

Pollard clemency fight revives broader spy probe

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The public plea to obtain presidential clemency for convicted spy Jonathan Jay Pollard has reopened a nasty can of worms that could implicate high-ranking former national security officials, and at least one well-known leader of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), in espionage.

Pollard was part of an espionage effort which was described by former federal prosecutor Joseph DiGenova, interviewed in the *New York Times*, as "the largest physical compromise of United States classified information in the 20th century." DiGenova, whose views reflect those of a broad range of senior Pentagon and U.S. intelligence officials, told the *Times* that if Pollard is granted presidential clemency, he would fight to have the Justice Department's damage assessment report on the Pollard spy ring declassified. This lengthy secret report, submitted to Pollard's sentencing judge, details the national security consequences of the Pollard spying. The report was buttressed by another secret memo, an affidavit by then-Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, providing an assessment of the damage.

Although federal prosecutors had promised Pollard a reduced sentence in return for a guilty plea that would avert a complicated and security-compromising trial, Judge Aubrey Robinson gave Pollard a life sentence, which meant that he would not become eligible for parole for 10 years.

During his state visit to Washington, D.C. in November, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin formally asked President Bill Clinton to grant clemency to Pollard and release him from prison on the basis of the eight years he already served. At the beginning of December, Israel's Attorney General David Lebai met with his U.S. counterpart, Janet Reno, and also lobbied for Pollard's release. Rabbi Avi Weiss of New York City and Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) have led a high-profile campaign for Pollard's early

release that saw hundreds of lobbyists descend on Capitol Hill last month.

President Clinton referred the clemency request to Attorney General Janet Reno, and announced that he would make a decision on the Pollard case as soon as he receives formal recommendations from the Department of Justice (DOJ).

With those DOJ recommendations expected any day now, a ferocious public debate has broken out over the pros and cons of the clemency request. New evidence has surfaced on the seriousness of the damage done by the ex-Naval Investigative Service analyst's spying. The *Washington Times*, citing DOJ officials who oppose the early release of Pollard, reported that there is an ongoing criminal probe of possible co-conspirators in the mid-1980s espionage. "We're strongly opposed to the release of Jonathan Pollard. It would be disastrous for pending prosecutions," an unnamed DOJ official told the *Times*.

In 1986, *Washington Post* editor Bob Woodward published a front-page story revealing that Pollard had not acted alone, but was abetted by a high-ranking official in the Reagan administration's national security apparatus who was providing the Israeli government with code numbers on specific secret documents. Woodward dubbed the unknown second spy "Mr. X." According to Woodward's story, the Israeli spy unit, Lekem, headed by senior Mossad officer Rafi Eytan, passed code numbers of specific top secret files to Pollard, who would retrieve the documents and photocopy them at a safehouse provided by a prominent attorney, Harold Katz, who had dual U.S. and Israeli citizenship. Katz was later implicated in an insider trading scandal that rocked the Israeli Air Force. He was linked to the activities of Drexel Burnham's junk bond swindler Michael Milken.

Time magazine reported on Dec. 13 that at least one

crucial U.S. national security document that Pollard provided to Israel made its way into Soviet KGB hands. The document, which *Time* described as "a huge National Security Agency compendium of frequencies used by foreign military and intelligence services," cost the United States billions of dollars to assemble. But once Pollard passed it on, the data became worse than useless; foreign agencies, aware that their codes had been compromised, would likely have used the frequencies to transmit disinformation. Moreover, "officials fear the data in the book were so specific that its discovery may have cost informants their lives."

LaRouche and EIR are right again

EIR was the first publication to reveal the Soviet angle on the Pollard spy ring. In two special reports, published in 1986 and 1987, *EIR* documented the collusion between the Lekem unit under Eytan, a longtime ally of former Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, and the Soviet KGB and GRU.

In 1986, *EIR* also published a dossier on a dozen top officials of the Department of Defense who were then under investigation by the Pentagon's General Counsel as suspected Pollard collaborators. Rather than hunting for an elusive "Mr. X," *EIR* exposed the existence of an entire "X Committee" in and out of government that was behind a vast Israeli spy apparatus engaged in passing vital American national security secrets to Moscow in return for exit visas for thousands of Soviet Jews to enable them to move to Israel.

EIR also was the first news agency to publicize the role of top officials of the ADL in the Pollard spy ring. Ruth Sella, wife of Israeli Air Force Col. (later promoted to general) Aviem Sella, Pollard's recruiter and handler, was employed by the ADL as an attorney working directly under then-national ADL chairman Kenneth Bialkin. On the day of Pollard's arrest, Bialkin flew to Israel to confer with government officials on a damage control strategy.

There are also ties between Pollard and ADL Washington, D.C. fact-finding director Mira Lansky Boland. Lansky Boland was Pollard's graduate school classmate at the Fletcher School of Diplomacy at Tufts University in a program directed by Dr. Uri Ra'anan. In the 1960s, while working for the Mossad, Ra'anan was assigned as the liaison between the spy agency and the ADL. Boland retained her ties to Pollard after the two graduates went to Washington, D.C., where he went to work for the Navy and she joined the CIA and then the Defense Department, before going to work full-time for the ADL in 1982.

On May 11, 1993, *Village Voice* reporter Robert Friedman revealed in a lengthy cover story about ADL espionage that "Pollard wrote to friends that a prominent ADL leader was deeply involved in the ADL spy operation." Although the Pollard letters, written to members of the Gush Emunim movement in the Israeli Occupied Territories, named the names of several prominent ADL officials involved in his spying activities, the names have never been made public.

Pattern of corruption

Justice Department and Pentagon officials have been expressing outrage at the prospect of an early Pollard release from prison. The *Washington Post* editorialized on Dec. 7 that Pollard should be forced to serve out at least the minimum sentence, two more years, and then make his pitch for parole.

The controversy at the Justice Department involves far more than just a matter of the fairness of Pollard's sentence. The department is under the gun for a series of cases involving corruption, unbridled violence against private citizens, and political influence peddling on the part of such private groups as the ADL.

Lyndon LaRouche, whose own case was heavily contaminated by ADL pressure on Justice Department prosecutors, commented on the complexities of the Pollard case in his Dec. 8 weekly "*EIR's* Talks" interview with Mel Klenetsky: "This is a complex business. . . . You have to compare the Pollard case with something on the other side, which is the Demjanjuk case [see p. 66] and the case of me and my friends. Now in the Demjanjuk case, it is perfectly documented that a systemic fraud upon the court existed. And anybody who looks at the record knows that in my case, I'm a victim of a massive fraud upon the court. Now, the fear in the Justice Department is that if it cleans up some more garbage, like the [Randall] Weaver case or the cover-up in the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) Atlanta case, sooner or later, the whole Justice apparatus as we knew it under Bush, will come under scrutiny and the whole thing will blow up. Therefore, they say, we'll turn LaRouche free, we'll give him parole, but we're not going to exonerate him, because that will uncork all the worms.

"Then they confront the Pollard case. Some people in Israel, who are not bad people, are saying through Rabin: free the guy. He worked for us. And the Justice Department reacts, saying: if we free Pollard, somebody is going to say, 'What about LaRouche, who certainly did nothing of that sort? You are going to let the ADL get its boy out, and yet the person victimized by the ADL remains under stigma? No, it doesn't function.'

"Then, you mention on top of it that there are certain aspects of the Pollard case which have not yet hit the public, which really stink. Some of the garbage which Pollard was stealing ended up promptly in Moscow, through people like Shabtai Kalmanowitch. And this was very sensitive information which resulted in the deaths of some American agents.

"Now, the further thing is that Pollard was not a lone agent of the Israeli intelligence service. Pollard was a contractor, under a Navy contract, who had privileged access. But to access the documents, he had to first get the codes. Who gave him the codes? We don't know, but it had to be someone in the Joint Chiefs of Staff or the Defense Department apparatus. The dirty finger of suspicion points to Richard Perle and others."