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**POLLARD FAMILY IS DISAPPOINTED
BY COURT'S REJECTION OF APPEAL**

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA) -- A federal court ruling rejecting Jonathan Pollard's appeal of his life sentence for espionage has disappointed the family and supporters of the former Navy analyst who sold secrets to Israel.

But they have found some comfort in the dissent issued Friday by one member of the three-judge appellate panel in Washington, which agreed with at least part of Pollard's claim that his 1987 sentence was a miscarriage of justice.

"We're disappointed that one other judge didn't join us, but clearly it demonstrates that this is the sort of close question that ought to have the support of the Jewish community," said Harvard Law School Professor Alan Dershowitz, who is one of Pollard's attorneys.

In fact, the Pollard case has divided the American Jewish community.

Many organizations and individuals have urged clemency or at least supported the appeal, which claimed the sentence was excessively harsh and that the government had violated a plea bargain agreement by implying its desire for the maximum sentence.

Among the organizations who have lined up behind the supporters are the World Jewish Congress, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Reform Judaism's Central Conference of American Rabbis and Agudath Israel of America, an Orthodox group.

But several major Jewish communal relations agencies have not signed on, most notably the Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Committee and American Jewish Congress, as well the umbrella organizations in which they participate.

"After listening to both sides, the predominant view was this was not a case for us to get into," said Samuel Rabinove, director of legal affairs for the AJCommittee.

Do Jewish Groups Share Blame?

Dershowitz said the AJCommittee and other organizations that have not joined the Pollard cause may bear some responsibility for Friday's court ruling.

"I honestly believe the case might have come out 2-1 in our favor if the American Jewish organizations had been more supportive," he said.

"Tragic" is how Seymour Reich described the role taken by some of those organizations.

"There are several efforts under way now where members of the Christian community have been asked to intercede on Jonathan's behalf and have been told by Jewish organizations not to," said Reich, the immediate past chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations who has met with Pollard and advocated on his behalf.

The Pollard case has struck the rawest nerve in the Jewish community of any trial since perhaps that of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg in 1951. Like the Rosenbergs, who were convicted of passing the secrets of the atomic bomb to the Soviets, Pollard was an American Jew who placed his American loyalty second.

But unlike the Rosenbergs, who went to the

electric chair protesting their innocence, Pollard admitted giving American secrets to Israel.

He maintained he did so because the United States was not living up to its commitments to share sensitive information with the Jewish state. By his account, those secrets included location of Iraqi chemical weapons factories.

The government prosecution, however, emphasized that Pollard received tens of thousands of dollars in payment for the information, in what Israeli officials denounced as a "rogue operation" at the time of his 1985 arrest.

Family Plans To Appeal

"I don't accept the dual loyalty problem," said Reich. "If that's the reason Jewish organizations have failed to act on his behalf, it indicates a sorry state.

"He committed a crime, he deserved to be punished, but the punishment was excessive," said Reich, an attorney.

Yet just as in the Rosenberg trial, where a Jewish judge imposed the death sentence, it has not escaped notice that the two judges who turned down Pollard's appeal, Laurence Silberman and Ruth Ginsburg, are Jewish.

But Judge Stephen Williams, a non-Jew, dissented, writing that there had been a "fundamental miscarriage of justice" in Pollard's sentencing.

At the core of the appeal was what was described as the contradiction between Pollard's plea bargain and his receiving the harshest possible sentence.

The Pollard family plans an appeal to the Supreme Court. But the high court generally agrees to hear only 1 percent of such appeals, according to Dershowitz.

Meanwhile, the Pollard family and supporters will continue to build popular pressure for clemency, both within and outside the Jewish community.

"Our push forward will continue -- whether it is through continued legal action or an appeal for the commutation of Jonathan's sentence has not yet been determined," Carol Pollard, the convict's sister, said in a statement issued Friday on behalf of the family.

She said that she had spoken to her brother by telephone and that he asked "that we express his disappointment about the court's ruling, along with his determination to continue the struggle for freedom."

**ARGENTINA REPORTEDLY MAKES ARRESTS
IN CONNECTION WITH EMBASSY BOMBING**

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA) -- Israeli officials have reacted with caution to various reports that Argentine authorities have made arrests in connection with last week's bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires.

While they welcome the apparent progress in the official investigation of the blast, they caution that it is too early to draw conclusions about the identity and motives of the perpetrators.

There were conflicting reports over the weekend about the number of arrests made and the nationalities of the suspects.

In Buenos Aires, an assistant to President

Carlos Menem confirmed Sunday that arrests had been made in the case, but did not specify numbers or give other details to Kalman Sultanik, vice president of the World Jewish Congress, who went to Argentina to attend the victims' funerals.

The Argentine news agency Telam reported that four people had been apprehended in connection with the bombing, and a British report picked up by Argentine papers put the number at four men and a woman, all described as "Arabic."

There seem to be "as many versions as there are newspapers" in Buenos Aires regarding the police investigation," Israel's ambassador to Argentina, Yitzhak Sheffi, said Sunday in an interview with Israeli army radio.

Sheffi was not in the embassy at the time of the blast.

Four Israelis Dead

There were also conflicting reports about the final death toll from the blast. Here in Jerusalem, Foreign Minister David Levy told the Cabinet that the final count was 22 dead. But reports from Buenos Aires spoke of 28 dead, and The New York Times reported that 32 had died.

Eight of the dead were Israeli Embassy staff members: four Israelis and four local personnel.

Funerals took place Friday for the two Israeli women who died, and the bodies of two men were being flown to Israel from Argentina for burial Monday.

Zahava Zahavi, who worked as a secretary at the embassy and was married to the embassy's first secretary, was buried in Netanya, in the presence of her husband, Yitzhak, and three children.

Eliona Carmon, wife of Consul Danny Carmon, was buried at a state funeral in Jerusalem. Her five children stayed away from the ceremony.

"I don't think there is a better definition of an innocent victim than the victim lying before us," said Benjamin Netanyahu, deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office.

"This is the purpose, to break our national will," he said. "But this has not happened and will not happen."

The two other Israeli fatalities were David Ben-Raphael, an attache at the embassy, and Eli Ben-Ze'ev, security officer at the embassy. An Argentine transport plane was provided to take the bodies to Rome, where an Israeli air force plane was to complete the journey home Monday.

Ben-Raphael was the son of Ralph Goldman, honorary executive vice president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. He left a widow, a 3-year-old daughter and a 9-month-old infant.

Panic Reported In Lebanon

At the Sunday morning Cabinet meeting, Foreign Minister Levy and other officials suggested it was too early to draw any firm conclusions about the perpetrators' identities.

But Levy vowed that Israel would avenge the blood of the victims. "We have an open account, and we shall settle it," he said. "There is no coexistence with terrorism."

Speculation has been rife in Israel that a Shi'ite extremist group was responsible for the attack, and this, in turn, has given rise to near panic in southern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley, where there is anticipation of a major Israeli reprisal action.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in a statement to the ministers later published by the

Cabinet secretary, said the attack had been directed "at the State of Israel and the Jewish people."

"This is not the first time that Israeli diplomatic missions abroad serve as the targets of Arab terror attacks. When the perpetrators succeed in carrying out their plot, the pain strikes at us all," he said.

After the meeting, Cabinet ministers told reporters that it was premature to reach conclusions about security precautions at the embassy in Argentina or those in other countries.

But Israeli foreign service personnel abroad reportedly have been instructed to tighten security at their homes as well as their offices.

Latin American Jews Concerned

Security is also being tightened at Jewish institutions in Argentina and throughout Latin America. And security will be high on the agenda when Jewish leaders from the southern continent attend a meeting of the Latin American Jewish Congress in Brasilia this week, Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, said in New York.

Steinberg said he had talked by telephone with WJC Vice President Sultanik and Manuel Tenenbaum, executive secretary of the Latin American Jewish Congress, who flew from Buenos Aires to Brasilia on Sunday for the meeting.

Both described the mood among Argentine Jews as one of shock.

But Argentine President Menem told Sultanik that last week's attack would only strengthen ties between Argentina and world Jewry.

Sultanik quoted Menem as saying that "this terrible tragedy will strengthen the friendship and ties between Argentina -- the government, the people -- with Israel and its people and the Jewish people around the world."

The WJC leader spoke with Menem both during and after a massive march that took place March 19 in Buenos Aires to decry the attack and express solidarity with Israel. Some 70,000 people took part in the march.

(JTA staff writer Susan Birnbaum in New York contributed to this report.)

GAZA STRIP REOPENED AFTER UNREST By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA) -- A ban on residents of the Gaza Strip entering Israel was lifted Sunday morning, 48 hours after it was imposed.

The ban was ordered after an Arab man from the Gaza Strip, wielding a scimitar, killed two Israelis in Jaffa and wounded 20 others last week before being shot to death.

The Israel Defense Force said the ban was intended to keep Gaza Arabs away from the wrathful Jews. But it led to a sharp escalation of violence in the territory, which gave the Israeli authorities second thoughts.

The IDF reported about 20 Gaza residents were wounded in clashes with soldiers over the weekend.

Three gasoline bombs were thrown at an army patrol in the Mughazi refugee camp Saturday. Violent demonstrations took place Friday in downtown Gaza.

After security experts decided that closure of the strip would boomerang, the ban was lifted early Sunday, allowing tens of thousands of Gaza workers to go to their jobs in Israel.

EILAT MAYOR TRIES TO INVITE JORDANIAN MAYOR TO CONFERENCE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 22 (JTA) -- The mayor of Eilat, Rafi Hochman, managed over the weekend to put through a direct telephone call to his counterpart in the neighboring Jordanian town of Aqaba, Ibrahim Abul-Izz.

But he could not get a direct reply from Abul-Izz to his invitation to attend an international mayors conference in Eilat next month.

Hochman told Israel Radio that the Arab mayor seemed surprised by the Saturday telephone call from Israel, which was a follow-up to a written invitation transmitted by fax machine.

He tried to beg off the conversation saying he could not speak English. But Hochman obliged by putting on an Arabic-speaking associate.

Abul-Izz then confirmed that he had received the faxed invitation but was not sure he could attend. Apparently he needs permission from the government in Amman.

If the Jordanian mayor does go to Eilat, which is theoretically within walking distance, he would find plenty of Arabic-speaking company. Ten mayors of Egyptian cities will be among the 400 mayors from 14 countries attending.

The conference will discuss the environmental problems affecting coastal cities and towns. It is being held in advance of a wider conference on the subject in Tokyo this May.

That conference was planned in the framework of the multinational phase of the Middle East peace talks, which convened in Moscow in January to discuss regional issues.

Hochman said he told the Jordanian: "We'll probably meet anyway in Tokyo later on, so why not come here now to begin the talks?"

Hochman told Israel Radio that direct talks were in fact being held between municipal officials of Eilat and Aqaba on environmental and other local problems. But he declined to say how the contacts were maintained.

Although Eilat and Aqaba are located virtually side by side at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba, the telephone call between them had to travel via satellite. It was put through by Solan Communications, an Israeli company based in London which handles telephone communications between Israel and the Arab states with which it has no telephone or postal contact.

The invitation to Aqaba's mayor was faxed from the Taba Hilton hotel located on Egyptian territory ceded by Israel in 1989 on the basis of international arbitration of a border dispute.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN ISRAEL SOARS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 22 (JTA) -- Immigration is raising Israel's unemployment rate, which soared to a record 11 percent in the last quarter of 1991 after dropping slightly in the previous quarter, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported.

Unemployment from July through September averaged 10.4 percent, down from 10.8 percent in the April through June period.

But 200,000 people were actively seeking work from October through December 1991, a 22 percent rise over the same period a year earlier.

The jobless rate has risen steadily since the beginning of the immigration wave. It averaged 10.6 percent for all of 1991, up from 9.6 percent in 1990 and 8.9 percent in 1989.

EYEWITNESSES TESTIFY IN AUSTRALIA THAT ACCUSED NAZI MURDERED JEWS

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, March 22 (JTA) -- An eyewitness testified last week in an Australian courtroom that he personally saw suspected war criminal Ivan Polyukhovitch kill a Jew in the Ukrainian village of Serniki.

In addition, several witnesses from the United States, Canada and Israel testified in the Adelaide court that Polyukhovitch was personally involved in the massacre of about 850 Jews by Nazis in the Ukraine in 1942.

The Ukrainian-born Polyukhovitch, a longtime resident of Adelaide, is the first person indicted under a 1988 law that allows Australian courts to try war crimes suspects living in Australia.

As the law is written, the prosecution must prove not only that the accused committed murder but that he did so as part of a general policy of genocide. The defense, while not contesting the evidence so far, insists the required standard of proof has not been met.

The past two weeks were devoted to testimony from overseas witnesses, who gave chilling eyewitness accounts of Nazi atrocities in Serniki. Their testimony is expected to continue for another two months.

Last Friday, Nathan Boberov, a 60-year-old witness from Israel, identified Polyukhovitch as the man he saw murder a Jew, Alter Botovnik, and who almost murdered Boberov.

The accused, a forest warden known to the Jews of Serniki as "Ivanekchko," was identified by other witnesses as a participant in genocide, though they did not accuse him directly of murder.

But Boberov, speaking through an interpreter, did. He said that after witnessing Botovnik's murder, he saw the accused walk with a rifle toward a group of nine Jews, "ready to shoot."

Boberov said Polyukhovitch signaled him to join the group, which he did, although he escaped later. He testified that Polyukhovitch told him "someone else will kill you."

Polyukhovitch was formally charged in January 1990, but his trial was delayed because the war crimes law was being challenged before Australia's Supreme Court.

In July 1990, the accused, then about 75, was found in an Adelaide street with a self-inflicted gunshot wound and was hospitalized.

His trial finally began on Oct. 28, 1990, and the first witnesses testified on Nov. 11.

DUTCH NEO-NAZIS DESTROY JEWISH GRAVES

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, March 22 (JTA) -- Neo-Nazi vandals destroyed three gravestones at a Jewish cemetery and defaced a monument to Jewish deportees in southeastern Holland over the weekend.

Police are investigating an unknown group calling itself the National Socialist People's Front, which claimed responsibility for the desecration in an anonymous telephone call to a local newspaper.

The targets were the Jewish cemetery at Beek, near the Belgian border, where three gravestones were demolished and eight daubed with swastikas.

A monument to Jewish deportees in nearby Meerssen was also smeared with swastikas.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES: GETTING MORE JEWISH TEENS TO ISRAEL SEEN AS NEW PRIORITY FOR U.S. JEWRY

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA) -- More Jewish teen-agers are signing up to visit Israel this summer than ever before.

But that's not enough, says UJA President Brian Lurie. He believes American Jewry's goal should be sending 100 percent of its youth to Israel and that the community should put up the money it would take.

That could mean 30,000 Jewish students touring Israel this summer, rather than the 5,000 estimated to enroll, say officials involved in Israel programs for youth.

"There is no question in anyone's mind that a good Israel experience is the most effective means of committing one to Jewish identity," said Rabbi Allan Smith, director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregation's youth division, echoing a conclusion of research papers prepared for the Mandel Commission on Jewish Education in North America.

Smith said Lurie's goal can be reached, if there is "real, real federation funding" for Israel programs.

"A quality trip to Israel today costs \$4,000. Your average parent, for a junior in high school, is willing to spend \$2,000. Make it a \$2,000 trip, put on a good marketing campaign, and you'll reach it, little by little," he said.

Lurie estimated that sending all American Jewish teens to Israel would cost \$5 million to \$10 million.

"That should be the allocation reality in our communities," Lurie told a conference on "Trends in Jewish Philanthropy and Communal Leadership" in December.

Before taking the UJA post in September, Lurie headed the Jewish Community Federation in San Francisco, which, he said, boasts the highest percentage of teen-agers on Israel in programs in the nation.

"Seventy-five percent of our confirmands are going every year on an Israel program organized by the synagogues and the Jewish community. Why? Because the community makes it possible that no youth should be excluded," said Lurie.

"Once it becomes such an active, ongoing program, no one wants to miss it," he said.

"You can't make it mandatory," said Lurie, "but you can make it so attractive that every young person feels peer pressure to go."

Little Money For Advertising

Howard Gelbert, director of San Francisco's Bureau of Jewish Education, said his community spends \$100,000 to organize and partially subsidize each year's Israel program, which annually sends as many as 200 students to Israel after they finish 10th grade.

"The federation professional and lay leadership needs to see an Israel experience as the right of every Jewish child," he said. "Beyond that, there has to be financial subsidies, and then there needs to be quality."

Even without subsidies, though, more kids could be recruited for Israel programs if the Jewish community was willing to spend the money, say those in charge of Israel programs.

At the American Zionist Youth Foundation, Ina Strauss bemoans the small budget she has to advertise trips to Israel. The foundation coordi-

nates most of the Israel trips for students sponsored by national agencies and local communities.

"When we advertise, we're visible. When we're visible, people think about it," said Strauss, who directs AZYF's Israel Program Center.

Currently, the foundation can afford only a small ad in The New York Times, paid for jointly with several Zionist organizations.

But a single, full-page ad last year drew 400 phone inquiries and enrolled "80 kids who would not have gone to Israel otherwise," Strauss said.

In Israel, the World Zionist Organization allocates nearly \$6 million for Israel summer programs for American and other Diaspora youth. It provides another \$12 million worth of services, paid for by the programs themselves.

The American Zionist Youth Foundation, like the WZO, the local communities and the Jewish organizations that sponsor Israel tours, are all suffering from reduced allocations, brought on by the need to pay for the absorption of immigrants from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

But Rabbi Daniel Allen argues that it is in Israel's interest to have 90 percent of American Jewish youth going to Israel, not just 10 percent.

"To the extent we will have large numbers of Jewish kids going to Israel, 10 years from now we won't have a problem with a loan guarantee battle," said Allen, who is assistant executive vice chairman of the United Israel Appeal.

"We will have a more vocal, more well-organized, more active, pro-Israel Jewish community."

RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PROMISES WALLENBERG CASE WILL BE RESOLVED

By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, March 22 (JTA) -- The 47-year-old mystery of Raoul Wallenberg may soon be solved.

A positive response was elicited from Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev when the subject was raised by European Community officials here, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned.

According to E.C. sources, the European commissioner for external relations, Franz Andriessen, told Kozyrev during a meeting in Brussels last week that the E.C. wanted the Wallenberg case to "be solved once and for all."

The Russian minister's answer "seems to warrant a certain optimism," an E.C. Executive Commission spokesman said.

Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat posted to Budapest during World War II, is credited with saving the lives of thousands of Jews slated for deportation during the final year of the war.

He disappeared when the Red Army entered the Hungarian capital in January 1945 and was never heard from again.

The Soviet Union first disclaimed knowledge of Wallenberg and then said he died in a Moscow prison in 1947 of a heart attack.

But reports persisted that Wallenberg was seen alive by prisoners released years later. With the demise of the Soviet Union, the case may now be unravelled by its successor.

Kozyrev came to Brussels to meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Japanese officials for the purpose of planning an international center of science and technology in Moscow. Its purpose would be to induce former Soviet nuclear experts to stay at home instead of accepting job offers from Third World countries.