

IN THE NEWS

Holocaust resolution passed at United Nations

The U.N. General Assembly passed a Holocaust commemoration resolution Tuesday.

In introducing the resolution Monday, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations said its passage would represent the first time the world body adopted a resolution related to the Holocaust.

The resolution, which establishes a Holocaust memorial day at the United Nations and calls on members states to incorporate Holocaust education into their missions, had more than 100 co-sponsors. [Story, Pg. 3]

2015 release projected for Pollard

The U.S. Bureau of Prisons projects a 2015 release date for Jonathan Pollard, the former U.S. navy analyst convicted of spying for Israel.

The release date, on the bureau's Web site, is the first indication that the United States plans to release Pollard, who was convicted in 1986 and is serving a life sentence in a North Carolina prison.

U.S. administrations have consistently rejected appeals to grant clemency for Pollard, whose supporters argue that he was subjected to a disproportionately harsh sentence.

Pollard's wife, Esther, dismissed the report, saying the release date is merely theoretical.

Woman kills boy, self in Texas temple

A woman shot to death a teenager teaching kids in a temple in Amarillo, Texas, and then killed herself.

Police said Eloise Evans, 50, walked into a classroom in Temple B'nai Israel on Sunday morning and told two young children to leave.

She drew a handgun and shot Zachary Weir, 15, multiple times and then turned the gun on herself.

WORLD REPORT

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AIPAC trial could expose ways information is gathered in D.C.

By RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1 (JTA) — It's a classified leak case that could rattle U.S. foreign policy and fundamentally alter how Washington does business — but while the world watches the implosion in the vice president's office, this case is proceeding quietly across the Potomac.

Motions filed in recent weeks in the case against two former senior staffers of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee have gone virtually unnoticed in the mainstream media, but their implications could be as explosive as the perjury indictment last week against Lewis Libby, Vice President Cheney's chief of staff and a principal architect of the Iraq war.

Defense motions suggest that the trial, scheduled to start Jan. 2, could expose the extent of covert U.S. surveillance of an ally, Israel, and how Israeli diplomats gather information about the United States.

It also could shed light on how journalists use intermediaries like AIPAC to gather information, on how U.S. officials selectively leak information to manipulate public perception of U.S. policy and on the inner workings of AIPAC, an organization famed for its media-shy profile.

A hearing was scheduled for Wednesday on the pre-trial motions in the case charging Steve Rosen, AIPAC's former foreign policy chief, and Keith Weissman, its former Iran analyst, with illegally transmitting classified information.

Lawrence Franklin, a Pentagon analyst, pleaded guilty last month to leaking classified information relating to Iran. Judge T.S.

Ellis says he will entertain postponements, partly because recent Jewish holidays impeded defense preparation.

Two defense motions filed Oct. 21 seek to subpoena as witnesses Israeli and U.S. diplomats, raising the possibility that the case will expose how the countries share information and how U.S. diplomats try to manipulate public perception through strategic leaks.

The diplomats are not named in the documents, but JTA has established that one of the three Israelis sought in the case is Naor Gilon, who was chief political officer at the Israeli Embassy in Washington until this summer.

Two of the four U.S. officials sought are David Satterfield, currently the deputy ambassador in Iraq and formerly an assistant deputy secretary of state, and Kenneth Pollock, a member of President Clinton's national security council, JTA has established.

David Siegel, the Israeli Embassy spokesman, acknowledged receipt of the defense request for Israeli diplomats' cooperation. He would not comment further, but Israel already has offered limited cooperation to the prosecution.

Rosen's lawyer, Abbe Lowell, previously described the Israelis as uncooperative with the defense.

Laurie Levenson, a professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, likened the case to that of Zacarias Moussaoui, allegedly involved in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. A judge in the same Alexandria, Va. courthouse where Rosen and Weissman will be tried expressed sympathy for Moussaoui's claim that the government's refusal to allow him to see testimony of other

Continued on page 2

BEHIND
THE
HEADLINES

■ *AIPAC case could shed light on how Washington does business*

Continued from page 1

Al-Qaida suspects held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, unfairly prejudiced his case.

"The more the defendants show it's not their fault that the Israeli witnesses are not available, the likelier it is they will get relief from the court," Levenson said.

The State Department refused to make Satterfield available for comment. A spokesman said that the decision about whether or not to testify was Satterfield's alone, and the department would not compel him to do so.

Pollack did not return calls.

One motion also seeks to subpoena the FBI agents in the case. Sources close to the defense have suggested that the strategy is to show how little the FBI came up with during a broad, six-year investigation.

The strategy also is reflected in a separate exchange of motions on how much of the transcripts and tapes of tapped phone conversations the prosecution must share with the defense. The prosecution is offering only nine hours of what could amount to hundreds of hours of recordings.

The strategy also would have the effect of exposing the breadth of covert attention that U.S. agencies pay to Israel and to AIPAC, a respected domestic lobbying organization. The prosecution hopes to stymie that exposure with its own motion that seeks not only to suppress most of the tapped conversations, but even their quantity.

A close analysis of the indictment shows that FBI tracking of Rosen and Weissman did not begin in earnest until 2002. Yet there is much in the indictment preceding that

date, suggesting that the FBI might have had other targets, including Israeli diplomats, journalists and even U.S. officials.

Another government practice with the potential for embarrassment, as the Libby case has shown, is the tendency for administration officials to selectively leak information to manipulate public opinion.

Satterfield and Pollack, neither of whom has been charged in the case, allegedly leaked information related to Iran. If required to testify, they likely would be asked why it was important to get this information to the pro-Israel lobby.

In previous hearings, Judge Ellis has expressed sympathy for defense demands for full sharing of files. But it's not just the U.S. government that stands to be embarrassed should Ellis grant the motion.

"Any and all statements made by the defendants to the following people are relevant," says a defense motion filed Oct. 21. "Their employees, supervisors or co-workers at AIPAC; their alleged co-conspirators; anyone referred to in the superseding indictment; any government official of Foreign Nation A," a reference to Israel; "any employee or official of the United States; and/or any journalists."

That list threatens to blow open a number of Washington practices. Diplomats of all countries in Washington avidly mine government officials and lobbyists for unclassified tidbits.

Journalists, increasingly denied access to the Bush administration, have taken in recent years to soliciting information from groups and lobbies close to the White House. AIPAC is known among journalists as a premier conduit for hard-to-get information, and two such incidents are cited in the indictment. JTA has learned that the incidents involve The Washington Post and The Nation.

Additionally, defense sources say they have reason to believe that the defendants' relationship with a New York Times reporter might have been monitored.

Finally, the defense will argue that the practices alleged were routine for AIPAC.

AIPAC has insisted that Rosen and Weissman overstepped bounds. The group fired the two in April because of what its spokes-

man said was information arising out of the FBI investigation. It is obligated to pay their legal fees under AIPAC's bylaws, however.

AIPAC also says that none of its current staff has been involved in any wrongdoing, and the lead prosecutor in the case, U.S. Attorney Paul McNulty, has said as much as well.

Still, the prospect of AIPAC officials taking the witness stand to prove or disprove whether Rosen and Weissman hewed to

routine cannot be a happy one for a group known in Washington for closely guarding its lobbying practices.

Defense sources have suggested that they will show that Rosen and Weissman relayed information that the government says was classified to Howard Kohr, AIPAC's executive director, as soon as they allegedly got it from Franklin in July 2004.

That information supposedly will establish that such practice was part of AIPAC's routine, though no one is suggesting that Kohr knew the information was classified or that he shared it with anyone else.

The argument that Rosen and Weissman's practices were routine got unexpected support last week from none other than Patrick Fitzgerald. He's the U.S. attorney who won the perjury indictment against Libby for allegedly leaking the name of a CIA operative who is married to Joseph Wilson, a prominent critic of the Iraq war.

In an extended news conference, Fitzgerald sought to explain why he was prosecuting a cover-up — the alleged perjury — and not the underlying alleged crime, the leaking of Valerie Wilson's name.

"That would violate the statute known as Section 793, which is the Espionage Act," Fitzgerald said. "That is a difficult statute to interpret. It's a statute you ought to carefully apply. I think there are people out there who would argue that you would never use that to prosecute the transmission of classified information, because they think that would convert that statute into what is in England the Official Secrets Act."

Indeed, Section 793 rarely is used to prosecute the transmission of classified information. Experts can't think of a single case since the mid 1980s — until this year, when it was used to charge Rosen and Weissman.

The trial could expose the extent of U.S. surveillance of Israel and how Israeli diplomats gather information on the U.S.

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U.N. Holocaust resolution seen as sign of change

By CHANAN TIGAY

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) — Sixty years after the United Nations was founded on the Holocaust's ashes, Jewish leaders are hailing passage of a Holocaust commemoration resolution in the General Assembly as an important step forward.

The document, called "Holocaust Remembrance," was passed by consensus Tuesday following speeches by representatives of more than 20 states, including Israel, the United States, Germany and Poland.

Co-sponsored by 104 member nations, the measure is the first Israeli-initiated resolution the General Assembly has ever passed.

"It's a good day for the Jewish people at the United Nations," said Amy Goldstein, director of U.N. affairs at B'nai B'rith International. "It demonstrates that it is possible for the United Nations to seriously address the basic human rights of the Jewish people."

In introducing the resolution, Israel's U.N. ambassador, Dan Gillerman — who in June became a General Assembly vice president, Israel's first in more than 50 years — said the resolution was particularly significant because it represents the first time the United Nations has adopted a Holocaust-related resolution.

"The U.N. bears a special responsibility to ensure that the Holocaust and its lessons are never forgotten and that this tragedy will forever stand as a warning to all people of the dangers of hatred, bigotry, racism and prejudice," he said.

The move is the latest in a series of steps that observers say indicate a new U.N. openness to Israel and Jewish concerns.

In September, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon addressed a summit of world leaders in the General Assembly shortly after Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. Insiders said Sharon received a much warmer reception in New York than anyone could have imagined just two years ago, when the intifada was at its height.

Over the past year, the United Nations has convened a daylong conference on anti-Semitism and the General Assembly held a special session to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan attended the opening of the new Yad Vashem museum in Jerusalem, the first time a U.N. head traveled to Israel.

The deliberations came at the same time that Syria suffered a significant diplomatic setback at the United Nations, with the Security Council on Monday threatening "further action" if Syria doesn't cooperate with a U.N. investigation into the assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Yad Vashem and American Jewish groups welcomed the Holocaust resolution's passage.

Malcolm Hoen-

lein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said that two or three years ago he would have considered it unlikely that a Holocaust resolution could pass the General Assembly.

Tuesday's move grows out of several developments, he said, including broad support for Israel's Gaza withdrawal and backing from Annan.

The "overwhelming support" with which the document passed sends "an important message," Hoenlein said.

"It's the last days of the survivors, and this will help ensure that their voices will be heard," he said.

John Bolton, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said the resolution doesn't mean Israel has gained full acceptance at the United Nations.

"While the Holocaust occurred 60 years ago, its lessons are no less relevant today," he said.

Just last week, for example, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called for Israel to be "wiped off the map."

"When a president or a member state can brazenly and hatefully call for a second Holocaust by suggesting that Israel, the Jewish homeland, should be wiped off the map, it is clear that not all have learned the lessons of the Holocaust and that much work remains to be done," he said on the U.N. floor.

"And when some member states shamefully hesitate to decisively condemn such remarks," he added, "it is clear that much work remains to be done."

The resolution was co-authored by countries including the United States,

Russia, Australia, New Zealand and the European Union nations. It establishes Jan. 27 — the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp — as Holocaust Remembrance Day at the United Nations.

It also calls on member states to include the Holocaust in their educational curriculums and condemn manifestations of Holocaust denial. In addition, it calls on the secretary-general to create programs under the rubric of "The U.N. and the Holocaust" and report to the General

Assembly on the programs' progress.

"With today's General Assembly action, a majority of U.N. member states has affirmed the uniqueness of the Nazi genocide of the Jewish people," said David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee.

An effort two years ago for a General Assembly resolution on anti-Semitism hit a wall. A diplomatic source told JTA that Tuesday's resolution is not meant to replace the one on anti-Semitism that failed.

"The resolution on the Holocaust has its own merits; it's not any sort of fall back position," the source said.

Indeed, the Holocaust resolution passed Tuesday does not mention the word "anti-Semitism."

"We would have hoped that a reference to anti-Semitism would be included in that, but we were aware that this was going to make our lives extremely difficult and we did not want to compromise the sanctity of the 6 million who were murdered in the Holocaust just for the sake of having everything we wanted in the resolution," the source said.

Poland's U.N. ambassador, Andrzej Towpik, said the resolution "is particularly important" to Poland, which "lost millions" in the Holocaust, including more than 90 percent of the country's Jews, he told the General Assembly.

Speaking of the Holocaust as "the very darkest chapter" of German history, Gunter Pleuger, Germany's U.N. ambassador, said the resolution will help "keep the fate of the victims alive in the memory of the world."

"It is our responsibility to keep continual guard against anti-Semitism, racism and other forms of hatred and intolerance, he said.

'While the Holocaust occurred 60 years ago, its lessons are no less relevant today.'

John Bolton

U.S. ambassador to the United Nations

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

NEWS IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

Two Hamas men killed

Israel killed two Hamas members in the Gaza Strip.

An air force strike Tuesday in the Jabaliya refugee camp killed Hassan Al-Madhoun, whom Israel has said was responsible for two deadly bombings, and Hamas operative Fawzi Abu Al-Kara, Ha'aretz reported. The attack on the men's car also injured nine bystanders.

Israel approves European inspectors

Israel approved a plan for European inspectors to man the Gaza-Rafah border.

The plan, approved by Israel's security cabinet on Tuesday, is a breakthrough in slow-moving negotiations over who controls the border now that Israel has left the Gaza Strip.

Until now, Israel has insisted on controlling traffic through a border crossing adjacent to the Gaza Strip.

The decision means that Vice Prime Minister Shimon Peres may now approach the European Union on the matter.

Inquiry of Olmert launched

Israel's attorney general launched an investigation into allegations that Ehud Olmert made political appointments to the board of an Israeli telephone company.

Olmert, the vice prime minister and finance minister, denied allegations announced Monday that he appointed Likud Party officials to Bezeq when he was communications minister in 2004.

Iran airs Holocaust denial drama

Iranian television broadcast a miniseries alleging that Israel assassinated an academic who "proved" the Nazi gas chambers were not used for the mass murder of Jews.

"Holocaust," a three-part drama, was aired by Tehran's Sahar television station last week in conjunction with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's calls for Israel to be "wiped off the map."

The series purports to tell the story of a French Jewish academic who discovers that the Nazi gas chambers were used for delousing, not execution, but is killed by Mossad assassins before he can publish his findings.

Actors for the miniseries were provided by Hezbollah.

Wedding bells for Hatuel

An Israeli who lost his wife and children to Palestinian terrorists is remarriage.

David Hatuel, 36, announced his engagement this week to Limor Shem-Tov, whom he met through a religious dating agency.

Hatuel's wife, Tali, and their four daughters were killed in a Palestinian ambush while driving to their home in a Gaza Strip settlement last year, a tragedy that made international headlines.

"Getting engaged does not put away the memory of my enormous pain and loss," Hatuel was quoted as telling friends Tuesday.

NORTH AMERICA

Hadley: Al Qaida threat against Israel is serious

The United States takes seriously the Al-Qaida threat against Israel, President Bush's national security adviser said.

"The final step of Al-Qaida's strategy, Zawahiri says, is 'the clash with Israel, because Israel was established to challenge any new Islamic entity,'" Stephen Hadley said Monday, referring to a recent missive from Osama Bin-Laden's deputy, Ayman Al-Zawahiri. "Calls for violence against 'Zionists' are a persistent and pathetic staple of Bin-Laden's rhetoric and action. We must not take this strategy lightly," Hadley told the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's national summit in Los Angeles.

Lawyer admits Jewish conspiracy charge

A Canadian lawyer faces disciplinary action after alleging there was a Jewish conspiracy against his client.

Guy Bertrand admitted Monday that he violated the Quebec Bar Association's ethics code when he suggested that Justice Minister Irwin Cotler, who is Jewish, appointed a Jewish judge to the Canadian Supreme Court to make sure Bertrand's client, Leon Mugesera, was deported to Rwanda.

Judge Rosalie Abella's husband, Irving, a former head of the Canadian Jewish Congress, has been lobbying for Mugesera's deportation, and Abella has recused herself from considering the case.

The Supreme Court judges considering the case called Bertrand unprofessional and said his comments were anti-Semitic. Bertrand apologized, saying his emotional involvement in the case led him to make the accusation.

U.S. Supreme Court hears religion case

The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments over whether to allow the importation of a hallucinogenic drug for religious purposes.

The case, heard Tuesday, tested the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which places a high standard for government to restrict religious practices. Members of the O Centro Espirita Beneficiente Uniao Do Vegetal religion sought to import a tea from Brazil that contains hallucinogens, which they drink as part of a religious service.

The government claims that controlling illegal substances and adhering to international treaties are compelling reasons to prevent importation of the hallucinogen.

The act, which was passed with support from Jewish groups, says that if government has to restrict religious practices, it must do so in the least restrictive manner possible.

The case is being watched as a first sign of Chief Justice John Roberts' opinion on the exercise of religion.

Islamic group targets David Project

A Boston Islamic group sued a pro-Israel group for defamation.

The Islamic Society of Boston on Monday broadened an existing suit against a local TV station and the Boston Herald to include terrorism expert Steve Emerson and the David Project, a group that earned headlines last year by alleging bias against Jewish and pro-Israel students at Columbia University.

The suit alleges that the defendants sought to defame the Islamic Society to keep it from building a mosque.

The Boston Globe quoted the David Project as describing the suit as "factually and legally frivolous."

House letter would urge Annan to cancel Iran trip

Two U.S. congressmen are asking colleagues to sign a letter urging U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to cancel a trip to Iran.

"Given Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's call for Israel's destruction and his regime's continuing defiance of the U.N. Security Council, we believe an official visit would seriously undermine international efforts to censure his outrageous remarks," says the letter being circulated by Reps. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) and Robert Andrews (D-N.J.), co-chairmen of the House's Iran Working Group.

WORLD

Italy: Refer Iran to Security Council

Italy wants to refer Iran's nuclear program to the U.N. Security Council because it poses a "grave danger" to Israel.

Gianfranco Fini, the Italian foreign minister now visiting Israel, said Tuesday that a nuclear Iran would pose a "grave danger not only to Israel but to the international community and from here our position is that the Security Council must deal with this as soon as possible."