

BOTH POLLARD PROBE PANELS FIND GRAVE MISHANDLING BY TOP ISRAELI OFFICIALS; NO RESIGNATIONS DEMANDED
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 26 (JTA) -- The two official Israeli investigations into the government's role in the Pollard espionage affair both reportedly blamed top political and intelligence leaders for grave mishandling of the episode. But they did not recommend that anyone resign.

The Cabinet-appointed commission of Yehoshua Rotenstreich, a prominent Tel Aviv attorney, and former Chief of Staff Gen. (Res.) Zvi Tsur presented its report to Premier Yitzhak Shamir Tuesday morning. The Inner Cabinet was to convene late Tuesday to discuss it. According to a source close to Shamir, the Premier will "recommend to the Inner Cabinet that the report be adopted."

Israel Radio reported that the commission severely censured Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and former Defense Minister Moshe Arens for lax supervision of the intelligence unit known as Lekem which recruited Jonathan Pollard to spy on the U.S. for Israel.

But it found that neither man in his official capacity was aware that Pollard, an American Jew employed by the U.S. Navy as an intelligence analyst, had in fact been hired as a spy. Pollard and his wife are now serving prison terms in the U.S. for espionage on behalf of Israel.

Eban Committee Looks To Peres

In addition, a parliamentary intelligence subcommittee chaired by Abba Eban of Labor, which also reported on the affair Tuesday, specifically blamed top ministers, in particular Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, according to initial reports on Israel Television.

The subcommittee pointed out, according to Israel Television, that Peres, as Premier at the time of Pollard's arrest, was "first among equals" and therefore recipient of the gravest burden of blame.

Israel Television also reported that the subcommittee had criticized both Rabin and Arens as well as Shamir, then Foreign Minister, for his role in Israel's handling of the Pollard affair after Pollard was arrested in December 1985.

Eban said prior to presenting the report to Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel Tuesday night that it was "for the Knesset and the nation" to draw the political conclusions from the findings of his subcommittee's report.

Political observers felt the relatively mild findings of the Rotenstreich-Tsur report would tend to counterbalance the much sharper language used in the seven-man Eban subcommittee report.

Rotenstreich Report Cites Cabinet

The Rotenstreich-Tsur report said that "ministerial responsibility" fell on the entire Cabinet under Israel's system of Cabinet responsibility. But Minister-Without-Portfolio Yitzhak Modai of Likud and outgoing Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein of Shinui disagreed, contending that the top ministers had consistently withheld information on the affair from the full

Cabinet. The Rotenstreich-Tsur report was scathing toward Rafael Eitan, head of Lekem, and Air Force Col. Aviem Sella, who supervised Pollard. The report also strongly criticized their subsequent promotions, Eitan to the director-generalship of Israel Chemicals and Sella to head a major Air Force base.

The Eban subcommittee comprises Laborites Simcha Dinitz and Micha Harish in addition to Eban; Likud MKs Elisha Ben-Elissar, David Magen and Ehud Olmert; and Yosef Burg of the National Religious Party.

According to Israel Radio, no political crisis is likely over the affair since the Rotenstreich panel stopped short of recommending any action.

It will be up to the Cabinet to decide whether any or all of the commission's report will be made public, legal sources said Tuesday.

SHINUI'S RUBINSTEIN QUILTS CABINET OVER PEACE CONFERENCE SITUATION

JERUSALEM, May 26 (JTA) -- Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein formally resigned from the Cabinet Sunday following a decision by his Shinui Party to leave the unity coalition government. His letter of resignation was read to the Cabinet by Premier Yitzhak Shamir.

Rubinstein announced on May 17 that he had recommended Shinui's action because he said the two major coalition partners, Labor and Likud, are hopelessly deadlocked on the issue of an international conference for Middle East peace. He indicated that he hoped his move would spur Labor to follow suit.

Shinui had been allied with Labor on most issues, including an international conference. Rubinstein stated in his letter that the Cabinet's failure to give it a fair try created "an impossible situation."

The Labor Party Ministers decided not to appoint a successor to Rubinstein inasmuch as it is seeking the early dissolution of the coalition. For the time being the portfolio will be assigned to Gad Yaacobi, Minister of Economic Planning and Coordination.

ISRAELI MILITARY URGES HALT TO LAVI TO FREE FUNDS FOR OTHER PROJECTS
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 26 (JTA) -- Israel's defense establishment, including the Air Force, is strongly opposed to continuation of the Lavi fighter plane project because it is diverting funds from other major weapons systems needed to maintain Israel's high qualitative edge in any future war, it was reported here Tuesday.

But those who counsel abandonment of the Lavi, are encountering powerful opposition from Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), which is currently testing two Lavi prototypes, and a group of Likud politicians who insist the project must go ahead.

The media quoted an "authoritative Israel Defense Force military source" Tuesday to the effect that the defense establishment has been forced to curtail production of weapons which could be decisive in the next war because huge sums are being poured into the Lavi.

The source said the IDF's views are based on a study of future land, sea and air battle requirements. One item which may have to be shelved is a new missile developed by the IDF that allegedly could "determine the outcome of battle." The Air Force would need 1,000 such missiles but funds are available for only 200-300 over the next few years, according to the source. Another missile, produced by Rafael, the IDF's weapons development authority, is being manufactured at only 40 percent of capacity because of a dearth of orders due to lack of funds, the source said.

Air Force Commander Gen. Amos Lapidot told the Cabinet last week that while the Lavi is an excellent aircraft, its capabilities are similar to those of the American F-16C and it costs 50 percent more than the U.S. plane.

The ground forces and the Navy want funds from the Lavi switched to the improvement of tanks and the construction of more missile boats, respectively.

The IDF source also ridiculed claims that halting the Lavi project would result in widespread unemployment among IAI engineers, scientists and workers. According to the source, funds diverted from the Lavi would provide jobs for most of the 5,000 workers currently employed on it. The remaining 15,000 IAI employees are not involved with the Lavi project.

The final decision rests with the Cabinet, which has not completed its deliberation of the matter.

ISRAELIS SAY THEY APPROVE OF UNITY GOVERNMENT DESPITE POLICY COMPLAINTS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 26 (JTA) -- A substantial majority of Israelis want the national unity coalition government to serve out the remainder of its term despite widespread dissatisfaction with its handling of the peace issue and major domestic problems apart from the economy, according to the latest opinion poll published Tuesday.

The poll was conducted last week by the Hanoach and Rafi Smith Research Center among 1,135 Jewish adults. It was commissioned by the Jeane Kirkpatrick Forum for Public Leadership and Public Policy, which will meet here from May 31-June 2 on the topic of national unity governments where power is shared by parties of opposing political and ideological views.

The poll found that 29 percent of the respondents believe the Labor-Likud unity government is functioning well while 44 percent said it was operating "reasonably" well. Of the respondents, 38 percent felt the government should finish its term and 20 percent thought it should continue as long as the two major parties cooperated.

A minority of 36 percent favored termination of the coalition regime in the near future.

Good Grade On Economic Matters

Nearly two-thirds of the respondents gave the unity government high marks for managing the economy and the situation in Lebanon, but only a quarter were satisfied with the way it dealt with West Bank affairs and the country's social and religious-secular problems.

No more than 34 percent thought the government was doing a good job with the peace process; 57 percent expressed dissatisfaction and nine percent had no opinion. On the question of whether Israel should be governed by a national

coalition in the future, after the next elections, nine percent replied in the affirmative and 20 percent were favorably disposed but with reservations. Another 23 percent would accept a national government only if there was no other choice and 42 percent were definitely opposed. The Kirkpatrick Forum, named for the former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, will consider the proposition: "The power-sharing politics of national unity governments -- cure or predicament?"

The discussants will include Israeli Cabinet Ministers and politicians and guests from abroad including U.S. Secretary of Labor William Brock; the Defense Minister and former Deputy Prime Minister of Portugal, Dr. Rui Machete; Dr. Barnadino Gomes, executive assistant to President Mario Soares of Portugal; Michael Lingsen, editor of Austrian news weekly Profil; and Prof. Felix Ermacora of the University of Vienna.

They will consider the effects of national unity governments on the political establishments, on the decision-making processes, on parliamentary, social and economic processes and on political ideologies.

FORMER EXECUTIVE GOLD HEADING AJCOMMITTEE AS SEARCH TAKES PLACE FOR NEW EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, May 26 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee has appointed Bertram Gold as interim director while it searches for a replacement for executive vice president David Gordis, who was fired last month.

Gold served as executive vice president of AJCommittee from 1967-82 and subsequently as director of AJCommittee's Institute on American-Israeli Jewish Relations.

Gordis' termination, which was finalized at a meeting of the AJCommittee's Board of Governors here on May 13, has sparked controversy within AJCommittee, the human relations agency founded in 1906 and one of the country's preeminent Jewish organizations. Gordis fought his termination to the end.

Committee President Theodore Ellenoff said the Board voted 58-22 in favor of the decision to fire Gordis. With this vote, months and perhaps years of tension between Gordis, senior staff officers and lay people drew to a close.

Ellenoff said the major reason for the termination which he and six other officers decided on in April, was personality conflicts between senior staff members and Gordis.

Gordis could not be reached for comment and has not returned repeated phone calls from JTA.

Two months prior to the decision to fire Gordis, Ellenoff said three senior staff members who worked directly under Gordis informed the AJCommittee of their intentions to resign. He declined to name them.

"Dr. Gordis had well-known problems with the three," Ellenoff said. When officers learned of the staffers' decisions, the final determination to fire Gordis was made, he said.

Asked To Resign

Ellenoff asked Gordis to resign on April 24. When he refused, Ellenoff fired him. Gordis asked the officers to vote on the decision. Six voted to fire him, one against. Gordis then asked that the matter be taken to the full board of governors, a

move which Ellenoff said was not at all unusual. The larger issue, though, according to Ellenoff, was that Gordis wanted complete control over the organization, its staff, administration and policies.

Ellenoff claimed that Gordis once asked for a written policy statement which would in effect give the executive vice president complete control over the staff and administration. This was during the time the three staff members announced their resignations. All three chose to remain because Gordis was fired, Ellenoff said.

Ellenoff told JTA on May 18 that "Dr. Gordis was responsible for innovative programs during his almost three years at the American Jewish Committee and the agency will benefit from them for a long time to come."

Gordis, 46, a Conservative rabbi, served almost three years as executive vice president. He was the highest paid professional at AJCommittee with a reported salary of \$150,000 annually.

SIX WITNESSES IDENTIFY BARBIE, WHO WAS ORDERED BACK TO COURT

By Edwin Eytan

LYON, May 26 (JTA) -- Klaus Barbie was returned to court here under protest Tuesday to be formally identified by six witnesses who recalled in horrifying detail their arrest, torture and deportation more than 40 years ago at the hands of the former Gestapo chief known as "the butcher of Lyon."

After each recital Barbie, almost a bizarre caricature of the unrepentant, defiant Nazi, stated "Ich habe nichts zu sagen, Herr President" (I have nothing to say, Mr. President) when asked by court President Andre Cerdini if he had any comments.

Barbie, on trial for crimes against humanity, took advantage of French law which allows a defendant to be absent from court when, on May 13, the second day of his trial, he demanded to be returned to St. Joseph Prison for the trial's duration. But the law also allows the court to order his return, by force if necessary. In this instance, Barbie's presence was required to permit a confrontation with former victims, who were not present at the pre-trial hearings, to identify him officially.

Left Cell Only When Ordered

Although the 73-year-old Barbie offered no physical resistance, he refused to voluntarily leave the cell in the court basement where he was held while Cerdini read the order for his appearance. Repeatedly, the court clerk returned from the cell to tell the three-judge panel, "the defendant still refuses." Finally Cerdini ordered Barbie brought to the prisoner's dock.

The first witness, Lucien Margaine, a former resistance fighter who shuddered as he remembered being tortured by Barbie and his cohorts for six consecutive nights, pointed to the accused. "I formally recognize him. Not only his face and traits, but the smile, this sort of rictus on his lips which he still has . . . a face like his, a smile like his, are unique. They can never be forgotten," Margaine said.

The next witness, Mario Blardone, described not only his torture but Barbie's cruelty. He told the court he had seen the defendant try to have a young girl raped by a huge Alsatian dog. Blardone, too, recoiled at the sight of Barbie. "This face . . . I want to look at his eyes, those icy eyes. Yes, Mr. President, he is the man I testified

about," Blardone said. Again Barbie offered his ritual "I have nothing to say."

A 66-year-old witness, Mrs. Raymonde Guyon, whose husband was executed and who herself was deported, cried out: "This takes me back 43 years. Without his black SS uniform, his boots and whip he might appear like any other human being, but I just have to look at him to remember what he did."

Barbie, unblinking, repeated his litany: "I am held here illegally and I am in court because I was forced to come. Legally I consider myself absent. I shall not answer any question and make no comment."

Next Focus: Children's Deportation

On Wednesday the court is scheduled to hear testimony about the arrest and deportation of 44 Jewish children sheltered in the village of Izieu, near Lyon, on Barbie's orders in April 1944.

Among lawyers for the many plaintiffs there are mixed feelings over whether Barbie should be forced to attend the trial. Some insist that he be made to face his victims. But others fear he might become an object of public sympathy. Barbie reportedly suffers from high blood pressure and inflammation of the spinal cord which makes it difficult to stand or to sit erect for long periods.

BRANDEIS TO DIVEST OF FINAL HOLDINGS IN BUSINESSES IN SOUTH AFRICA

WALTHAM, Mass., May 26 (JTA) -- The Brandeis University board of trustees has voted to divest of all stock in companies doing business in South Africa, except those providing medical goods and humanitarian services or reporting the news.

Brandeis is the only secular Jewish-sponsored university in the United States.

The university reported that its holdings in relevant companies had a market value of \$1.6 million as of March 31 out of an overall endowment of approximately \$130 million.

The divestment vote came at the board's meeting May 16, concluding deliberations that began in 1973 when the trustees committed the university to a policy of socially responsible investment.

The new divestment policy requires that the university move in "an expeditious and timely manner" in selling the relevant stock. A spokesman had no clarification of the divestment timetable.

The board established the Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility in 1977--including faculty, students, alumni and staff -- to advise on portfolio policy and proxy votes affecting issues of shareholder responsibility. At the same time, Brandeis adopted the Sullivan principles for governing South Africa-related investments, and divested of companies doing business with the South African government or military.

The board adopted additional restrictions last May, leading to the sale of more than \$700,000 worth of investments in the fall.

DEATH REGISTRATION CHANGED

TEL AVIV, May 26 (JTA) -- Jews who die in the West Bank or Gaza district will be registered as having died in Israel, according to a new policy adopted by the Interior Ministry, Maariv reported.

FEDERAL PANEL REJECTS PLANS FOR U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM
By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, May 26 (JTA) -- Members of the Federal Commission of Fine Arts rejected Friday designs for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, saying that the museum's hexagonal shaped memorial, the Hall of Remembrance, protrudes too far into the street.

But the architect, James Freed of I. M. Pei, New York, said he is concerned that changing the plans will make the memorial look like an adjunct to the adjacent government buildings.

"The memorial will be treated like an office building which does honor neither to the office building nor the museum," said Freed, who told reporters after the meeting that he was "very disappointed" by the Commission's reaction. "I'd rather not do it at all than make it look like the office buildings," he explained.

Freed said there might have been a "misconception" among members of the Commission that could be resolved before the matter is voted on again June 19.

Large, Tall, Multi-Purpose Building

Freed's design calls for an atrium-like Hall of Witnesses to function as the focal point of the five-story, block-long museum, which will have three flights of permanent exhibitions, a learning center, archives, library and an international computerized data retrieval center. The building would encompass 250,000 square feet.

The Holocaust museum, which will cost an estimated \$45 million to \$50 million to build, will be located on Raoul Wallenberg Plaza here and stand between the Auditor's Building and the Bureau of Printing and Engraving. Also planned are a large plaza with a grove of trees, water and reflecting pond.

Freed, a German refugee who was appointed architect for the museum in November 1986, said he was completely stuck on how to proceed with the project until he visited the Nazi concentration camps.

"It was an extraordinary challenge to make a building that would fit into Washington and explain the unusual nature of its contents," said Freed. "I realized that a Holocaust museum is like other buildings in that it is didactic and it teaches, but it is very different from other buildings in that it deals with horrible and unthinkable things."

Hall Of Remembrance Most Controversial

The most striking and controversial part of the building design is the Hall of Remembrance, connected to the museum, which would feature a skylit ceiling. It would be simply done with a wall for candles and seats.

"The Hall of Remembrance is the only neutral, contemplative part of the building. You can't make it a pleasant place, but you can't make it disarming either," said Freed.

"(The museum) was not a design easily reached. It was tested 14 or 15 times and the Hall kept getting smaller until it was three quarters of its original size," he said.

But although the members of the Commission of Fine Arts praised the minimalist style of the building, they agreed with chairman Jay Carter Brown, who said "a standard urban design shouldn't protrude into the parking space."

Only State Senator Roy Goodman of New York City, who left before a final vote was taken, suggested that the plans be approved, noting that "because of the unusual nature of it (the museum), it can be set back a little and given further exposure than conventional."

The Latest Conflict

The rejection by the Commission is the latest in a series of conflicts in construction of the museum which came to a head last December with the resignation of Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel as chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

Another bone of contention was voiced at Friday's meeting by Werner Hasanberg, an economist and Holocaust survivor, who is objecting to the naming of different sections of the museum after contributors.

But members of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council are expecting that Freed's plan, which was approved by the Council on April 28 and still needs to be cleared by the Capital Planning Commission meeting next month, will eventually be approved by the Commission of Fine Arts.

"I don't consider it (the Commission's rejection) a setback," said Museum Director Arthur Rosenblatt. "It was the first appearance of the plans and no one knew what would be said."

Rosenblatt said "extraordinary progress" has been made in construction of the museum and he still hopes to break ground by fall. At that rate, the museum could be finished by 1992.

U.S. ENVOY RIPS ISRAEL'S WEST BANK POLICY

JERUSALEM, May 26 (JTA) -- U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering voiced strong American disapproval last week of what he implied were harsh Israeli policies toward Palestinians in the administered territories.

Noting indications of growing Palestinian frustration, the American envoy told a Hebrew University audience that "The U.S. has made clear that it remains deeply opposed to the use of deportation, to administrative detention and to the destruction or sealing of homes, particularly where that takes place without due process, without the provision of trial, without the production of evidence."

Pickering observed that there have been 15 killings in the territories so far this year. The most recent was the kidnap murder of an eight-year-old child whose battered body was found last Thursday in a cave near his home settlement of Elon Moreh in the West Bank.

AUSTRALIA EXPELS LIBYAN ENVOYS

CANBERRA, May 26 (JTA) -- The staff of the Libyan People's Bureau in Canberra has been given 10 days to leave Australia, the Zionist Federation of Australia reports.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke, announcing the expulsion, said that the People's Bureau was "simply serving to facilitate Libya's destabilizing activities" in Australia and the South Pacific region.

The expulsion comes in the light of increased public attention in Australia on Libyan interference on the internal affairs of Australia and South Pacific nations and in promoting anti-Zionism.