

VOL. 71 - 76th YEAR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1993

NO. 211

**RABIN APPEALS TO CLINTON
FOR CLEMENCY FOR POLLARD**

By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- In a move welcomed by supporters of Jonathan Pollard, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has written to President Clinton asking that Pollard's sentence for spying for Israel be commuted.

The news surfaced as Pollard's supporters gathered in Washington on Tuesday to lobby members of Congress for his release.

At a news conference Wednesday, Clinton acknowledged that he had received a letter from Rabin about the Pollard case.

The president said he had yet to receive a report from the Justice Department about Pollard.

"I will not make a decision on the Pollard case until I get some sort of indication" from the Justice Department, Clinton said.

According to a source familiar with Pollard-related activities, the letter asked Clinton to commute Pollard's life sentence to time served, on humanitarian grounds.

The letter also anticipated opposition to a commuted sentence within the U.S. intelligence community, but it urged commutation nonetheless.

In addition, the letter seemed to acknowledge the impropriety of Pollard's actions, the source said. The letter was sent between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the source said.

David Kirshenbaum, one of the participants in a meeting Tuesday with Israel's ambassador to Washington, Itamar Rabinovich, said the envoy had told the participants of the letter's existence and had implied that it had been sent recently.

Kirshenbaum, who participated in the Pollard lobbying day, said that he had heard rumors of the letter and that the group had asked the ambassador to confirm them.

The Israeli Embassy would not comment on the meeting.

Sources were not sure whether Rabin and Clinton would discuss the letter and the Pollard case during their scheduled meeting Friday.

Pollard supporters hope Clinton will commute Pollard's sentence. They believe his sentence was disproportionately long when compared to the sentences given to people convicted for spying for other, hostile countries.

Pollard, a former civilian naval intelligence analyst, is serving the eighth year of a life sentence for spying for Israel.

A petition seeking clemency is pending in the Justice Department. Sources expect it to be forwarded to the White House in a month.

**ISRAELIS REPORT ISRAEL-JORDAN TREATY
A DONE DEAL, BUT CLINTON MORE CAUTIOUS**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- An Israeli Cabinet minister has added his voice to the growing chorus of government leaders who believe that a peace treaty with Jordan is imminent.

And the Israeli newspaper Ma'ariv, under a banner headline appearing Wednesday, published what it said were the key elements of an Israeli-Jordanian treaty.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said

Wednesday that an Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty was "wrapped up."

He said the portion of the treaty dealing with economic matters affecting the two countries would be made public very soon.

Ma'ariv reported that the agreement had been initiated last week by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan.

The agreement, according to Ma'ariv, will establish full diplomatic, trade and tourist relations between the two countries; will include Israeli guarantees to protect Jordanian airspace from hostile attacks; will enable Israel to lease from Jordan disputed tracts of land; and will call for intensive economic cooperation, especially in exploiting the mineral resources of the Dead Sea.

Ma'ariv reported that Peres had negotiated with King Hussein and his brother Prince Hassan on the final points at issue during his visit to Amman on Nov. 2.

Israel Radio said officials at the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry were continuing to work on the details of the treaty in hopes that a summit meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein will take place at the White House during Rabin's 10-day visit to North America, which begins Thursday.

But other sources here were less optimistic, saying that more time was needed and questioning whether Hussein would sign an agreement with Israel before Rabin could achieve similar progress with Syria.

Israeli-Syrian negotiations have been stalled for months.

In Washington, President Clinton reacted by saying he was not anticipating an imminent breakthrough between Israel and Jordan.

"I am delighted by reports of progress in relationships between Israel and Jordan," he said during a news conference.

But he added that he did not believe a breakthrough would be announced during Rabin's visit to the White House on Friday.

**ORTHODOX AMERICAN RABBIS SET
'EMERGENCY' MISSION TO PROTEST**
By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- A group of 150 North American Orthodox rabbis has come to Israel on what is being called an "emergency mission" to protest the Israeli government's policies in the peace process.

The U.S. and Canadian rabbis, members of the Rabbinical Council of America, are launching their protest campaign with a group of Israeli rabbis in what they say is a "first-ever joint effort" of its kind.

The head of the delegation, Rabbi Moshe Gorelik of New York, has warned that, as a result of the government's policies, some congregants in synagogues affiliated with the RCA are beginning to change the way they donate money to Israel.

Gorelik, who is president of the RCA, said some Orthodox Jews are shifting their money away from traditional channels, such as the United Jewish Appeal and Israel Bonds, and are beginning to donate to private foundations that funnel money to the territories.

The rabbis were planning to meet here this

week to adopt a strategy to protect the Jews in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to discuss the unified status of Jerusalem under Jewish sovereignty.

"We are deeply troubled by the direction" the accord between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel "is taking regarding Jewish residents and communities in the territories," Gorelik said.

Gorelik defended the involvement of American rabbis in Israel's internal affairs, saying their children and those of their congregants live in the areas made vulnerable by the government's policies.

"They (the children) came at the express invitation of the Israeli government and with our blessings, and we are entitled to clear-cut answers about their fate," he said.

Gorelik said he fears that aliyah from North America will drop as a result of the "profound feeling of alienation and discontent with the government's policies toward Jewish communities in the territories."

He also said the group came, in part, to "reduce the level of rhetoric on all sides and find room for reasonable dialogue."

The Rabbinical Council of America is the largest Orthodox rabbinic body in the world, with a membership of more than 1,000 rabbis.

THE BOUNDARIES OF JERICHO DISCUSSED AT ISRAEL-PLO TALKS

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- Although few details were released, this week's negotiations on implementing Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho concluded with reports that progress had been achieved.

Nabil Sha'ath, the Palestine Liberation Organization's chief negotiator, was quoted as saying that the delegates to the talks between Israel and the PLO, held in Cairo this week, addressed for the first time the geographical boundaries of Jericho that will be placed under Palestinian jurisdiction.

The question of the future boundaries of Jericho is one of the thorniest issues confronting the negotiators, with the Palestinians demanding substantially more territory than the Israelis are willing to cede.

Sha'ath reportedly also told Egyptian television that the talks had focused on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, rather than merely on their redeployment.

Sha'ath added that there had been real progress on the issue of Israel's security needs in the area.

The talks were suspended by the Palestinians in the Sinai border town of Taba last week when they rejected Israel's proposed troop withdrawals from Gaza as falling far short of their expectations.

The Palestinians said that the self-rule agreement signed by Israel and the PLO in Washington on Sept. 13 calls for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip and not merely their redeployment to other locations within the region.

Israeli officials have said that the security of Jewish residents in the territories is a paramount consideration in the determination of their troops' positions.

According to Israel Radio, the parties agreed to focus their current negotiations on the with-

drawal of Israeli forces from certain portions of Gaza and Jericho while postponing the issue of the overall redeployment for a later date.

The talks were moved this week to a secret location in Cairo in response to complaints from both sides about media interference in the negotiations.

While the talks are scheduled to resume next week, their location has not been disclosed.

Maj. Gen. Amnon Shahak, the head of the Israeli delegation who is also Israel's deputy chief of staff, briefed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the details of the latest round of talks before Rabin's departure for the United States.

Rabin was scheduled to meet with President Clinton in Washington at the end of this week.

RELIGIOUS PARTIES BACK RABIN AGAINST OPPOSITION'S CHALLENGE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin begins a 10-day visit to North America this week confident that his governing coalition is remaining intact -- at least for the moment.

An effort by the opposition to introduce a bill dissolving the Knesset came crashing down on Wednesday when two fervently religious parties, Shas and Agudat Yisrael, made it plain they would vote against it.

The Likud and Tsomet parties, which were sponsors of the bill, quickly withdrew it. Knesset house rules forbid the introduction of bills to dissolve the government more than once in six months.

"We want to keep the option," Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu explained.

"We'll wait for another opportunity," said Tsomet's Rafael Eitan.

The two religious parties had been wooed and won in an intensive effort by Labor leaders, headed by Rabin himself.

Labor Party officials spent hours with Agudat Yisrael's Avraham Shapiro, Menachem Porush and Shmuel Halpert on Tuesday, during which time they discussed the party's demands for greater government support for schools and yeshivot.

Avraham Ravitz, the fourth Knesset member of the United Torah Judaism movement -- which embraces Agudat Yisrael and Degel HaTorah -- refused to attend Tuesday's meeting.

Ravitz, under tight orders from Degel's spiritual leader, Rabbi Eliezer Schach, said he would continue to oppose the Rabin government.

But the support of the three Agudah men was a coup for Rabin, who next turned his attention to Shas' spiritual leader, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, at a midnight meeting in the sage's Jerusalem home.

The results of this meeting were mixed: Although Shas refused to support the opposition's government-dissolution effort Wednesday, it nonetheless refused to rejoin the Labor-led coalition at this time.

Yosef reportedly voiced his concerns about the security situation in the territories, indicating that his constituency is uncomfortable with the idea of his party lending its support to the Labor government's peace negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Yosef's decision on whether Shas will rejoin the coalition will apparently come only after Rabin's return from his trip to North America.

JEWISH GROUPS APPLAUD HIGH COURT FOR EASING SUITS ON SEX HARASSMENT

By Steven Weiss

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- Jewish groups applauded a U.S. Supreme Court decision this week that broadened the definition of sexual harassment, making it easier for victims to win suits against their employers.

The court unanimously ruled that workers suffering from sexual harassment need not prove psychological injury in order to win their case.

"We're delighted," Sammie Moshenberg, the Washington representative of the National Council of Jewish Women, said of Tuesday's decision.

"This decision shows how far our country has come" in understanding the seriousness of sexual harassment in the workplace, she said.

The ruling was of particular importance to Jews because "any move against discrimination is a victory for those who have been discriminated against," Moshenberg said.

The NCJW joined in a friend-of-the-court brief written by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Briefs were separately submitted by the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress.

"The Supreme Court has reaffirmed its commitment to achieving true equality in the workplace," said Wendy Lecker, assistant legal director of AJCommittee.

The case was brought by Teresa Harris against her employer, a truck-leasing company, after the company's president made degrading comments to her and once suggested that he and Harris go to a hotel to discuss her raise.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor stated in her opinion that the law protects victims of sexual harassment "before the harassing conduct leads to a nervous breakdown."

"A discriminatorily abusive work environment, even one that does not seriously affect employees' psychological well-being," can "detract from employees' job performance," O'Connor wrote.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the first Jew to sit on the court in 25 years, joined in the 9-0 decision and submitted a concurring opinion, as did Justice Antonin Scalia.

Ginsburg, known for her work on cases of discrimination against women, said the case focused on "whether members of one sex are exposed to disadvantageous terms or conditions of employment to which members of the other sex are not exposed."

The decision did not declare Harris the victor, but instead sent the case back to the lower court for retrial.

SUPREME COURT DECLINES CASE ON LINKING HIRING TO RELIGION

By Steven Weiss

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear a religious rights case this week, thereby prohibiting two Honolulu elementary schools from hiring only Protestant teachers.

Jewish groups reacted complacently to Monday's Supreme Court ruling, which let stand a lower court decision that the elementary schools could not hire teachers of a single religious faith because the schools were not primarily religious.

Institutions considered to be religious tradi-

tionally have been exempted from federal anti-discrimination laws, and they have been permitted to hire only members of their given faith.

"I don't think the decision will have any impact at all" on Jewish day schools and Hebrew schools, said Marc Stern, co-director of legal affairs for the American Jewish Congress.

Most Jewish schools, he said, fall easily within the definition of religious institutions and may thus hire exclusively Jewish staff.

While no major Jewish organizations declared their official support in the case, the Jewish community was watching the case for any indication that there would be limits on the right of Jewish institutions to hire only Jewish teachers.

David Zwiebel and Abba Cohen, legal representatives from Agudath Israel, a group representing the interests of fervently Orthodox Jews, said they wished the court had accepted the case.

Agudath Israel, they said, could then have filed a friend-of-the-court brief emphasizing the right of religious institutions to hire only members of one religion.

SENATE BILL WOULD RAISE PENALTIES FOR HATE CRIMES

By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- Stiffer penalties for bias-related crimes could be enacted soon, as the Senate voted overwhelmingly last week to pass a hate-crimes bill.

The Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act would increase federal penalties for crimes motivated by a victim's race, religion, nationality, gender or sexual orientation.

The legislation, backed by the Anti-Defamation League and other Jewish groups, passed the House earlier this year.

The 95-4 Senate vote Nov. 4 was hailed by Jewish groups.

The bill faces one more vote in the Senate before the legislation heads for a House-Senate conference committee.

The bill was appended to the crime bill being considered in the Senate.

The House bill is virtually identical to the Senate bill.

Similar hate-crimes legislation was defeated in the Senate last year.

Supporters had been concerned that some in the Senate would reject the bill because it included protection for sexual orientation.

But this year's legislation was bolstered by a recent Supreme Court decision upholding the constitutionality of a Wisconsin hate-crimes law.

The legislation's chief sponsors in Congress are Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.).

RABIN MEETING U.N. BODY -- FOR DINNER

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- Conditions rather than condemnation will be on the table when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin meets with the U.N. Security Council on Friday evening.

The prime minister, along with ambassadors of Security Council members with which Israel has ties, will be hosted for dinner by Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Gad Yaacobi.

Thirteen of the 15 Security Council members are expected to be represented at the dinner, including all five permanent members: the United States, Russia, China, France and England.

BELATED MEMORIAL AT BUCHENWALD HONORS JEWISH HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

By Igal Avidan

BERLIN, Nov. 10 (JTA) -- Of the 15 monuments erected by East Germany to commemorate the thousands of victims of Buchenwald, until this week, none acknowledged anti-Semitism.

A monument to commemorate the tens of thousands of Jews who were murdered by the Nazis in the concentration camp in the former East Germany was unveiled at the site Wednesday.

The new memorial should also serve as a warning to combat rising racist and anti-Semitic movements in Germany today, said speakers at the ceremony.

"Unfortunately, it seems lately as if the young generation in Germany has not learned from the past," said Munich's chief rabbi, Yitzhak Ehrenberg. "I hope that these youngsters will be brought here to be told of the past, so that it never returns."

The federal minister for family and senior citizens, Hannelore Ronsch, attacked attempts to play down the Holocaust in Germany.

"We must face our history and feel responsible for it," she said.

Ronsch added that Germany of today is not the Weimar Republic, because most citizens now reject violence.

"We will not surrender to violence," she said.

The unveiling coincided with the 55th anniversary of Kristallnacht and the deportation of some 10,000 German and Austrian Jews who were brought to Buchenwald during the night of Nov. 9-10, 1938.

A plaque about the deportation had served as the camp's sole reference to Jews, despite the fact that Jews comprised the largest number of the camp's 56,549 victims.

The former East Germany "didn't recognize the Jews as a nationality -- only as a religion," said John Ranz of New York, chairman of Survivors of the Buchenwald Concentration Camp.

"No Jewish monument was built there because we were classified as members of those nationalities from where we came," he said.

'I Still Recall The Visions Of Horror'

The absence of a public tribute to the Jewish victims of Buchenwald went largely unknown until March 1989, when The New York Times reported that East Germany's memorial at the site "does not commemorate the victims for what they were, and it denies to the United States recognition for having liberated Buchenwald."

The camp, in the northeast German state of Thuringia, was liberated by the 4th Armored Division of Gen. George Patton's 3rd U.S. Army on April 11, 1945.

Of the 2,000 Jews who survived the camp, 1,000 were children, saved by the U.S. armed forces and prisoners in an underground organization at the camp, Ranz said.

The children's survival, he said, "was the largest treasure of the European Jewish community after the Holocaust."

Among the children saved were Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel; Yisrael Meir Lau, now the chief Ashkenazic rabbi of Israel; and his brother, Naphtali Lavie, a former Israeli consul general to New York.

"I still recall the visions of horror in this

inferno," Lavie said Wednesday at the ceremony. "I still see before me friends being carried to the crematorium."

Until now, the camp, which was marked by some 15 different commemorative plaques, bore no plaques mentioning anti-Semitism. Instead, the killers were labeled as fascists and their victims as anti-fascists.

By official East German standards, Jews were not considered a separate people, let alone a nation. Yet the camp even bore a plaque commemorating "victims of Arab states," although there was no Arab deportation to that or any other concentration camp.

Jewish suffering continued in Buchenwald after its liberation, Lavie said.

"Less than one month after liberation, a provisional monument was erected," recalling the victims and their nationalities" he said.

"Jews were not mentioned and we stood there, hurt and insulted, listening to the speeches praising Stalin for liberating us.

"At the end of the ceremony one of us, Shalom Tepper, added with a brush the word 'Jews' on the monument," Lavie said. "The crowd beat him down for his 'crime.'"

Tepper died three years later in Israel's War of Independence.

After the Times article appeared, the Workmen's Circle, a fraternal Jewish socialist organization, lodged an immediate protest with the then East German government, asking for "immediate rectification" of the matter.

The matter was rectified following constant insistence from a group of Jewish survivors of the camp.

'For The Memory Of Those Who Died'

After the reunification of Germany in October 1990, Buchenwald survivors from the United States, France, Israel and Germany repeatedly pressed the government of Thuringia to erect a monument to the camp's Jewish victims.

Before he left for Germany last week, Ranz, whose organization was instrumental in the effort to erect a plaque, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "Our work is in the struggle against Nazism and anti-Semitism, to help create a better world.

"This is a legacy we promised a week after liberation, April 18, 1945," he said.

"We insisted on building a monument. We feel it's an achievement for the memory of those who died in Buchenwald and in the Holocaust," said Ranz.

For Ranz, a survivor from Poland, this was his first return to Germany since Buchenwald's liberation. "This event forces me and others to go back and honor those who didn't survive," he said.

Under a gray sky and a chilling wind, he was among several hundred people gathered by the memorial, a ditch nearly 400 feet long.

One side of the ditch is a concrete wall into which pieces of olive wood were mixed.

"The wood symbolizes hope and love," said the architect, Klaus Schlosser.

Around the ditch, concrete letters in German, Hebrew and English offer a message from Psalm 83:

"So that the generation to come might know, the children, yet to be born, that they too may rise and declare to their children."

(Contributing to this report was JTA staff intern Michele Berman in New York.)