

**ANNE POLLARD SENT TO HALFWAY HOUSE,  
ENDING HER 32-MONTH STAY IN PRISON**  
By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- Anne Pollard's troubled stay in federal prison has finally ended.

Pollard was released to a Manhattan halfway house Monday afternoon, after serving two years and eight months of her five-year sentence in federal prison.

She was convicted for crimes related to the activities of her husband, Jonathan Pollard, who is serving a life sentence for spying for Israel.

"If I wasn't so sick, I would be feeling elated," she said Tuesday in a telephone interview, adding that the management of the halfway house seems "wonderful."

Pollard suffers from biliary dyskinesia, a rare gastro-intestinal disorder, which she and her family claim has worsened from inadequate care during her imprisonment. She said she has been feeling especially ill over the past several weeks.

Her new life in Manhattan will include a full-time job working for her father's public relations firm, Bergert, Henderson, Schechter, Smith. She said she will be working on a number of accounts, among them the National Coalition of American Nuns, whose newsletter she will be producing.

"I want to get on with my life and my work," said Pollard, who was a public relations professional before her imprisonment.

**Will Work On Husband's Behalf**

Much of her time and attention, however, will be focused on "Justice for the Pollards," an organization that raises funds for the couple's legal fees her medical expenses.

Pollard said she is determined to win her husband's "freedom and vindication" and will pursue all possible ways in which to achieve that. She plans to speak publicly about the case and hopes to meet with both American and Israeli politicians.

Pollard is confined to Hopper House, located on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, from 9 p.m. until 6 a.m. during the week, and is required to remain within a 50-mile radius of the facility at all times. Her stay at Hopper House will end in March, when she is due to be released on parole.

She will be eligible for regular weekend furloughs after a few weeks at the halfway house, and is being permitted to stay with her family Wednesday night for the Thanksgiving holiday.

"I am grateful," she said, "to be able to have Thanksgiving with my family."

**ARAFAT SENDS BUSH A MESSAGE,  
BUT CONTENTS REMAIN A SECRET**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- President Bush has received an oral message from Yasir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the White House said Wednesday.

But White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater would not reveal what is in the message, except to concede that it deals with the Middle East peace process.

"It was a private message and it was sent

orally, in order to keep it private, and we will maintain that confidence," Fitzwater said.

He said the message was relayed through Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. ambassador in Tunisia and the only U.S. diplomat authorized to conduct formal talks with the PLO.

"There are no plans, at this time, for the president to respond," Fitzwater added.

The Bush administration has maintained that it has been using its dialogue with the PLO to persuade it to allow Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to negotiate with Israel on proposed elections in the territories.

At the same time, the administration has denied talking to the PLO about Secretary of State James Baker's five-point proposal for Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

Meanwhile, there is still no word on whether the Bush administration would grant Arafat a visa to attend the United Nations General Assembly debate on Palestine, scheduled for Nov. 29.

The administration said it has not received a visa request from Arafat and will not make a decision until there is an application for a visa.

**SHAMIR GETS WARM WELCOME IN PARIS,  
BUT ACHIEVES FEW DIPLOMATIC GAINS**  
By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir arrived here on a three-day visit aimed at trying to convince the European Community to give Israel's latest peace plan a chance to succeed.

He hopes to persuade the 12 nations of the community, especially France, to refrain from undertaking any new initiatives in the Middle East. But if his first day was any indication, it will be an uphill struggle.

Shamir received an especially warm welcome from President Francois Mitterrand, who was solicitous of the Israeli leader and went out of his way to demonstrate his friendship for Israel.

But after a 45-minute working session with Shamir and a 90-minute business lunch, the French president remained skeptical that Israel's plan for a dialogue with the Palestinians would materialize, unless the Palestine Liberation Organization is given a participatory role -- which Israel absolutely refuses to allow.

Mitterrand also showed no signs of abandoning his own ideas for European intervention, which Shamir had hoped to sidetrack.

France currently holds the rotating chairmanship of the E.C. Council of Ministers. Before turning it over to Ireland on Jan. 1, Mitterrand plans to convene a meeting here between the E.C. foreign ministers and the foreign ministers of the 22 Arab League nations, plus the PLO.

Mitterrand showed great interest in Shamir's recent meetings in Washington with President Bush and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Observers, including members of Shamir's entourage, could not help noticing differences between the reception the Israeli prime minister got at the White House on Nov. 15 and at the Elysee Palace on Tuesday.

For one thing, Mitterrand accepted Shamir's visit as soon as it was proposed, and promptly extended his own invitation.

Bush waited until the last minute and seemed to make his invitation conditional on Israel's acceptance of American proposals.

Mitterrand went out of his way to show his high esteem and friendship. The luncheon given in honor of the prime minister and his party had the intimate feel of a "family affair."

The conversation was friendly. One member of Shamir's party remarked that "it was a far cry from the meeting with Bush."

Here, there were no embarrassing questions, no denunciations. Israel's military relationship with South Africa and new Jewish settlements in the West Bank were not mentioned at the palace.

But Shamir left their meeting with little more than an assurance of France's friendship for Israel. He does not know exactly where France stands or what are Mitterrand's true intentions.

**NEWS ANALYSIS:**  
**SHAMIR'S APPEAL FOR SOLIDARITY**  
**IS CHALLENGED BY JEWISH LEADERS**  
 By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- Putting out a call for Jewish unity, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told more than 150 Jewish organizational leaders Monday that it is "imperative" to the success of the peace process for Jews in both Israel and the Diaspora to stand together in solidarity.

But as he received questions and comments from members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, it became apparent, as it had been during the course of Shamir's visit to the United States, that unity and consensus among American Jewish leaders has become as elusive as among Israeli politicians.

Immediately after his speech, Shamir was told flatly by Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, that American Jewish organizations are as divided over the issue of "land for peace" as Israel, and that the unqualified support Shamir sought from American Jews "does not exist today."

So, Siegman asked, "can you ask us to pretend that there is a total and complete unity?"

Siegman's question reflected an atmosphere in the Jewish organizational world that may have made Shamir's time with American Jews almost as uncomfortable as his meetings at the White House.

Throughout his week in the United States, parts of the American Jewish community made it clear, both publicly and privately, that they were unhappy with many of Shamir's positions on the peace process.

At the same time, there are still many Jewish leaders who believe that American Jews should support the Israeli prime minister as much as possible, and should not dwell on their differences, particularly in public.

**Squabbles Over Advertisement**

Even before Shamir's arrival in Washington, the Conference of Presidents became tangled over an advertisement that was to appear in The Washington Post when he got there.

The original draft of the advertisement specifically expressed support for positions held by Shamir, such as his refusal to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organization and his demand that negotiations with a Palestinian delegation must be limited to election procedures.

Several groups, including the American Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee and

the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, asked for revisions in the ad.

Unable to change the language to all of their members' satisfaction in time to meet newspaper deadlines, the umbrella organization was only able to publish a very general statement wishing Shamir luck in his talks with the Bush administration.

Having missed the Washington Post deadline completely, the ad ran in The New York Times.

But on the same day, an advertisement similar to the original statement appeared in the Times, under the auspices of B'nai B'rith International, whose president, Seymour Reich, also chairs the Conference of Presidents.

Another sign of dissent occurred at the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations in Cincinnati, where Shamir arrived to encounter a letter signed by 41 prominent Jews telling him not to "mistake courtesy for consensus, or applause for endorsement" of his policies.

**'Massive' Support From U.S. Jewry**

Shamir chose to dismiss these rumblings in his comments here Monday morning to the Israeli press. He brushed aside the Cincinnati letter, telling Israeli reporters that "despite all of the unpleasant tones of the people who see only the bad, the support of the American Jewish community is massive, even more than in the past."

He added, "If there are here and there some groups whose profession it is to criticize Israel's government, their influence is less and less."

"The American Jewish masses support the national unity government and, I might add, the position of the prime minister," he said. "I have more and more proof of this every day."

Shamir was more circumspect when addressing the issue at the Conference of Presidents, hinting that he would prefer receiving criticism from American Jewry in a less public fashion.

"We are open to the views and thoughts of our brethren," he said, "preferably directly and not via the front pages of The New York Times."

Both Reich and Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive director of the Conference of Presidents, deny that consensus among U.S. Jewish leaders is becoming more difficult to achieve.

"If we had more time," Reich said, "we could have worked out language that was more acceptable" to members of the conference when putting together the newspaper advertisement.

But others said that there is a growing polarization among American Jewish leaders on the peace issue.

**Cheering Crowd In Brooklyn**

"The American Jewish community inevitably reflects what is happening in Israel itself," said Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the UAHC. "The government there is divided on fundamental issues; you have that divergence here as well."

Shamir's perception that the bulk of American Jewry is behind him, however, must have been strongly reinforced by his reception at a community rally Monday evening in Brooklyn.

A cheering crowd of more than 1,000 greeted him with applause, cheers and cries of "Not one inch!" in support of Likud's refusal to cede any part of the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

"There was not one voice of questioning, let alone dissent," said Harriet Mandel, assistant director of the New York Jewish Community Relations Council, which sponsored the rally.

## NEW FOREIGN AID BILL INCLUDES FUNDS FOR ISRAEL, SOVIET JEWS

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- For the second time in a week, Congress sent a foreign aid spending bill to the White House. But this one was expected to win President Bush's signature, unlike the one he vetoed Sunday.

The new bill differs from the one vetoed by the president in that it does not include a controversial \$15 million grant to a U.N. agency that promotes abortion and sterilization in China.

Like its predecessor, the measure provides \$3 billion in all-grant aid to Israel for the 1990 fiscal year, which began Oct. 1. The \$3 billion includes \$1.8 billion in military aid and \$1.2 billion in economic aid.

Egypt receives \$2.1 billion, in keeping with the Camp David accords formula of receiving two-thirds as much foreign aid as Israel.

Of the \$1.2 billion in economic aid, \$1.13 billion was delivered to Israel on Oct. 31, to reflect a 5.3 percent across-the-board budget cut mandated by Bush on Oct. 16. The fate of the remaining \$70 million promised to Israel remained unclear Tuesday afternoon.

But Congress was expected to restore two-thirds of the \$70 million cut as part of its 1990 deficit reconciliation bill. The net effect would be a cut of 1.7 percent, or \$20 million in economic aid and \$31 million in military aid.

In any event, Israel is not expected to recoup \$5 million in its foreign aid money that Congress transferred to the U.S. drug interdiction campaign and another \$1.5 million used for the Peace Corps program.

### \$25 Million For Resettlement

Besides the basic foreign aid package, other pro-Israel grants in the bill are:

- \* \$100 million for the United States to stockpile weapons in Israel. Israel is seeking to sign an agreement with the United States that would allow it to use the weapons.

- \* \$35 million for the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad program, which U.S. affiliates of Israeli educational and medical facilities have tapped for funding over the past decade. U.S. funds have often been used to build facilities at religious institutions abroad, to the chagrin of some major Jewish groups that consider that use a violation of the constitutional separation between church and state.

- \* \$25 million for Israel to resettle refugees of any ethnic origin, but most of that will be used for Soviet Jews. Israel has requested \$400 million in housing loan guarantees to resettle Soviet Jews, but neither Congress nor the administration has yet acted on the request.

- \* \$12 million for private voluntary agencies operating relief programs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In keeping with State Department policy, such funds can be used to assist the indigenous Palestinian population only.

- \* \$7.5 million for Israeli development projects in Third World countries.

- \* \$7 million for scientific research programs between Egypt and Israel.

A new military debt-refinancing measure is expected to save Israel between \$20 million and \$60 million by lowering interest rates on its U.S. debts from 10 percent to 8 percent.

In addition to various pro-Israel language, such as prohibiting U.S. funding of U.N. agencies

that accept the Palestine Liberation Organization as a member state, the bill contains language supporting the government of Tunisia.

It praises Tunisia for its role in defusing a possible Israeli-PLO confrontation in West Beirut in 1982. At that time, "Tunisia, at American urging, agreed to house the PLO leadership when they were evacuated from West Beirut," the bill states.

### Ruling On Refugee Status

On the Soviet Jewry front, the bill contains enough funds for the State Department to resettle 40,000 of the 50,000 Soviet refugees that will be permitted to enter the United States this fiscal year. It remains unclear whether Jewish groups will push Congress to approve additional funds for the 10,000 unfunded slots.

The bill provides \$15 million in retroactive funding for a Department of Health and Human Services matching-grant program for refugees assisted by voluntary agencies.

Most of that money will be going to local Jewish federations that participated in the matching-grant program in the 1989 fiscal year. The federations shelled out the government's share with the expectation of being reimbursed.

The bill also gives Soviet Jews and Evangelical Christians, as well as certain Vietnamese nationals, presumptive eligibility for refugee status in the 1990 fiscal year. The language represents a compromise from bills introduced by Rep. Bruce Morrison (D-Conn.) and Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.).

At least for this fiscal year, the language is not expected to significantly affect the number of Soviet Jews entering the United States, especially from Rome.

More significant was Attorney General Dick Thornburgh's directive this summer aimed at clearing out the "Rome-Vienna pipeline" by granting refugee status to virtually all Soviets currently there who seek it.

### POLICE ARREST 23 MEMBERS OF TERROR CELL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- The police arrested 23 Israeli Arabs from one village this week, on suspicion of perpetrating acts of terror that include arson.

The suspects, all residents of the village of Dabburiya, in Galilee, are accused of organizing a terrorist cell active against Jews and Arabs suspected of collaboration.

Dabburiya village, in the foothills of Mount Tabor, is in the heart of Israel, and neighbors several Jewish settlements. The arrests have shaken the delicate relations between Israeli Jews and their Arab fellow citizens.

Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev said only this week that while most Israeli Arabs probably sympathize with the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the vast majority of them are law-abiding.

But according to police, the suspects in custody organized the "Saika Dabburiya," named after a Syrian-backed Palestinian terrorist organization known as "A-Saika."

A police official, Danny Tabib, said the detainees are suspected of stoning Jewish vehicles and throwing a gasoline bomb at a school bus.

They are also suspected of setting forest fires, raising Palestinian flags and inciting the Arab population against Israel.

**DIFFERENCES OVER CHILD-CARE BILL  
WON'T BE RESOLVED THIS SESSION**

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- Jewish groups are disappointed with Congress' failure to iron out differences in various versions of pending child-care legislation, making passage of a bill impossible for this year.

But they are unhappy for different reasons.

Most Jewish organizations, while disappointed, have vowed to use the time between the congressional sessions to lobby against a popular provision in the House and Senate bills that would allow federal funds to be used for sectarian child-care programs.

Such groups were not opposing the use of government funds for non-sectarian programs, even if they were sponsored by churches or synagogues.

Orthodox Jewish groups, which oppose any such restriction, were disappointed that a legislative compromise was not achieved, because Congress seemed primed to permit the more sweeping use of federal funds.

Although the first session of the 101st Congress is expected to end this week, legislation does not die between sessions of the same Congress.

The House and Senate have given initial approval to the legislation, which most recently stalled in a House-Senate conference committee.

The grant distribution system for child-care funds, and not whether or not they could go to sectarian programs, was the main stumbling block lawmakers could not overcome before the expected Thanksgiving adjournment.

It remains unclear whether either version of the bill will satisfy President Bush. He wants parents seeking child-care services to receive tax credits, and has threatened to veto legislation that does not follow his approach.

**Last-Minute Lobbying**

The New York Times reported last week that Bush may also veto any child-care package that does not allow federal funds to be used at sectarian programs.

Both Jewish lobbying forces exerted some last-minute pressure before Thanksgiving, in expectation of final passage of the legislation.

On Nov. 16, six Jewish groups and 14 others, including the National Council of Churches and National Educational Association, wrote House members that to approve the use of federal funds for sectarian programs would be "unsound public policy," "a disturbing precedent" and "constitutionally suspect."

They argued that "government has the obligation to help parents by supporting child-care programs that meet their needs." But they said government "may not support religious beliefs."

The Jewish groups signing the letter were the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, B'nai B'rith Women, National Council of Jewish Women and Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

One week earlier, Agudath Israel of America wrote key House and Senate members that there may be First Amendment restrictions on "direct governmental grants to religiously affiliated institutions."

But it added that "any benefit accruing to religiously affiliated entities would come as a

result of independent parental choice, rather than direct governmental largess."

Such a benefit "falls squarely within the acceptable parameters of the Constitution," argued David Zwiebel, Agudath Israel's director of government affairs and general counsel.

**Split Over Preferences**

One non-Orthodox Jewish group supporting the Orthodox lobbying position is the Council of Reform Hebrew Day Schools.

Erwin Shlachter, president of the 15-school group, argued that allowing federal aid to go exclusively to non-sectarian programs "impinges on the right of people to practice their religion."

A second church-state factor splitting the Jewish groups was language that could allow sectarian child-care providers to give preferences to child-care workers and children who hold religious views compatible with the sponsoring church or synagogue.

The Senate version would allow such a preference, but the House version opposes it. While non-Orthodox Jewish groups consider such language discriminatory, Zwiebel argued in his letter that churches and synagogues "must be permitted to maintain policies consistent with their religious identity and beliefs."

**HALF A MILLION ISRAELIS NEAR POVERTY**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- Close to half a million Israelis live on the poverty line, almost half of them children, according to figures released on Tuesday by the National Insurance Institute.

Mordechai Zipori, director general of the institute, believes nothing can be done to improve their situation as long as Israel's economic stagnation persists.

"Life around the poverty line means neither living nor dying; it means surviving," Zipori told a news conference Tuesday.

At the moment, 488,000 Israelis live in what he termed "terrible poverty," and of that number, 223,000 are children, he said.

They live on less than \$7.50 a day, compared to the average Israeli family's expenditures of about \$50 a day.

Without financial assistance from the institute, a fifth of Israel's population would be living beneath the poverty level this year, Zipori said.

Ronni Milo, the acting minister of labor and social affairs, confirmed Zipori's figures. He said the situation was the same last year, and while the trend is stable, there are no real prospects for change.

But Milo sees hope in a bill shortly to be introduced in the Knesset, which would set up a state pension program for elderly people not covered by existing programs.

**ISRAELI TO HEAD MEDICAL GROUP**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 21 (JTA) -- Dr. Ram Ishai will resign as chairman of the Israel Medical Association at the end of this month to become the first Israeli to head the World Medical Association.

He was elected president of the international body at its annual meeting in Vienna a year ago.

Ishai, who headed the IMA for 18 years, was born in Tunisia and educated in France.