

**NEXT STAGE IN POLLARD CASE, A PUSH FOR PAROLE, EXPECTING WIDER SUPPORT**

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, March 24 (JTA) -- The push to free Jonathan Pollard has not been ended by President Clinton's refusal this week to grant a clemency petition.

Supporters of the former Navy analyst, who is serving a life sentence for spying for Israel, plan to continue their struggle.

Their new goal is ensuring that Pollard will be released in November of next year, when he first becomes eligible for parole, 10 years after he was arrested outside the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

"We're going to continue this campaign," said Pollard's father, Morris Pollard.

For months, Pollard's supporters had awaited the day when a promised Justice Department review would land on Clinton's desk and the president would fulfill a campaign promise to review the case.

That day came Wednesday. Within hours Clinton had accepted the recommendation of Attorney General Janet Reno and the unanimous views of the law enforcement and national security agencies against clemency.

Clinton said in a statement that Pollard committed "one of the most serious crimes against our country -- placing national security secrets of the United States in the hands of another country."

He said he based his decision "upon the grave nature" of Pollard's offense and "the considerable damage that his actions caused our nation."

The decision on whether to grant clemency had reportedly already been discussed at the White House, with senior Clinton aides arguing against clemency. Departing counsel Bernard Nussbaum, as well as former Deputy Attorney General Philip Heymann, were said to have argued on behalf of clemency.

'An Overly Hasty Decision'

But Pollard's advocates had hoped for an opportunity to make the case one last time with White House officials, and in a statement, Seymour Reich and Karen Rubinstein deplored what they called "an overly hasty presidential decision."

Reich and Rubinstein are president and executive director, respectively, of the American Zionist Movement.

Their statement accused Clinton of failing to consider that "Pollard was guilty not of treason but of a single count of passing classified information to a U.S. friend and ally, Israel; that an agreement to plead guilty in exchange for less than a life sentence was broken by the government; that Mr. Pollard has already served eight years, most of it in solitary confinement, and that Mr. Pollard had cooperated fully with the government in the investigation of his spying activities."

In fact, Clinton said in his statement that he had considered the argument that Pollard

deserved a shorter prison sentence because he spied for a friendly nation.

"I nevertheless believe that the enormity of Mr. Pollard's crime, the harm his actions caused to our country, and the need to deter every person who might even consider such actions, warrant his continued incarceration," said Clinton in his statement.

The leaders of the American Zionist Movement said they "do not intend to drop this issue. We fully intend to press for Mr. Pollard's release on humanitarian grounds when he becomes eligible for parole next year."

A similar view was voiced by Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, president of the Synagogue Council of America.

"We have to keep up the pressure. It took nine years for (Natan) Sharansky to get out Soviet prison, under vastly different circumstances. Jonathan Pollard committed a crime, he's paid for it and he should not be abandoned to a life sentence," said Lookstein.

Lookstein said that in 36 years in the rabbinate, "I can hardly remember an issue on which there is so much unanimity in the Jewish community, among the rank and file and among Jewish organizations."

But it remains a question whether, over the next year and a half, Pollard's supporters can overcome a definite ambivalence in the Jewish community toward Pollard. The ambivalence has been evident in the positions of several national Jewish organizations that had refrained from calling for commutation of Pollard's sentence, either saying nothing or simply calling for a review of the case.

A request for parole, based on the premise that Pollard is far from guilty but that after 10 years will have served enough time, may win wider support.

Reich said that many in the community who hesitated to get involved for commutation said they would address the matter when parole comes up.

And Phil Baum, associate executive director of the American Jewish Congress, agreed, saying that "when he becomes eligible for parole, I have no doubt there will be wide support for it within the Jewish community."

CLINTON IS SAID TO REITERATE POSITION ON UNITED JERUSALEM

By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, March 24 (JTA) -- In a White House meeting with a group of Jewish leaders this week, President Clinton reaffirmed his 1992 campaign statement that he believed a united Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, according to a leading Jewish official.

Clinton met with more than 50 members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations on Thursday to discuss the Middle East peace process and other issues.

Lester Pollack, the chairman of the Jewish umbrella group, told reporters after the meeting that Clinton had been "unequivocal" in reaffirm-

ing his views on Jerusalem, originally stated to the group during his 1992 presidential campaign.

The issue of Jerusalem has come to the fore in recent weeks with the passage of a U.N. resolution condemning the Hebron killings. The preamble to the resolution referred to Jerusalem as "occupied territories" -- a position strongly opposed by most in the American Jewish community.

The U.S. government abstained on the relevant part of the preamble.

Pollack also said participants had not discussed Jonathan Pollard, who was convicted of spying for Israel.

On Wednesday, Clinton had decided not to grant clemency to Pollard, who is currently serving a life sentence.

Many in the Jewish community had lobbied hard for clemency, feeling that a life sentence for spying for a friendly country was excessive, while others were more ambivalent.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice president of the Conference of Presidents, said the timing of the meeting -- one day after the Pollard decision -- was "coincidental."

On the issue of Jerusalem, Pollack said he did not believe there was a weakening of the administration's position.

He said Clinton had told the group that his position on Jerusalem was both his personal policy and the administration's policy.

Linda Kamm, co-president of Americans for Peace Now, said after the meeting that Clinton had said the administration would give Israel room to make its own decisions.

She also said Clinton had told the group that the administration respected the formulation in the Israeli-Palestinian accord that Jerusalem was one of the issues to be discussed at a later date.

The president also expressed optimism about the future of the Middle East peace talks, noting that the Israelis and Palestinians are meeting in the region, and that the Jordanians, Lebanese and Syrians will be returning to Washington in April for negotiations with Israel, Pollack said.

At the meeting, Pollack said, Clinton also spoke about the administration's commitment to work to end the longtime Arab economic boycott of Israel and to resolve the issue of Israeli soldiers missing in action.

The Jewish leaders spoke in the meeting of their concern about extremism on all sides, Pollack said, including that of "people cloaked in religious fundamentalism."

**RABIN SAYS HEBRON SETTLERS
PRESENT SECURITY NIGHTMARE**
By Dvorah Getzler

JERUSALEM, March 24 (JTA) -- While Israeli and Palestinian officials focused this week on the security situation in Hebron as part of their efforts to restart the peace talks, the subject also dominated internal Israeli politics.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who has recently criticized the presence of Israeli settlers in Hebron as an impediment to the peace process, told a Labor Party caucus meeting Wednesday that the settlers' presence there was a security nightmare as well.

Rabin told the caucus that he was horrified

at the thought that between 100,000 and 120,000 Palestinians in Hebron have been kept under a virtual non-stop curfew since the Feb. 25 massacre there in order to ensure the security of some 415 Jews who live in the town.

The idea of moving the Hebron settlers from four enclaves into one, or of removing them entirely from the West Bank town, has been much discussed since the Feb. 25 attack by a Jewish settler.

"You will have more support from the Israeli public than the media would have you believe, should you decide to evacuate the Jewish settlers from Hebron," Knesset Member Yael Dayan told Rabin during the meeting.

But Rabin replied that it was security concerns, not public opinion polls, that would determine what the government decided to do about Hebron.

During the meeting, Rabin was asked whether he believed the Palestine Liberation Organization and its chairman, Yasser Arafat, could be trusted to carry out their commitments.

"We have no Palestinian partners other than the PLO and Arafat," Rabin replied.

Hebron was also the topic being discussed at the Knesset on Wednesday.

The Knesset had been called into session by special request of the opposition parties. It provided the stage for an impassioned rebuttal from Foreign Minister Shimon Peres against Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu's charge that the government had been guilty of a blood libel against the entire settlement movement in general and the Hebron settlers in particular.

Labor was using the Hebron massacre to slur an entire section of the Israeli nation, Netanyahu claimed.

Peres replied in turn that the massacre had created a blood libel against the entire Jewish people.

Peres described the Hebron massacre as the most heinous act committed by a Jew in the entire history of the Jewish people, adding that it had brought shame and disgrace upon the State of Israel.

SYRIAN SOLDIER SEEKS ISRAELI ASYLUM
By Dvorah Getzler

JERUSALEM, March 24 (JTA) -- A Syrian soldier crossed the border into Israel late Wednesday and handed himself over to the Israeli authorities.

The soldier, Hassan Ghassan Hader, requested political asylum and threatened to commit suicide if he were sent back to Syria.

Hader told a court in the northern coastal city of Acre on Thursday that he had served in a special unit in Damascus since enlisting a year ago.

He said his officers had recently refused to grant him leave for the holiday marking the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

The court has ordered that Hader be held in custody for 15 days.

Because of Passover, the JTA Daily News Bulletin will not be published either Monday, March 28 or Tuesday, March 29.

TSABAN SAYS KACH MEMBERSHIP IS NOT AUTOMATIC BAR TO ALIYAH
By Steven Weiss

WASHINGTON, March 24 (JTA) -- Israel will not ban Americans wishing to immigrate solely because of membership in militant groups, according to the minister of immigrant absorption.

Yair Tsaban, of the Meretz bloc, said the decision whether to allow a potential immigrant to make aliyah will continue "to be examined on an individual case basis."

"Nothing is automatic. Even under the Law of Return nothing is automatic," Tsaban told reporters at a briefing about his visit to the United States.

The concern over the immigration policy arose after the Feb. 25 murders of at least 29 Muslim worshipers in Hebron by the militant Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein, a native of Brooklyn.

Goldstein was a member of Kahane Chai, a group that adopted the anti-Arab sentiment of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, who also came from Brooklyn.

The Israeli Cabinet reacted to the murders by approving a measure that bans the militant Kach and Kahane Chai movements, declaring them terrorist organizations.

The American connection to the Hebron shootings caused some to wonder whether the Israeli government would change its traditionally warm attitude toward U.S. immigrants.

And a New York Times article on March 20 reporting an "anti-American mood" in Israel as a result of the Hebron incident heightened the debate.

Olim Won't Be Rejected For Ideology

Tsaban said potential immigrants will be screened according to the requirements of the Law of Return, which bans those acting against the Jewish people, those endangering the security of Israel or the health of the public, and those with a criminal past who might endanger the peace and safety of the public.

An immigrant will not be turned away for reasons that "one has a certain ideology or political aspirations," he said.

Zahava David, an emissary with the World Zionist Organization in New York who advises Americans who are thinking of moving to Israel, said there has been no change in the information she gives to potential immigrants.

"We haven't heard that there's a change in Israeli attitude toward America" that would cause a change in immigration policy, she said.

Tsaban called the reports of anti-American sentiment in Israel untrue.

"I don't think there is such (an anti-American) development in Israeli public opinion," he said.

"Any attempt to make any kind of generalization is both stupid and dangerous."

Tsaban urged American Jews to "do whatever they can" to condemn extremist groups in the United States and Israel.

He added that the Ministry of Education planned to send materials on extremist groups to American Jewish organizations for use in educating Jews about groups that cause "shame to our Jewish people, Jewish heritage and Jewish values."

SIMCHA DINITZ IS ARRAIGNED ON AGGRAVATED FRAUD CHARGES
By Dvora Getzler

JERUSALEM, March 24 (JTA) -- Simcha Dinitz has been arraigned on charges of misappropriating some \$32,000 from the Jewish Agency.

Dinitz, who temporarily stepped down as chairman of the agency in February, appeared in court Thursday and pleaded not guilty to the charges against him.

The court then granted his request that the proceedings be postponed until July.

Dinitz was charged with aggravated fraud and abuse of public trust for the alleged misuse of credit cards issued by the Jewish Agency.

Dinitz has admitted making personal purchases on the cards.

He also admitted not repaying \$13,793 worth of charges until the bills were brought to his attention in December 1992.

The Jewish Agency, which is the primary recipient of United Jewish Appeal funds raised for Israel, is the largest single recipient of American Jewish philanthropy. In Israel, it is considered a quasi-governmental body.

Its salaries are pegged to those of Cabinet officials and its actions are coordinated with the state.

Its leaders come from the ranks of the Israeli political parties in proportion to their strength in the World Zionist Congress.

Dinitz's leave of absence was in accordance with an agreement made last summer with Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the agency's Board of Governors.

Yehiel Leket, the 52-year-old head of the agency's Youth Aliyah department, is serving as acting chairman.

COLLEGE TEACHERS END STRIKE
By Dvora Getzler

JERUSALEM, March 24 (JTA) -- A strike lasting more than 70 days has won Israel's university teachers raises of more than 70 percent.

The salary increases will be paid out over several years, under the settlement reached in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

The Haifa Technion was planning to resume classes Wednesday, but teaching at the other institutions of higher learning will only begin after the Passover holiday.

Students, rather than rejoicing, burned tires and scuffled with the police in Tel Aviv.

The angry students fear that when classes resume, they will have to pay the price for their enforced 73-day vacation, which cost them almost a full semester of studies.

The students had gone to court to try to stop the strike earlier because of the amount of class time and money they were losing.

They are asking for passing marks for the courses that were mostly not held.

They are also seeking financial compensation for the extra rent and lost summer jobs resulting from having to remain at their desks deep into the summer to compensate for lost time.

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein has promised that the students will be consulted as the universities plan the best way of putting the strike and its damage behind them.

HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN MAKES ANTI-SEMITIC REMARKS IN LEGISLATURE

By Agnes Bohm

BUDAPEST, March 24 (JTA) -- For the first time since World War II, a member of the Hungarian Parliament has openly made anti-Semitic remarks in that body.

During a speech to the legislature, Gyula Zacek, a member of Parliament representing a small right-wing party, sharply criticized the involvement of an Israeli firm in the privatization of a Hungarian supermarket chain.

According to Zacek, the Israeli firm bought its shares in the Hungarian company for a lower price than was expected.

Zacek -- employing the anti-Semitic rhetoric often used by Istvan Csurka, the leader of far-right elements in Parliament -- concluded his attack on the Israeli firm by saying the business deal was an example of the "Zionist plot" against Hungarians.

Zacek also used the occasion to criticize the Jewish Agency's activities in Hungary, which he described as "illegal."

As was pointed out in the Hungarian media, neither the speaker of Parliament nor any Parliament members attempted to interrupt Zacek's speech.

Tuvia Raviv, the head of the Jewish Agency's office in Budapest, countered Zacek's charges during an interview with a daily newspaper here, explaining that the Jewish Agency has been working legally in Hungary for the past four years.

The Budapest office of the Jewish Agency has been responsible for helping some 157,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union make aliyah to Israel, and also helped arrange transit through Budapest for approximately 1,200 Jews who were bound for Israel from the former Yugoslavia.

Concern Over Anti-Semitism

Raviv recalled that a busload of Russian emigrants was attacked near the Budapest airport and almost died as a result of a remote-control explosive.

In an incident further underscoring the appeal of right-wing ideologies here, supporters of the far-right World National Popular Rule Party gathered in Budapest at what is believed to be the grave of Ferenc Szalasi, the leader of the Hungarian Arrow Cross Party during the 1940s.

Szalasi, a supporter of Hitler's, was executed after World War II as a war criminal.

The gathering started with the Nazi raised-hand salute, and Szalasi was hailed as a hero.

The Budapest chief prosecutor has introduced a civil suit against the Popular Rule Party, asking the courts to dissolve it.

The prosecutor said the group promotes racist ideas.

The party's chairman, Albert Szabo, an Australian-Hungarian, dismissed the prosecutor's accusations, saying his party "wants to replace predatory capitalism with a socialism based on nationalist ideals."

In another development, leaders of the Hungarian Jewish community filed a petition with the Hungarian government demanding that a government-controlled television program apologize for having used an offensive comparison.

EUROPEAN UNION READY TO JOIN A U.N. 'PRESENCE' IN TERRITORIES

By Joseph Kopel

BRUSSELS, March 24 (JTA) -- The European Union has signalled its readiness to be part of an international presence in the territories.

The Palestine Liberation Organization has called for measures to protect Palestinians in the wake of the Feb. 25 killing of worshipers at a Hebron mosque.

In a statement issued last week, the E.U.'s 12 member states stressed the need "to pursue the Mideast peace process despite the recent tragic events" in Hebron that brought the negotiations between Israel and the PLO to an abrupt halt.

"The European Union supports the putting into place by the United Nations Security Council of an international presence in the occupied territories," the statement said.

The member states were ready to take part in such a U.N. presence, the statement said.

"The European Union encourages the renewal of the negotiations on the peace process between all the parties and calls on the United Nations Security Council to quickly adopt a resolution in this view," said the statement.

The PLO has been calling on the Security Council to issue a resolution condemning the Hebron murders, as well as demanding that an armed international force be sent into the territories to protect Palestinians.

The E.U. also welcomed measures recently taken by the Israeli government to ensure security for the Palestinians. The measures included the banning of militantly anti-Arab groups and ordering the detention of some extremist leaders.

JEWISH REGION OF BIROBIDJAN OUT OF FUNDS TO DEVELOP COAL

NEW YORK, March 24 (JTA) -- Although coal deposits lie within easy reach, the Jewish Autonomous Region of Birobidjan has no money to develop them, according to Tass, the Russian news agency.

There are an estimated 30 million tons of coal, which have already been prospected, in the area of Ushumunsk -- enough to satisfy the region's needs for 30 years, Tass reported.

"By the end of year 1995 we could begin delivering cheap local coal for the Birobidjan thermal power station, district boiler rooms and the population of the Jewish Autonomous Region," according to Pyotr Rozentul, director of a trading firm called Initiative.

However, Tass said, the regional administration is out of funds to exploit the coal. Money to develop the coal deposits had been expected from local commercial banks.

"But neither the Jewish Investment Bank nor the Kreditprombank and the Bank for Regional Development could allocate, on a share basis, 8 billion to 10 billion rubles for the development of the Ushumunsk coal deposit, as it will yield profits only in three to four years.

"Bankers prefer to invest money in programs which guarantee quick profits," Tass said.

Birobidjan, established by the Soviets on March 28, 1928, as a Jewish region, is in Russia's extreme east, just north of the border with China.