

# Israeli spy gets gets life sentence

by Joseph Brewda

The sentencing of confessed Mossad spy Jonathan Pollard to a life sentence, by U.S. District Court Judge Aubrey Robinson, on March 4, for his espionage for Israel, signals a major new phase in the downgrading of the so-called special relationship between the United States and Israel. Already, the Pollard case, and the associated "Irangate" scandals, have closed down a number of the more noxious back channels between Israeli intelligence and the U.S. National Security Council, and other U.S. intelligence agencies.

Simultaneous with Pollard's conviction, the U.S. Justice Department has announced the indictment of Israeli Air Force Col. Aviem Sella, Pollard's former "handler," for espionage, and has indicated it will soon indict three other Israeli Mossad operatives, including senior Mossad official Rafi Eytan. This is the first time that intelligence operatives of an allied state have been charged with spying by the U.S. government.

Pollard, formerly a civilian analyst at the U.S. Naval intelligence facilities in Suitland, Maryland, and his wife, Anne Henderson Pollard, were caught red-handed, outside the Israeli embassy in Washington in November 1985, with U.S. classified documents. Under subsequent interrogation, Pollard admitted that he supplied thousands of pages of classified documents to his "handlers" at the Israeli embassy, and the Israeli consulate in New York. Within 24 hours of his arrest, two of these handlers, Yossi Yagur, former science counselor of the Israeli consulate in New York, and Irit Erb, a secretary at the Israeli embassy in Washington, fled the United States for Israel, in an effort to avoid prosecution.

In the days following the arrest, the equally embarrassed U.S. State Department, and Israeli government, insisted that Pollard was operating as a "rogue operative," and that his activities were "unsanctioned." Israel, it was proclaimed, did not spy against the United States. This argument stretched thin, when it was revealed that former Mossad European station chief Rafi Eytan, a decades-long associate of would-be Israeli prime minister, Gen. Ariel Sharon, controlled Pollard's activities. Eytan then directed the Israeli Defense Ministry's intelligence branch. Still, reasons of "state" were used by certain elements of the Reagan administration, to publicly

deny the obvious. Eytan was given immunity by a strong-armed U.S. Justice Department, as a reward for his alleged cooperation with U.S. authorities in rooting out this "unfortunate aberration."

Despite these desperate efforts, the cover-up of the implications of the Pollard case again failed, when it was later revealed that Eytan had systematically lied to the Justice Department. Specifically, Eytan had suppressed the information that the first Mossad controller of Pollard was one Col. Aviem Sella, then being groomed for a high post in the Israeli Defense Force.

## Documents sold to Moscow?

Among the more important reasons why the Pollard case has remained a live one, despite the massive political pressures to bury it, is the overwhelming documentation that Pollard's stolen documents did not simply go to Israel, but were also sold by Israel to Moscow.

Pollard has admitted that Rafi Eytan, Colonel Sella, et al., systematically ordered him to pilfer U.S. classified documents relating to such areas as U.S. fleet dispositions; documents identifying U.S. agents and sources on-the-ground in Russia, and CIA evaluations on China. Clearly, Israel had no need for such information itself, unless one believes it was interested in bombing a U.S. fleet, or arresting a CIA agent in Moscow.

In fact, Rafi Eytan, and the Sharon-led faction he represents, have had longstanding ties with Soviet intelligence services, which have centered on betraying U.S. interests in not only the Middle East, but internationally. Part of these deals relate to allowing Moscow to penetrate U.S. intelligence under protected Mossad cover. Since the "special relationship" has allowed extensive, and U.S.-sanctioned, placement of Mossad operatives in senior U.S. intelligence positions, Eytan and Sharon's actions have been particularly destructive to U.S. national security.

During the same period that Pollard was being directed to steal documents of prime importance to Moscow, he was also told to grab documents of crucial importance to Teheran. Under Eytan and Sella's direction, Pollard regularly supplied the Mossad with such information as Iraqi battle plans, and related intelligence. During the same period, the same Israeli faction was insisting that the United States follow its insane scheme to sell arms to Khomeini.

One crucial lead which U.S. investigators can be expected to follow in this connection, is just who got Pollard his job anyway? After all, Pollard bragged of being a Mossad agent years prior to his being planted in U.S. intelligence; and his father's ties to former Israeli government figures are equally well known. According to some reports, Michael Ledeen, the same Mossad-linked operative who was crucial in selling the Reagan administration the idea of supplying weapons to Khomeini, was the operative who planted Pollard in U.S. intelligence.