on October 30, 1986, the Iranian diplomat suggested that the destruction of the Jewish State would help to solve the crisis by removing many money-consuming items from the world body's agenda.

In a similar way, Schoenberg said, Haman of old had proposed that he would solve King Ahashveraus's money problems once the king authorized the destruction of Persian Jewry.

Ambassador Rajaie-Khorassani bemoaned Israel's existence and UN membership because, he said, the "political cancer" of Israel "contaminates all of us."

Attending the B'nai B'rith UN Purim Party were more than 100 members of the UN diplomatic and press corps, Secretariat officials, and representatives of UN Non-Governmental Organizations.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The cost of living index rose one percent in February, the lowest monthly increase in the past half year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported Sunday.