

INNER CABINET ADOPTS REPORT BLAMING ENTIRE CABINET FOR POLLARD AFFAIR
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 27 (JTA) -- The Inner Cabinet, meeting late Tuesday night, adopted the report of a special panel which held the government ministers collectively responsible for the blunders arising from Jonathan Pollard's espionage for Israel in the United States.

The report, most of which is classified, was submitted to Premier Yitzhak Shamir Tuesday morning.

It represents the conclusions drawn by Tel Aviv lawyer Yehoshua Rotenstreich and former Chief of Staff Gen. Zvi Tsur, who were appointed by the Cabinet last March to investigate the government's involvement in the damaging Pollard affair. Another report, covering the same ground, was presented to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee Tuesday evening by its intelligence subcommittee, chaired by Abba Eban.

The full Cabinet will soon convene in special session to review both reports. The political echelons clearly preferred the Rotenstreich-Tsur report which blamed the entire ministerial establishment, over the Eban report, which criticized individual ministers by name.

Eban, who also chairs the subcommittee's parent body, bore down hard on fellow Laborites Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin, the Foreign Minister and Defense Minister, respectively, as well as Shamir. At a press conference Tuesday night he outlined details of his subcommittee's findings.

Praise For Cooperation With U.S.

He praised Shamir, Peres and Rabin for saving U.S.-Israeli relations from collapse by their decision to cooperate fully with the American investigation of Pollard.

He said Peres deserved most of the credit because he was Premier at the time, but by the same token, he deserved most of the blame for the government's mishandling of the Pollard affair.

None of the ministers involved knew that Rafi Eitan, head of a scientific unit of the Defense Ministry at the time, recruited Pollard, a civilian intelligence analyst employed by the U.S. Navy, to spy for Israel, Eban said. But they chose not to ask questions precisely because they had confidence in Eitan. However, Eban maintained, "Asking a lot of irritating questions is the very essence of the ministerial function."

Although the Knesset subcommittee found Peres, Rabin and Shamir guilty of laxity, the burden of responsibility must be born by Peres who, as Premier was "first among equals," Eban said.

Political Motivation Is The Retort

The immediate comment by Peres and Rabin was to charge that the Eban report was politically motivated. Eban rejected what he called the "lightheaded" reaction of the ministers. Parliamentary criticism is the essence of the democratic system, he said. "If certain people have spent hundreds of hours and accumulated thou-

sands of documents studying a single issue, there is at least a chance that they might have learned something, and having learned something, they might have something to communicate," Eban said.

The Rotenstreich-Tsur report focused on Eitan and on Air Force Col. Aviem Sella, who was Pollard's "handler," for failing to report their activities to their superiors and exceeding their authority. It found that Eitan's subsequent appointment as director general of Israel Chemicals, the largest government-owned corporation, showed "inadequate sensitivity."

The ministerial level was also blamed for failing to take sufficient action when Pollard's activities were exposed.

Political pundits believe neither report will result in a political shakeup. Neither panel recommended that anyone resign. But Likud sources indicated they would make political capital of the criticism directed at Peres by the Eban committee.

STATE DEPARTMENT HOPES ISRAELI REPORTS ON POLLARD WILL PREVENT FURTHER ISRAELI SPYING ON THE UNITED STATES

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 27 (JTA) -- The State Department expressed the hope Wednesday that the reports issued at the conclusion of two official Israeli investigations into the case of Jonathan Pollard will prevent any further spying by Israel on the United States.

"We hope that these reports will contribute to the ensuring that espionage activities like Pollard never occur again," Phyllis Oakley, a State Department spokesperson, said.

Oakley said the U.S. had "no specific comments to offer" on the reports issued Tuesday by a Knesset intelligence subcommittee, headed by Labor MK Abba Eban, and a government-appointed committee, made up of Zvi Tsur, a former Chief of Staff, and Yehoshua Rotenstreich, a prominent Tel Aviv lawyer. She noted that the U.S. had not seen the official findings, only the reports in the press.

"The responsibility for following up the conclusions of these reports lies with the government of Israel," Oakley said.

The findings of the investigations cleared Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his predecessor in the post, Minister-Without-Portfolio Moshe Arens, of direct knowledge of the Pollard operation.

But the conclusions stressed they had ministerial responsibility for what occurred. Rabin and Arens were particularly criticized for lax supervision of Lekem, the intelligence unit that recruited Pollard to spy in the United States.

Pollard was arrested outside the Israel Embassy here Nov. 25, 1985. He was sentenced last March 4 to life. His wife Anne was given a five-year prison term as an accessory.

The Rotenstreich-Tsur report was particularly critical of Rafael Eitan, head of Lekem, and Air Force Col. Aviem Sella, who recruited Pollard to spy on the U.S. Eitan has since been appointed head of Israel Chemicals, the largest government-owned company.

Sella was appointed commander of an Israel Air Force base, but in the wake of U.S. criticism and a declaration that no American official would deal with that base, he resigned the post.

"We have always said that we are concerned about the treatment of those individuals involved in Pollard's espionage, and the government of Israel undertook to hold such persons to account," Oakley said.

She denied reports in Israel that Rabin would cancel a scheduled trip to Washington because of the committees' conclusions. She said there was "no connection" between the Rabin visit and the Israeli findings.

U.S. JEWISH LEADERS HAIL POLLARD REPORTS AS EXAMPLE OF DEMOCRACY

NEW YORK, May 27 (JTA) -- The investigation of the Israel government's involvement in the Jonathan Pollard spy case by two separate panels was hailed as an example of democracy in action by American Jewish leaders.

"We welcome their findings as an example of a democratic process in a democratic society," Burton Levinson, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said in a statement Wednesday.

Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said, "the appointment of two commissions to explore the role of high officials in the Pollard affair was the kind of response Israel's friends hoped for and expected from a vital and flourishing democracy."

The investigations were conducted by a Cabinet-appointed commission of two and by the seven-member intelligence subcommittee of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. Both reported Tuesday their findings that the highest political echelons were culpable for mishandling the affair and held the entire Cabinet collectively responsible. Abram noted in his statement that "All governments make mistakes, but only democratic countries have the capacity to examine what went wrong. Israel acted in this spirit." Levinson said: "We find it reassuring that the two committees found no evidence of complicity or knowledge of the Pollard affair among Israel's political leadership. We support their call for the Israeli government to accept responsibility for the Pollard affair and continue to act to correct the damages."

Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International, focused on the sharp criticism the panels reserved for the two senior Israeli officials directly involved with Pollard, Rafael Eitan and Col. Aviem Sella.

"In view of the findings, I believe Mr. Eitan should resign as director general of Israel Chemicals, just as Sella has resigned from the Tel Nof Air Force base," Reich said. "Such a step would help cleanse the stain caused by the Pollard affair and its aftermath."

KNESSET PANEL CLEARS WAY TO PUBLISH HIGHLY CRITICAL REPORT ON LAVI JET

TEL AVIV, May 27 (JTA) -- The Knesset's Public Audit Committee voted Wednesday that a section on the Lavi fighter plane project severely critical of the decision-making process in military procurement may be included in the annual report of the State Comptroller, due to be published next month.

The vote was a reversal of one taken by the Committee Tuesday to delete that part of the Comptroller's report from the public document. That had been the wish of the six members of Likud and Tehiya who outvoted the five Labor and leftwing members of the Committee.

But the Tehiya member, former Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan, agreed Wednesday to change his vote under a compromise proposed by the Laborites. It will permit publication of the section on the Lavi only if the Cabinet has by then reached a decision on the future of the project.

Maariv reported Wednesday that the State Comptroller's findings on the Lavi project from its inception in 1980, constitutes probably the gravest indictment of government actions ever made by the public watchdog. It casts a heavy shadow on the governments in office since 1980, particularly the Defense Ministers.

Decisions Ripped

According to Maariv, the Comptroller found that the initial decision by the Defense Ministry in 1980 to build the Lavi took no account of the economic aspects of the project, including export possibilities, or of alternative projects.

There was no examination of the Lavi's impact on future defense programs nor was there cooperation between the Defense and Finance ministries on the costs, financing and technology of the project, according to the report.

Maariv reported that the Comptroller found, in addition, that there was no examination of the defense establishment's long-term budget with respect to the Lavi's engine nor was there any professional discussion between the Israel Defense Force's planning departments and the Air Force about the suitability of the plane in a future war. Although the project did not meet the operational requirements of the Air Force, it was never brought before the Ministerial Defense Committee after 1980, Maariv reported. The decision to continue the project was made at a time when the government knew that General Dynamics in the U.S. was to submit alternative proposals for the manufacture of F-16s in Israel.

When that proposal was submitted, it was not given in-depth consideration, the Comptroller said, according to Maariv.

Finally, the Comptroller stated that all stages of the project lacked control mechanisms to warn of cost overruns. Only in 1985 was it discovered that the Lavi's cost would exceed original estimates by 100 percent, Maariv reported.

The Lavi, Israel's second-generation jet fighter plane, is already in serious trouble with the defense establishment, which claims it is diverting funds from other major weapons systems Israel will need in any future war.

BARBIE TRIAL CAN'T SOLVE MYSTERY OF WHO TOLD GESTAPO ABOUT IZIEU JEWISH CHILDREN'S HOME

By Edwin Eytan

LYON, May 27 (JTA) -- A 43-year-old mystery was raised at the trial of Klaus Barbie Wednesday as witnesses testified about the arrest and deportation to death camps of 44 Jewish children sheltered at a former summer camp in the village of Izieu, near Lyon, in April 1944. The youngest was five, the oldest 17. All perished, as did the six adults arrested with them. Barbie, the wartime Gestapo chief in the Lyon district, is accused of

having ordered the arrests and, according to one witness, was at the railroad station to watch the children herded into boxcars for Auschwitz. But none of the witnesses could answer the question which has puzzled French authorities for more than four decades: Who denounced the children to the Gestapo?

Barbie was not in the prisoner's dock Wednesday. After being brought to court under protest Tuesday to be formally identified by six witnesses, he was returned to St. Joseph Prison, where he intends to remain for the duration of the trial. French law allows defendants to be absent from court. Barbie claimed that right on May 13, the second day of his trial.

The Arrests Recalled

The four witnesses who appeared Wednesday recalled that on April 6, 1944, at 9 a.m., the children at Izieu were sitting down to breakfast when a truck with six German soldiers arrived, followed by a civilian car with three Gestapo agents.

Pleadings were of no avail. Forty-five children--one of them a non-Jew, was released shortly afterwards -- were put aboard the truck along with the six adults who staffed the shelter. They were taken to prison in Lyon where, after a brief stay, they were sent to Auschwitz. Two of the children were shot there and 42 died in the gas chambers.

One of Wednesday's witnesses, Leon Reifman, is the sole survivor of Izieu. He was 17 in 1944. He alone saw the truckload of soldiers drive up to the shelter and managed to climb from a window and hide in underbrush until the convoy drove away. The person or persons who tipped off the Gestapo remain unknown. France Culture, a state-owned radio station, reported last week that it was the Mayor of Izieu who wrote to Gestapo headquarters denouncing "the Jewish character" of the shelter.

Other Suspects

The father of the non-Jewish boy released after the raid is also suspected. He was executed by the French underground immediately after the war for collaboration with the Nazis.

Another possible suspect is Lucien Bourdon, a farm worker at the time, who disappeared from Izieu several days after the arrests. He served during the final months of the war as a guard in the Saarbruck concentration camp in Germany, where he was arrested by American forces.

Bourdon, still alive, has been summoned to take the stand at the Barbie trial. In the search for the real culprit, some observers may recall Pierre Laval, the Prime Minister in the Vichy government, who was executed for treason after the war. Laval is known to have complained that the Vichy police were lax in searching French orphanages for children of "Jewish blood."

SHIN BET LEADERS FEAR CONDEMNATION BY COURT WILL ENCOURAGE TERRORISTS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 27 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court's condemnation of methods used by the Shin Bet to obtain confessions has resulted in wide-

spread reproach for the top secret security agency which some of its operatives fear will only encourage terrorists. The court offered its criticism in a ruling Sunday which overturned the 1981 conviction of former Israel Defense Force officer Izat Nafsu, who was serving an 18-year prison sentence for espionage and treason. Nafsu was found guilty by a military tribunal on evidence provided by the Shin Bet, also known as GSS (General Security Services).

In his appeal to the high court, Nafsu, a Circassian, charged the evidence was fabricated and that his confession was extracted by illegal means. The justices bore him out and ordered his immediate release from prison.

In an interview published in Yediot Achronot Wednesday, the former head of the GSS investigations department, who is still known only by his code name "Pashosh," was quoted as saying: "Nafsu is speaking the truth about how we treated him in the investigation . . . The investigation was conducted quickly, like any investigation dealing with terrorism . . . We lied out of necessity. However, there was no falsification of testimony, but neither was this an investigation conducted according to law."

Pashosh stated further, according to Yediot Achronot, that the terrorists now know the GSS is in disarray, "that GSS investigators are not working. The Nafsu affair will lead to an increase in terrorism."

He added, "Perhaps the Israeli nation thinks that a different investigation method must be found, that one mustn't make promises or threats to the person under investigation . . ."

The newspaper Maariv, commenting on the affair, cautioned that "critics must remember that when the GSS is ordered to expose at all costs, prevent at all costs, capture the murderers immediately, there is also a price for this demand. They work in a complex and tense system . . . The political and judicial echelons have refrained from sullyng their hands with marginal matters such as obtaining confessions from a tough defendant, of the turning in of an active terrorist squad by one of its members . . ."

"The recent affairs are liable to create a know-nothing phenomenon (within the GSS) which will limit their success. The first sign of this is already manifest in the field."

Claim GSS Has Changed

The media also quoted senior GSS officials as saying the Nafsu episode belongs to the past, that there has been a thorough housecleaning in the agency and that new instructions have been issued establishing explicit norms for the interrogation of suspects and the conduct of the interrogators.

Nafsu gained his freedom by admitting, in a plea-bargaining arrangement, that he failed to inform his superiors of contacts he had with officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for that offense, but the sentence was counted as time already served.

Nafsu, who originally demanded complete exoneration, has told reporters that he accepted the plea bargain deal against the advice of his attorney. "I broke down. I couldn't wait for months and years for completion of the court."

CROWN HEIGHTS CITIZENS' ANTI-CRIME PATROL TO INCLUDE BOTH BLACKS, JEWS

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, May 27 (JTA) -- An agreement by Black and Hasidic groups in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, NY, to patrol their neighborhood together appears for now to have resolved the years of conflict over a Jewish patrol that has been operating under the aegis of the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council and funded by the Chabad Lubavitch movement, whose world headquarters are located there.

The Hasidic patrol, which Black residents of the neighborhood claim to be a "vigilante group," has been one of the factors of the exacerbated tensions in the area between the two groups.

The Blacks have charged the Jewish patrol with stopping Blacks indiscriminately on the streets and asking them for identification.

The two groups agreed at a meeting at City Hall last Friday to operate a joint patrol of the neighborhood -- long marked by a spiralling crime rate -- sponsored by the local police precinct. The precinct had been urging the Hasidim to sign up with the official police-sponsored anti-crime citizen patrols, which maintain radio contact with the police. About 10 Lubavitchers have been cooperating all along with the police in its efforts at an integrated neighborhood watch group.

A meeting was scheduled for Wednesday with representatives of the two groups and top police officials to discuss recruitment and training for the patrols.

Black Leader Expresses Hope

At Friday's meeting, a Black neighborhood leader, the Rev. Heron Sam, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Crown Heights, voiced optimism about the new patrol. He urged "an end to any kind of partisan patrols that exist in that community." Sam said that if both sides held to the agreement, "I think we have a chance of success."

However, according to Rabbi Yisroel Rosenfeld, executive director of the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, the neighborhood has a long history of integrated patrols.

Rosenfeld told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Crown Heights had a Jewish-initiated, integrated patrol in the 1950's, known as The Maccabees. It was "the first civilian patrol in the country," Rosenfeld claimed. On Shabbat, patrols were handled by Black residents, Rosenfeld said.

The patrols were licensed to be armed, were uniformed, but were let go "because of economics," said Rosenfeld.

Over the years, he continued, "the patrol took on different forms. In the latter years--1975 to present -- it became all Jewish as Blacks dropped out. The Jewish Community Council hired a private detective agency, DKD, which was integrated -- Blacks, Asiatics, Hispanics and Jews."

Jews Expected To Cooperate

Rosenfeld said the Jewish community claims that if integration of the police patrols will defuse the tension, "We're going to ask the Jewish community to join the patrol in larger numbers." Commenting on charges of racism by the Hasidic patrols, Rosenfeld said: "We don't

know if this is true or false, because it was never an official policy to stop people. But we have issued orders that no member of the patrol stop people, and we have told people that anyone doing it will be thrown off the patrol."

However, Rosenfeld said that in the event an actual crime is witnessed, "the patrol has to assess what to do. If you see someone in danger, you're allowed to stop a person and hold him for the police. This is a citizen's arrest."

Rosenfeld spoke of a serious crime problem in Crown Heights, in which "everybody's home, car, business or shul has been broken into." He said the Jewish community is particularly vulnerable on Saturdays, when homes are burgled while people are worshipping at the synagogue.

"You can't judge us. You have to understand, if you see so much crime, you can't blame a patrol for stopping people. The patrol doesn't initiate actions, like Black-baiting. Their job is to protect," Rosenfeld said.

Interrogation Said To Be Illegal

A spokesperson for the community affairs division of the 71st Police Precinct in Brooklyn told JTA that interrogation of specific individuals is absolutely prohibited, as it infringes on an individual's civil rights. The civilian patrols exist for their "mere visibility," the spokesperson said, reporting incidents to police.

Rosenfeld said that "the story that there is so much tension is just not true. We get so many calls from Black people who say, 'Rabbi, don't think that all of us think this way,'" he claimed. He added that many Blacks have asked for meetings with him. "They say that the people who claim to speak for them are not the real leadership," he explained.

The Crown Heights Jewish Community Council was established in 1966 as a small delegate agency to the Crown Heights Community Corp., whose purpose was to serve the Black community. The corporation lost its funding several years ago, Rosenfeld said, and the Jewish Community Council, once in existence solely to serve Yiddish- and Russian-speaking people, has enlarged its scope to serve the whole community.

LIFE SENTENCE FOR FRENCH NEO-NAZI KILLER By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 27 (JTA) -- A self-avowed neo-Nazi was sentenced to life imprisonment Wednesday for the murder of a 75-year-old woman whose only "crime" according to the killer was that "she was Jewish." The Nice Criminal Court found no extenuating circumstances in the case of Raynald Liekens, 23.

Liekens told police and repeated in court that he stabbed Henriette Cerf to death in the summer of 1984 because she was Jewish and I had to "prove to myself my Nazi convictions."

Police found in Liekens' apartment a collection of Nazi-style brown shirts, Nazi insignia and portraits of Adolf Hitler. Psychiatrists told the jury that Liekens was mentally disturbed but sane enough to understand the gravity of his act and to stand trial.

The defense claimed that Liekens had been influenced by the "racist climate" which exists in France and by the anti-Semitic propaganda to which he had been exposed.