

SHAMIR HINTS THAT NOT ALL TESTIMONY IN CABINET PROBE OF POLLARD CASE WILL BE PASSED ON TO THE UNITED STATES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 24 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir hinted broadly Tuesday that three former diplomatic officials need not fear incrimination in the United States if they testify before a Cabinet-appointed panel investigating the Jonathan Pollard spy case.

Although Israel has undertaken to cooperate with the U.S. in the Pollard affair, it made no promise to pass all relevant material on to Washington, Shamir told reporters. He thus offered assurances to lawyer David Libai, who advised his clients not to testify, that whatever they say will not place them in danger of prosecution in the U.S.

Libai is engaged in negotiations with Attorney General Yosef Harish for a written commitment that testimony given at the Cabinet-sponsored probe will not be passed on to foreign sources. "From what I know, as far as the government's undertaking (to the U.S.) is concerned, it is certainly possible for the (committee) to continue its work without detriment to Libai's clients," Shamir said.

The two-man committee ran into a roadblock at the outset of its hearings last week when Yosef Yagur, Ilan Ravid and Irit Erb, former officials at the Israel Embassy in Washington and the Consulate General in New York, refused to appear on grounds of self-incrimination. The three, allegedly associated with Pollard, left the U.S. immediately after his arrest in 1985.

The committee, consisting of Tel Aviv lawyer Yehoshua Rotenstein and former Chief of Staff Zvi Tsur, remains stalled. The government is anxious for it to complete its task in order to forestall demands for a full-scale judicial inquiry with broad powers the committee lacks.

ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE THREATENED BY PAKISTAN'S QUEST FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, March 24 (JTA) -- Pakistan's interest in obtaining nuclear weapons poses a threat to Israel's existence and Congress should consider halting military aid, Sen. John Glenn (D. Ohio) said Monday.

Glenn, testifying before the Senate Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Near East and South Asian Affairs, said there is strong evidence indicating that Pakistan is "manufacturing and testing components for nuclear weaponry." He proposed eliminating military aid to Pakistan unless it can be certified that it has no nuclear materials.

Glenn, noting that former Pakistan President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto said he was building an "Islamic bomb," said the weapon is "the ultimate threat to Israel's existence. Pakistan's nuclear weapons production will sooner or later . . . result in a wider frontier of nuclear weapons technology to countries in the Middle East. The flash point for nuclear war will be lowered through the combination of religiously-based

conflict with the means for mass destruction." The Reagan Administration is seeking continuation of a \$4.02 billion six-year package to Pakistan that was approved by Congress last year. Supporters of the assistance assert that refusal to grant aid would induce Pakistan to develop nuclear weapons.

"Development of a close and reliable security partnership with Pakistan gives Pakistan an alternative to nuclear weapons to meet its legitimate security needs and strengthens our influence on Pakistan's nuclear decision-making," said Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs.

With the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Pakistan is also perceived as a critical bulwark against Soviet influence.

"Pakistan today is directly threatened by the Soviet Union. Indeed were it not for Pakistan, by now Moscow would have succeeded in its brutal efforts to drag bleeding Afghanistan into the Soviet Empire," said Sen. Gordon Humphrey (R. NH).

UNPUBLISHED SECTION OF DESCHENES REPORT SHOWS CANADA HELPED PROVIDE SAFE HAVEN FOR SOME NAZIS AFTER WWII

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, March 24 (JTA) -- Evidence of Canadian participation in efforts to provide safe haven for certain Nazis right after World War II is contained in an unpublished section of the Deschenes Commission's report on Nazi war criminals in Canada, presented to the House of Commons last week.

According to MP Robert Kaplan, a former Solicitor General, "it's essential that it be brought out so that Canadians will know the whole story of war crimes."

Kaplan was referring to a study done for the Deschenes Commission by researcher Ati Rodel which could be embarrassing for Ottawa on several counts. It outlines Canada's willing participation in a British-U.S. plan to settle German scientists, many of them active Nazis, in Canada, the U.S. and Britain to keep them out of Soviet hands.

Rodel is said to have found evidence, though not conclusive, that British and American intelligence may have spirited known Nazi collaborators out of Eastern Europe into Canada, without the government's knowledge, in order to establish anti-Soviet spy networks.

Rodel's study includes a review of anti-Semitic, fascist, political organizations active before and during the war, such as the Iron Guard in Rumania, Thunder Cross in Latvia, and the Arrow and Cross in Hungary which collaborated with the Nazis. Some of their members may have entered Canada despite regulations to keep them out.

One part of the study deals with Count Jacques de Bernonville, a French collaborationist who was the "right hand man" of war criminal Klaus Barbie, "the butcher of Lyon." The Count, who reached Quebec after the war, was enabled by Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent to leave the country before he could be extradited to France.

PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE DELEGATION SAYS IT GAINED A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF ISRAEL'S ACTIONS AND MOTIVES CONCERNING A NUMBER OF VEXING ISSUES

By Margie Olster

JERUSALEM, March 24 (JTA) -- American Jewish leaders who came here a week ago to warn the leaders of Israel that their handling of the Jonathan Pollard spy case was not being well received in the U.S., left for home Monday saying they had gained a deeper understanding of Israel's actions and motives.

The 40-member delegation of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations also gained insight into Israel's relationship with South Africa and its efforts to have the U.S. government abolish refugee status for Jews leaving the Soviet Union, according to Conference chairman Morris Abram.

"I think Americans will never be able to fully understand Israeli actions when they (Israelis) perceive their security interests at stake," Abram told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

He referred specifically to a matter which soured U.S. attitudes toward Israel and aroused serious concern among American Jews -- the advancement of the careers of Air Force Col. Aviem Sella and former Mossad operative Rafael Eitan, the Israeli officials who, according to Pollard's trial testimony, recruited him and ran his spy operation in the U.S.

Expresses Sympathy For Sella

"People who live in constant fear of utter destruction and death look on a Col. Sella as a national asset and a hero of which there are not enough in a dangerous world, so there is sympathy for Sella and I have that sympathy too. I know what Sella is and what he represents," Abram said.

He maintained that Sella was in fact "punished" by not being promoted to the rank of Brig. Gen., even though he was given command of Israel's second largest air base.

The American Jewish leaders had long, frank discussions with Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other top political and military figures.

They were told repeatedly that the Pollard spy case was a "rogue operation" conducted without the knowledge or authorization of the highest levels of government. Abram said he believed this and was confident the other members of the delegation left Israel also believing it.

Some Doubts Continue

But at least one member still has doubts. Barrett Zumhoff, president of the Workmen's Circle, said "Shamir, Peres, Rabin and all said it was a rogue operation. It sounded convincing but I don't believe it."

"Part of espionage is that the head of state has to have deniability," Zumhoff observed. "Regardless of this, the Pollard affair was only compounded by a number of errors made by the Israeli government in the wake of the crisis, the worst of which were the promotions of Sella and Eitan." Those actions were "exceptionally stupid," he added. Eitan, who ran LEKEM, Pollard's spy unit, was given the chairmanship of Israel Chemicals, the largest government-owned corporation.

Zumhoff was also critical of the public stand taken by the Presidents Conference delegation. "I didn't agree that we should have made so much noise about it. I felt we had overdone it," he said. "Criticism of the Israel government would have been more beneficial if conveyed privately, not in the media."

Israel Friedman, executive vice president of the Religious Zionists of America/Hapoel Hamizrachi, echoed those sentiments. "The whole thing was blown out of proportion," he said.

'A Historic Meeting'

But Abram called the meetings of Jewish leaders with Israel's top leadership this past week a "watershed."

"This has been a historic meeting because I have never in my life seen in such stark forms, issues boil to the surface -- not just abstract issues like 'Who is a Jew?', but in terms of how the relationship of Jews in the diaspora to Israel affects the State of Israel," Abram said.

Never Intended To Dictate To Israeli Leaders

Speaking of the Pollard affair in general, Abram said the Presidents Conference never intended to dictate to the Israeli government how to conduct its internal affairs. But, Abram said, "We had every responsibility, and discharged it, to tell the State leaders of Israel how their actions were being perceived in the U.S."

The deeper understanding of Israeli positions also extended to the controversy over Israel's military ties with South Africa, according to Abram. "We understood some who said Israel had to be very cautious about the use of the boycott . . . the word embargo doesn't strike responsive chords in a country which is almost embargoed out of the United Nations," Abram said.

Days after the Presidents Conference delegation arrived, the Israeli government decided to impose limited sanctions on South Africa. Abram explained that Israel has done more to hurt itself in this action than any other state.

"Israel needs an arms industry because it has so few arms suppliers and an arms industry needs exports. No state similarly beset and beleaguered, so insecure, at war with all its neighbors has taken an action so contrary to its military interest on behalf of its moral principles," Abram said.

ISRAELI FIRM Suing U.S. ARMY FOR CANCELLING \$8 MILLION CONTRACT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 24 (JTA) -- An Israeli firm said Tuesday it would sue the U.S. Army for suddenly cancelling an \$8 million order for gas masks after the first consignment was delivered. According to Menahem Kalir, general manager of Rabintex Industries in Bet Shean, the cancellation was a reprisal for Jonathan Pollard's spy activities in the U.S.

Kalir denied as "baseless" the Army's claim that the contract was terminated because of late deliveries. He said the cancellation order was received immediately after the first batch of masks was received in the U.S. early in March.

Kalir said his firm invested \$2 million to produce the masks. Cancellation of the contract may force the plant to close down, adding mass unemployment to the troubles of Bet Shean, a development town, he said.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF THE PACIFIC

By Edwin Eytan

HONG KONG, March 24 (JTA) -- Jews in the diaspora have always been a minority but never probably in all their history has this been more striking than this week in Hong Kong at the second conference of the Asia Pacific Jewish Association (APJA).

The 30 delegates at the Asian-Jewish Colloquium, jointly sponsored by the World Jewish Congress and the APJA, are representing approximately 100,000 Jews scattered in an area of teeming billions. Without Australia and New Zealand, where the Jews enjoy a special status, a legacy from the days of British rule, there are less than 7,000 Jews in the world's most populous continent and separated in distances of thousands of miles.

Fiji, an island republic in the Pacific Ocean, is home to 15 Jews who are four hours flight away from the nearest other Jewish communities in New Caladonia with 80 Jews, Taiwan with 40 Jewish families, and Thailand with 85 Jews.

Practically all have sent one or two delegates to Hong Kong to try to establish a system of closer collaboration between communities which appear like specks of sand dotting Asia and Pacific areas. For three days the delegates have tried to work out a system of sharing a shuttling shohet, an itinerant mohel, a rabbi or even an occasional minyan.

Some of the people who were gathered in this city of five million inhabitants in which less than 1,000 Jews live are nearly as colorful as the communities they represent.

The Woman From Thailand

Sally Eubani, 38, comes from Bangkok, Thailand, where 85 Jewish families live, less than 240 people. Born in Beirut, Lebanon, she left for Thailand with her husband 22 years ago.

A small, elegant woman who still speaks English and French with her original Lebanese accent, she is a full-time community volunteer worker. She helps run the local community center, Beth Elisheva, where kosher meals are served Friday nights and Saturday, organizes Talmud Torah courses for the community's 25 children and arranges for the regular social events.

In spite of the community's small size there are two synagogues. A small Orthodox one in the city's business center is mainly attended by the dozen members of Afghan and Iraqi origin. This community, whose members are generally diamond and precious stones merchants, opened their own synagogue a dozen years ago.

The main synagogue, more liberal, is in the city's European residential area. It is housed in the community center built with the donation of a Thaiandese woman, born in Bangkok of Dutch parents, Elisabeth Zerner, who died in 1970 and left all her fortune to the community.

Five families, including that of Eubani, are Thaiandese citizens; the rest come from the United States, Britain, Germany, Israel and the Soviet Union.

"We never had a local wedding but we regularly have Bar Mitzvah ceremonies, three last year alone. For a Brith Mila we bring over a mohel from either Australia or Israel and, believe me, it is quite a celebration," Eubani told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The local community has a volunteer shohet for poultry and imports

frozen kosher meat from either Israel or the States.

"We lead a full Jewish life in spite of our reduced numbers and the distance from the nearest other Jewish community," Eubani said. "Last year we had close to 180 people for the traditional seder and this year we expect even more, as tourists are traditionally highly welcome."

From Boston To Taipei

Edward Tucker comes from Taipei, Taiwan. He is the president, secretary general and volunteer worker of the community of 40 families, including 24 children. Tucker, who originally came from Boston, Mass., has lived in Taiwan for seven years. He is married to a Chinese woman who has remained a Buddhist but who is highly active in Jewish communal affairs.

"My wife has just not felt like changing her religion, but otherwise she feels and acts as Jewish as anyone else I know," he said.

A businessman who works for a large American chemical firm, Tucker, who was also active in Jewish affairs in the U.S., spends several hours a day helping run the community. "We have a synagogue with a minyan at least once a week if not more. We have a sort of Sunday school run by an Israeli student and we have a communal seder every year."

The community had three Bar Mitzvahs last year and a brith a year ago. The parents, who came from Latin America, flew over a mohel from Brazil. Tucker also wants closer cooperation with other Jewish communities lost in the huge Pacific expanse.

The Singapore Jewish Community

Rabbi Isaac Ben Zakin comes from Singapore, a relatively large and well organized community of 600 people, including 300 Israelis. Ben Zakin, 36, was born in Melilla, Spanish Morocco, and educated in Britain. He came to Singapore in 1975 and serves as hazan, shohet, rabbi and teacher.

There are two synagogues, a regular Talmud Torah, a communal center and even a small-seventeen people -- old age home. The Singapore community, contrary to most other small Asian communities, consists of a large proportion of Singaporean-born Jews and not of a transient community.

"We have our poor, 32 people currently receive financial help and free medical treatment, and our young serve in the Singaporean army for three years compulsory service, like other Singaporeans," Ben Zakin said.

The community also has a certain amount of financial security thanks to the Singapore Jewish Charities Trust and the Meyer Trusts set up before the war when the community was 6,000 strong.

One Of The Lonesomest Delegates

One of the strangest and loneliest delegates is Anne Ranasinghe who comes from Sri Lanka (Ceylon) where, as far as she knows, only three Jews still live. German-born, Ranasinghe married during World War II in London a Ceylonese Buddhist doctor. In spite of her late husband's pleas, she adamantly refused to change her religion and brought up her two daughters, one of whom is married to an American diplomat, as Jews.

It was when she returned to Germany in 1983, for the first time after 44 years, that she was suddenly faced with the reality of her past-

the Holocaust and Judaism. Today she writes poetry, books, documentaries, many on Jewish subjects. She came to the Hong Kong meetings in spite of the particularly small size of her community. "Actually, I might be wrong," Ranasinghe said. "There is a fourth Jew in Sri Lanka -- at least a former German Jew now a Buddhist monk but who, as far as we can tell, still feels Jewish at heart."

The most unusual participant at the colloquium is, however, undoubtedly Prof. Sidney Shapiro, known in his adopted country, the People's Republic of China, as Sha Boli. The 72-year-old New York-born Jew who attends the meetings with the authorization of the Chinese Academy arrived somewhat stiff in his blue cotton jacket.

It took him less than a couple of days to feel and act like a "real Jew." He took to the meeting like a fish to water and his first outing in Hong Kong was to a local American deli "for a real thick pastrami sandwich like they make at home."

ISRAELI ENVOY URGES THAT UN CHIEF RECONSIDER OPENING TO THE PUBLIC UN FILES ON NAZI WAR CRIMINALS By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 24 (JTA) -- Israel contended here Tuesday that "the decision and responsibility" regarding the granting of free public access to the UN files on Nazi war criminals lies with Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The Secretary General rejected last Thursday Israel's request to open the files at the UN archive on war criminals to public scrutiny, contending that the nations which were members of the long-defunct War Crimes Commission had objected to it.

Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, told a press conference here he hopes that de Cuellar will reconsider his decision in view of information obtained by Israeli researchers who examined more than 300 files obtained by Israel last May from the UN archive on war criminals. The UN archive, located in downtown Manhattan, contains some 40,000 files on suspected Nazis and their collaborators.

Cites Discoveries By Yad Vashem Researchers

"Yad Vashem researchers have determined that public access to the files would generate a significant amount of new information regarding the Holocaust," Netanyahu said. He said that a thorough investigation of 347 files revealed the extent of information regarding the Holocaust that reached the West before the war's end.

"File 79/P/G/16 describes the destruction of hundreds of thousands of Jews at Treblinka concentration camp. It was delivered to the UN War Crimes Commission on April 24, 1944," the Ambassador said. Similar information on the mass murder of Jews at Maidanek and Belzec concentration camps was delivered to the Commission on June 3, 1944, Netanyahu noted. World War II ended in May 1945.

Yad Vashem researchers also discovered, according to Netanyahu, lists of personnel who ran the camps; the nature and amount of property confiscated from European Jewry by the Nazis; the number of victims and survivors of the Holocaust; information on the "Sondergrichte" -- the special German courts in occupied Nazi territories;

official reports, unknown until now, detailing Nazi policy on European Jewry and the camps; and new details on Nazi medical experiments.

"Public access to the files is indispensable to establish a more accurate record of that historical period," Netanyahu declared. "The present rules of confidentiality prevent widespread research into this material and its publication and dissemination."

He added: "Unfettered access to the files would facilitate the work of governmental agencies pursuing and prosecuting Nazi war criminals by providing new historical accounts and legal documents."

The Israeli envoy noted that many of the files were written in English. "This is highly unusual and would benefit many young researchers not fluent in German, Polish, Czech and other East European languages," he said.

Netanyahu, confirming the fact that only Australia, out of the 17 nations who were members of the War Crimes Commission, agreed to the opening of the files, was asked why, in his opinion, the majority of the former members of the Commission objected to the opening of the files. "I can assume that some of the findings will be unpleasant to individuals and to governments," he answered.

THREE-JUDGE PANEL IN DEMJANJUK TRIAL REJECTS DEFENSE MOTION TO DISQUALIFY ITSELF BECAUSE OF BIAS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 24 (JTA) -- The trial of accused war criminal John Demjanjuk began its fifth week Monday after the three-judge panel rejected a defense motion to disqualify itself for bias against the defendant and his lawyers.

The allegation of bias was made by Yoram Sheftel, the Israeli lawyer assisting Demjanjuk's American attorney, Mark O'Connor. Sheftel cited instances of what he claimed were discrimination against the defense, personal attacks on him from the bench and a lack of objectivity.

After a two-hour recess, court president Dov Levin declared there was no basis to Sheftel's charges. He said the bench had not "intervened more than necessary" during the trial and in fact behaved "with more than usual forbearance."

The court also rejected Sheftel's demand that the hearings be suspended while the defense appealed the issue to the Supreme Court. Demjanjuk's attorneys may appeal nevertheless.

Most of the proceedings Monday were devoted to O'Connor's cross-examination of former police investigator Martin Koller, himself a Holocaust survivor who lost his entire family. Koller was questioned closely on the process by which photographs were presented to witnesses to identify the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk as the sadistic Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible."

Koller, who immigrated to Israel from Czechoslovakia in 1965, testified that he was employed by U.S. occupation forces in Europe after the war investigating Nazi war crimes.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Israeli pavilion at the International Trade Fair in Cairo had some 10,000 visitors during the first week of the fair last week, according to an Israel Embassy spokesman in Cairo.