

**ISRAEL LOBBYING HARD FOR POLLARD
AMID EXPECTATIONS OF DECISION SOON**

By Steven Weiss

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- The Israeli government appears to be stepping up its lobbying effort on behalf of Jonathan Pollard, as the Clinton administration moves closer to a decision on whether to commute the convicted spy's life prison sentence.

Israeli Justice Minister David Libai met here privately Wednesday with Attorney General Janet Reno, who is expected to submit a recommendation on Pollard's fate to President Clinton within a couple of weeks.

Libai urged her to "assist the president in making a favorable decision" on the case.

He told her that in light of Israel's planned release of thousands of convicted Palestinian terrorists, the Israeli public expects the "same gesture" from the United States.

The Pollard issue dominated half of the hour-long meeting, according to Libai, who spoke to reporters afterward.

Reno told the Israeli justice minister that she had not yet received the materials from Deputy Attorney General Phillip Heymann necessary to make a recommendation on Pollard, a former U.S. Navy intelligence analyst who was convicted in 1986 of passing hundreds of pages of classified information to Israel.

The Justice Department will not say when Reno plans to give Clinton the long-awaited recommendation on the Pollard case.

But sources say a recommendation is imminent, and anticipation has been heightened by the fact that presidential pardons and commutations are often made on the eve of the new year.

Support for Pollard has been building in the organized American Jewish community, most of whose leaders now believe the life sentence he received was too severe, considering that the classified information was provided to an ally.

Until recently, the Israeli government had not made a major issue of the case, perhaps sensing a potential irritant in relations with Washington.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin wrote a letter requesting clemency to Clinton earlier this year, and he discussed the case with the president directly during a White House visit last month.

Speculation About A Deal

The heightened activity and expectations concerning the Pollard case have touched off a wave of speculation about what the United States is being offered for the convicted spy's release.

The Forward, a New York-based weekly newspaper, reported Nov. 19 that a prominent Israeli activist had proposed a plan to the White House concerning a commutation of Pollard's sentence.

The confidential document reportedly promised that if Pollard was released, he would maintain a low profile, he would not return to Israel as a "national hero" and a prominent Israeli figure would act as his custodian.

A source familiar with the Pollard case said Wednesday that Pollard had indicated in the past his desire not to be considered a heroic figure,

and his willingness to keep a low profile if released.

But the source added that the proposal's provisions would probably not be sufficient to attain Pollard's release, and that a decision by the administration to free Pollard would likely be based on other grounds.

Rumors of a spy swap, in which Israel would release a prisoner in exchange for Pollard's freedom, have circulated among circles close to the case for a couple of years.

A letter in The New York Times last week called for Israel to release Mordechai Vanunu in exchange for Pollard.

Vanunu is an Israeli convicted of treason for leaking information on Israel's nuclear capability to the British press.

The letter urged Clinton to recommend Vanunu's release to Rabin in order to demonstrate U.S. opposition to nuclear weapons proliferation.

Sources also note Israel's recent release of Yosef Amit, an Israeli imprisoned for spying for an unnamed country, which, according to Moment magazine, was in fact the United States.

Pollard activists had previously suggested trading Amit for Pollard.

U.S. officials have denied, however, that an American spy was imprisoned in Israel.

**VIOLENCE IN TERRITORIES
REMINISCENT OF INTIFADA**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- Violence gripped both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank this week in a manner reminiscent of the intifada, which began six years ago, and further dimmed the prospects for peace.

Less than two weeks before the Israeli army is scheduled to begin withdrawing from Gaza, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas called for a strike to demonstrate unity.

Jewish settlers announced plans to double the number of settlements, saying this would demonstrate their determination to resist the government's policy of creating a Palestinian autonomous entity that would have power over the land.

The week witnessed the most serious unrest in the territories since the Sept. 13 signing of the Israel-PLO self-rule accord.

On Wednesday, Palestinians opened fire on a car stalled by the side of a road near the West Bank town of Ramallah, killing a 24-year-old pregnant kindergarten teacher and wounding three other Israeli occupants of the car.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was in Brussels on Wednesday for meetings with European Community leaders, said the government would continue to pursue the peace process despite the latest ambush.

"It is clear to me that every incident like this hurts and also damages the belief of many in Israel that peace is possible," he told Israel Radio.

"But at the same time, I think we have to continue" with the negotiations for implementing the Palestinian self-rule accord.

Members of Izz a-Din al-Kassam, a military

faction of Hamas, claimed responsibility for the teacher's death.

In a statement distributed Wednesday in Gaza several hours after the ambush, the faction said the attack was the first of five it was planning in retaliation for the recent killings of several of their leaders by Israeli forces.

Last Friday, Israeli soldiers killed Khaled Zayir, the senior leader of the al-Kassam faction.

Zayir's death came two days after Israeli soldiers killed Imad Akkel, another founding commander of the faction.

On Sunday, Israeli troops in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip killed Ahmed Abu al-Reesh, a member of the Fatah Hawks, a member organization of the PLO that is violently opposed to the self-rule accord.

The woman killed in Wednesday's attack, Shalva Uzana of Hadera, was buried in Jerusalem on Wednesday night.

The funeral passed without incident, but afterwards, mourners and others protested at key points in the city.

Rabin Called A 'Traitor'

In Jerusalem and throughout West Bank settlements, Israelis reacted not only against the Palestinians but also against the Israeli government, the army and the media for the absence of firm action against the terrorists.

They held torches and carried banners -- among them one reading "Rabin -- Traitor" and showing a large photograph of the prime minister draped in a kaffiyeh.

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip announced Wednesday that it planned to halt all Arab traffic on roads throughout the administered territories on Thursday.

"If we cannot travel safely on the roads, we will make certain the Palestinians cannot travel freely," the group announced Wednesday after the ambush-killing.

Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair has said that assurance of security in the territories is vested in the IDF and that actions announced by the settlers were illegal.

The settlers group also announced they would speed up establishment of a so-called "Hashomer" ("watchman" or "guard") West Bank Jewish defense force.

Settlement leaders, however, also issued a call to their ranks to avoid indiscriminate attacks on innocent Palestinians -- which have taken place in the past after terrorist attacks.

The council said it intended to create 130 new settlements. "Operation Duplication" provides for every settlement in the territories to set up -- as a symbolic rather than a practical act -- another settlement one kilometer away, on state-owned land throughout the West Bank and Gaza.

In Brussels, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who was attending a NATO meeting, issued an appeal to contain the violence.

"The message I would send to the parties is the need for discipline, the need to exercise maximum restraint," he told reporters Wednesday.

"I would urge all parties to take every action to try to ensure that the enemies of the peace process" fail, he said.

Christopher was scheduled to travel to the Middle East this weekend to press for more advances in the peace process.

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent David Landau in Jerusalem.)

RABIN GETS BELGIUM'S SUPPORT FOR UPGRADING ISRAEL'S E.C. TIES

By Joseph Kopel

BRUSSELS, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who came here this week for his first official visit to the European Community headquarters, has gained the support of Belgian leaders for upgrading Israel's relationship with the E.C.

During his one-day visit here Wednesday, Rabin met with Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene and later with Foreign Minister Willy Claes.

After meeting with Rabin, Claes told reporters that Belgium, which is chairing the E.C., would ask the organization's other member states for a "clear mandate" to upgrade Israel's status with the E.C.

Since 1975, Israel has had a free-trade agreement with the Common Market countries. Rabin is seeking to elevate Israel to the status of associate member, the highest level a non-European country can attain within the E.C.

The new status is significant to Israel since it would permit a larger access for Israeli products in European markets. In addition, as an associate member Israel would have greater opportunities for cooperation on scientific research and development projects.

Claes was optimistic that Israel will soon receive the new status.

"We hope that this will happen soon, perhaps at the next meeting of the E.C. Council of Ministers on Dec. 6 and 7," he said after meeting with Rabin.

Israel's trade deficit with the E.C. amounted to about \$5 billion last year.

Rabin was also scheduled to attend separate meetings with Jacques Delors, president of the European Executive Commission, and with King Albert of Belgium at the Royal Palace.

U.N. GROUP ACCEPTS ISRAEL-EGYPT MEASURE

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- A draft resolution presented jointly by Israel and Egypt calling for international support of the Middle East peace process was accepted unanimously last week by the World Federation of United Nations Associations.

The resolution, presented at the federation's annual meeting here, called upon the group's member nations to extend their influence to ensure that a concerted effort be made to foster the economic progress of all peoples living in the Middle East as a means for helping the peace process succeed.

But the measure underlined that particular attention must be paid to raising the living standard of the Palestinian people to make the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization self-rule accord work.

The federation, founded in 1946, was created to encourage popular interest in U.N. programs and to further international understanding.

The Israeli representative to the U.N. body, Ambassador Yoel Barromi, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that this was the first meeting in which he participated that Israel had received a warm welcome.

"It was like the fall of the Berlin Wall," he said. "We feel like a part of the world of nations."

LEADER OF GERMAN JEWS THINKS JUSTICE SYSTEM IS INADEQUATE

By Miriam Widman

BERLIN, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- The head of Germany's Jewish community believes German justice and intentions are inadequate to combat neo-Nazis.

Ignatz Bubis, speaking with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency about issues confronting the community, said judges have been too liberal in sentencing the perpetrators of right-wing crimes.

Nevertheless, he also admitted that he had no solution or suggestion of his own about educating the growing far right movement to turn away from racism.

"I don't have any suggestions, and that's worse. I don't know what one should do. It's a situation where it's difficult to say you have to do this or you have to do that."

And his verdict is not yet in on what, if any, success accrued from a recently rip to Israel of neo-Nazis from the city of Dresden.

"I'm not sure if that was a good or bad thing," said Bubis.

The trip was organized by a Dresden city employee in charge of foreign affairs in conjunction with local social workers. Its goal was to erase stereotypes by giving neo-Nazis a firsthand view of Israel.

It was criticized by some prominent Jews in Germany who worry that the trip might actually have had an adverse effect and could end up reinforcing stereotypes.

Bubis spends much of his time trying to educate non-Jews about the 40,000-member German Jewish community and in trying to erase stereotypes and preconceptions.

He is also active in promoting equality for foreigners living here.

Shortly after this interview, Bubis left Berlin for Molln, to mark the first anniversary of the killing of three Turks by neo-Nazis.

Bubis, who is 66, has a daily agenda that is more packed than people half his age. Indeed, he appeared tired and overworked during the interview. His schedule is so hectic that he employs three secretaries to keep things in order.

Is Germany 'Blind In The Right Eye'?

After 14 months as head of the Jewish community, he has been largely well-received here, by both Jews and non-Jews alike. But while Bubis is seen as more thought-provoking and diplomatic than his predecessor, the late Heinz Galinski, he does not think his message is different.

But times have changed in Germany. Within the last 12 months, there have been 2,584 incidents of violence or vandalism by the radical right, and 17 people have died from neo-Nazi attacks.

And the punishment has been far greater for those who kill prominent businesspersons than toward those who kill asylum-seekers, he said.

Bubis voiced concern about the discrepancy between Germany police and court treatments of activists of the radical right and left.

A debate as to whether Germany is "blind in the right eye" has been brewing here ever since the first suspended sentences were handed down two years ago in the initial wave of post-unification neo-Nazi crimes.

Among those who are speaking out on this problem are Lea Rosh, a well-known Jewish

television journalist here and co-author of the book "Death is a Meister from Germany," where "meister" translates into "ruler" and the phrase indicts Germany as a whole.

A number of law professors have also blamed the German system for its mild treatment of the right wing.

Bubis believes the establishment does not see the links and organizational ability of the radical right.

"We are dealing here with about 80 different groups. I am of the opinion that there are connections between these 80 groups. The police say that there are no connections," he said.

Many, he says, are from the 1968 generation, where youth protests in Paris spilled over to Germany, and they place a heavy emphasis on rehabilitation before punishment.

The trouble, Bubis said, is not that judges are too conservative but that they are too liberal.

"The laws are sufficient, but the justice is too liberal for me," said Bubis.

SWISS CANTON REHABILITATES POLICEMAN WHO BROKE RANK TO HELP REFUGEE JEWS

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- More than 25 years after the first petitions were filed, a Swiss canton has acquiesced and rehabilitated a late police chief who disobeyed government orders and helped thousands of Jewish refugees escape to Switzerland from the Nazis.

In 1939, the Swiss borders were shut after Adolf Hitler annexed Austria in 1938. Thousands of Jewish refugees trying to enter Switzerland had to return to Germany.

But Paul Gruninger, then police chief of the canton of St. Gallen, allowed the alteration of refugees' papers to make it seem they arrived in Switzerland before the borders were closed.

For his efforts, Gruninger was fired in 1939 for disobeying orders and was denied a pension. He lived in financial straits until his death at the age of 80 in 1972.

Memorials to Gruninger exist in Israel and Washington, and in 1991, Jewish groups celebrated the 100th anniversary of his birth.

In Switzerland, however, the story was different.

Attempts to secure his rehabilitation, begun in 1968, were repeatedly blocked.

Most recently, a group calling itself Action by Children of the Holocaust submitted a petition with 2,500 signatures to the authorities of St. Gallen.

"Forty-eight years after the end of World War II, the government of St. Gallen, with full knowledge of the murderous apparatus put in action by the Nazis, is still unable to put humanity above the non-observance of orders. We as children of Jewish concerned persons cannot accept this," the petition read.

According to the petition, Gruninger saved the lives of 3,000 Jewish refugees by allowing them to enter Switzerland.

On Tuesday, St. Gallen authorities said in a statement, "Paul Gruninger is from today politically rehabilitated."

"We have come to the conclusion that Gruninger knowingly ignored regulations to save that Gruninger knowingly ignored regulations to save refugees who were in mortal danger, despite the serious personal consequences," the canton authorities said.

STEINSALTZ APPEALS TO RUSSIAN JEWS WITH NEW TRANSLATION OF THE TALMUD

By Miriam Kessler

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz of Israel, a world-renowned Talmudic scholar who amazed the scholarly and religious world by translating the Babylonian Talmud into modern Hebrew and English, is again in the limelight with his translation of the first volume of the Jerusalem Talmud into Russian.

The undertaking is unprecedented and allows access now to a people who have been cut off from their Jewish religious roots for most of this century.

On Nov. 22, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, a sponsor of the Steinsaltz Yeshiva in Moscow -- officially known as the Judaic Studies Center -- and a major funder of Jewish education in the former Soviet Union and throughout the world, hosted a reception at the United Nations in recognition of Steinsaltz's accomplishment.

Ambassador Milton Wolf, president of the JDC, presented ambassadors Yuli Vorontsov of Russia and Gad Yaacobi of Israel with copies of the first volume of the work.

The ambassador of Italy, Francesco Paolo Fulci, an honored invitee, was unable to attend.

One of Steinsaltz's friends and disciples is a former Italian prime minister and foreign minister, Giulio Andreotti, who pushed legislation through the Italian Parliament to help fund the Russian translation of the Talmud.

"Let my people know," Steinsaltz's favorite phrase, was repeated throughout the evening. It is his personal take of Moses' call to Pharaoh to "let my people go."

'To Leave To Others What We Have'

In this modern instance, says Steinsaltz, it refers to the delivery of the Russian Jews from religious oblivion. It also expresses his desire to educate all Jewish people.

Steinsaltz helped establish Jewish universities in Moscow and St. Petersburg, both degree-granting institutions funded by the JDC.

As Steinsaltz told the guests at the reception, "We have to try to share, receive and leave to others what we have."

Steinsaltz, born a secular Jew to socialist parents, has been working about 25 of his 56 years on the Talmud. The head of the Israel Institute of Talmudic Publications in Jerusalem, he talks about his yearning for the unity of the Jewish people.

It is in this vein that he has shared his knowledge by bringing the Talmud to Russian Jews.

The Babylonian Talmud, a 2.5 million-word compilation of oral law, history, philosophy and legends, is the dominant Talmud in Jewish religious life, written in the Diaspora and spread to Jewish communities worldwide.

The Jerusalem Talmud -- older and shorter and compiled in Jerusalem in the fifth century -- has been largely ignored.

Steinsaltz finished the first modern Hebrew volume of the Babylonian Talmud in 1966. More than a million copies of this have been sold.

Eight volumes of his translation of the Babylonian Talmud have been published in English by Random House. Steinsaltz has also translated the Jerusalem Talmud into modern Hebrew. Its first 10,000 copies sold out in a week.

FEATHERS FLYING OVER WHOOP'S RECIPE FOR 'JEWISH AMERICAN PRINCESS' CHICKEN

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- Whoopi Goldberg's recipe for "Jewish American Princess Fried Chicken" is leaving at least a couple of Jews with a bad case of indigestion.

Her recipe, in a cookbook published to raise money for an environmental educational center in Connecticut, instructs readers to "send the chauffeur to your favorite butcher shop for the chicken," shake the chicken in a bag while being careful to "watch your nails," and to "hand the bag to the cook and go dress for dinner."

Finish the chicken by having the "cook prepare the rest of the meal while you touch up your makeup," says Whoopi's recipe.

"Cooking in Litchfield Hills" also contains recipes from Nancy Kissinger, Bill Blass and Tom Brokaw.

According to Cathy Setterlin, executive director of the Pratt Center, the group that is benefiting from the proceeds, about 3,000 copies of the book have been sold and there have been only two complaints.

But according to Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, the recipe is "not funny, it's insulting. It's a lousy recipe with insensitive and anti-Semitic ingredients."

"Whoopi should know better," he said. "She needs some sensitivity training, unfortunately. The good people who published it need some sensitivity training too."

Goldberg's publicist, Brad Cararelli, told a New York newspaper, the Daily News, that "maybe (the critics) are not aware that Whoopi is Jewish, so she is certainly not anti-Semitic."

Goldberg seems to have a penchant for stirring things up.

There recently was a controversy about her then-lover Ted Danson's blackface skit at a recent Friar's Club roast for her. Goldberg wrote Danson's material, which was full of racial obscenities.

BODIES OF CHINESE TO BE RETURNED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- Chinese officials have reversed their request to bury in Israel two Manchurian officials killed last week in a crash and are now asking that the bodies be returned to China.

Apparently learning of the problems Israel was facing because it lacks cremation facilities and non-denominational cemeteries, Beijing has now asked for the bodies of Ma Dixian, mayor of Xian Yang, Manchuria, and Zhang Li, vice chairman of the Manchurian Council for Technical and Economic Development.

The civilian helicopter in which they were traveling to Masada crashed, killing them, the pilot and two civilian Israeli passengers.

The coffins of the Chinese will now be shipped to Beijing and will be accompanied by other members of the Manchurian delegation, which had come to Israel to sign a series of economic co-production agreements.

Among them will be the husband of Zhang Li, who arrived in Israel on Sunday to bring home his wife's body. The Ramat Gan Municipality, which hosted the delegation, arranged for an official ceremony at the airport.