

The case of the ADL of B'nai B'rith: agents of a foreign power

by Joseph Brewda

A little-known slander suit initiated back in 1967 sheds new light on why the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith is now assisting a Soviet propaganda effort that depicts the Bush campaign as run by "Nazi war criminals." The suit, by former B'nai B'rith official Saul I. Joftes, proves that both the ADL and its parent organization, B'nai B'rith, were wittingly acting as agents of a foreign power, Israel, as far back as 1960. Some of the agents exposed by Joftes, such as former B'nai B'rith chairman Philip N. Klutznick and retired ADL General Counsel Arnold Forster, are today playing a central role in the phony "anti-Nazi" campaign directed at Vice President George Bush's entourage.

The black propaganda campaign against Bush surfaced on Sept. 12, when *Washington Jewish Week* began a series of wild stories based on a recently released pamphlet entitled, "Old Nazis, the New Right, and the Reagan Administration." The pamphlet was written by Russell Bellant and Chip Berlet, long-time agents of the ADL, and Philip Klutznick. The charges in the pamphlet and in the stories were originally peddled by East German disinformation specialist Dr. Julius Mader and KGB propagandist Ernst Henry back in the 1950s. They have been kept alive in the United States largely through the efforts of the ADL, including its role in the creation of the Justice Department's "Nazi-hunting" Office of Special Investigation (OSI). The ADL and Soviet line is that anti-communism, nationalism, or a commitment to military strength, are all equivalent to fascism.

Although the ADL triggered the smear through Berlet et al., it has also continued to duplicitously support Bush publicly. So, ADL national chairman Abraham Foxman has loudly defended former Bush deputy chairman Fred Malek, who was fired for "anti-Semitism"—based on an ADL operative's charges. At the same time, the ADL has quietly advised the Vice President that the best way to respond to the slanders is to fire the people unfairly accused, and to charge that the Democratic campaign is staffed by anti-Semites linked to Jesse Jackson. Thus, the ADL hopes to secure key posts in a Bush administration, while purging it of any elements objectionable to Tel Aviv or Moscow. Since Michael Dukakis's wife, Kitty, is a member of the ADL's New England regional board of directors, it has nothing to worry about if Dukakis wins, either.

In 1967, Saul Joftes began a series of slander and related suits against B'nai B'rith regarding the circumstances of his

firing from his 20-year position as the organization's director of international operations. Depositions taken in one of the suits, *Joftes v. Rabbi Jay Kaufman* (CA 3271-67 District of Columbia), and later *EIR* investigations prove:

- In 1960, Dukakis adviser Philip Klutznick, then president of B'nai B'rith, wittingly established a B'nai B'rith cover for an Israeli intelligence operation, ostensibly dedicated to penetrating the U.S.S.R., at its New York offices.

- The Mossad case officer for the operation was Uri Ra'an, then the director of the Israeli Consulate's Information Department in New York, and today a leading "Sovietologist" and CIA consultant at Boston University. Ra'an later recruited Jonathan Jay Pollard to work for a joint Soviet-Mossad cell penetrating U.S. Naval Intelligence. Pollard's controller was based out of the New York headquarters of the ADL.

- Key figures in this Ra'an cell and related Israeli operations include Arnold Forster, the counsel for both B'nai B'rith and the ADL, and Moshe Decter, a long-time flunky of "Bukharinite" Soviet intelligence asset Sidney Hook. Decter's former wife, Midge Decter, together with her current husband, Norman Podhoretz, direct a vast "social democratic" mole network within the U.S. intelligence community still closely linked to both Ra'an and Hook.

It was Joftes' hostile attempt to block the B'nai B'rith's aid to Israeli foreign intelligence operations which led to his firing. Joftes summarizes his dispute with the B'nai B'rith as follows: "Under the leadership of Mr. Klutznick, it [B'nai B'rith] has become an international organization engaged, by Rabbi Kaufman's admission, in other things besides charitable, religious, and educational activities. It engages in international politics and more often than not does the bidding of the government of Israel."

Joftes protested that the B'nai B'rith assistance to Ra'an constituted a violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act and related legislation, at the very least. In response to this charge, future B'nai B'rith president William Wexler rejoined, "Here's to Joftes. The All-American Boy. True blue and loyal, too." Joftes continued to protest. He was purged.

While Joftes' fight against foreign intelligence operations in the United States is commendable, his belief that Israel has been the sole foreign power behind the B'nai B'rith and the ADL misses the mark. This is shown by Uri Ra'an's

background prior to his coming under Joftes' scrutiny in 1960.

Born Heinz Felix Frischwasser, "Ra'anan" was trained by British intelligence's intellectual elite at Oxford immediately after World War II. Among his academic advisers were Sir Reginald Coupland, who devised the postwar phase of the British plan of pitting Arabs against Jews; B.H. Sumner, British intelligence's Soviet expert; and F.W.D. Deakin, British intelligence's wartime liaison with Yugoslavia's partisan leader, Josef Tito. This was the same British network that had earlier trained KGB spy Kim Philby. It was only after being schooled in "Zionism" at Oxford that Frischwasser emerged as "Ra'anan," and was deployed into Israel to join the Mossad.

Ra'anan's operations as an Israeli consular official in the United States, beginning less than 10 years later, bear an unmistakable British stamp. Moreover, Ra'anan's role in the recruitment of KGB-Mossad mole Jonathan Pollard further suggests that Ra'anan may have been recruited by Soviet intelligence as far back as his postwar training by Sumner.

The Avis Shulman cell

Joftes' most violent opposition to B'nai B'rith's treachery centers around the case of Avis Shulman, the widow of a prominent Riverdale, New York rabbi. A Mossad agent, Shulman had been placed in a secret cell at B'nai B'rith's New York offices, with the purpose of infiltrating U.S. intelligence agencies by providing purportedly juicy information about Moscow.

As Joftes shows, Mrs. Shulman was controlled and financed by Uri Ra'anan, then the Israeli Consulate's Information Department director, and a Mr. Eliav, then the Israeli Consul General in New York, among others. Through Ra'anan's efforts, and with Klutznick's sanction, Shulman was placed at B'nai B'rith's New York offices in the summer of 1960. Shulman's job was to facilitate Israeli intelligence debriefings of American Jews visiting the U.S.S.R., and Soviet citizens touring the United States.

In her correspondence with B'nai B'rith regarding this Mossad operation, Shulman noted, "Jewish organizations, particularly B'nai B'rith, are especially useful" as a "base of operation." She requested, and Ra'anan demanded, that B'nai B'rith provide her a suitable title, office, stationery, and telephone. She asked that a subcommittee be "invented" with her as the "secretary" to give her "a handle that could be relatively inconspicuous, but meaningful."

Dr. William Korey, then the head of B'nai B'rith's U.N. bureau, and formerly the ADL's Washington, D.C. representative, discussed Shulman's arrangements with Israeli consular officials, including Ra'anan. He cited Ra'anan et al. as "our friends" in interoffice correspondence released to the U.S. District Court in Washington in connection with the case. Shulman reported that Ra'anan et al. insisted that she "report only to them. They wanted but very few people to

know the inner workings of the operation."

In a memo written to Philip Klutznick dated Sept. 1, 1960, Korey reports:

"I met yesterday with Avis Shulman (she has just returned from her vacation) and Uri [Ra'anan]. Some of Avis' thinking on the method of her operation has been crystallized and had already been, before we met, transmitted to Uri. This crystallization involved certain problems, among them are

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. . . an office or space in an already established office, preferably this one. She needs—she says—a place to hang her hat where she can receive mail, phone calls, and visitors. . . .

"She needs some identification, in effect a title, for stationery purposes as well as appropriate stationery. Is she to be secretary of some committee of the B'nai B'rith International Council? The later point raises a question which I am not certain about. Was it your intention to have it understood that she was to work for the International Council (while I understood that she was to work under my supervision, I was never advised as to precisely what you conceived her public identification to be)?"

Shulman identifies her job as follows in a 1960 memorandum to Korey:

"A. The Job:

"1. Concentrating early information on all Americans to the Soviet Union and Soviet visitors to the United States—as far as is ascertainable.

"a. Channelling this information to the relevant quarters."

Shulman further specifies the need for "saturation briefings of Jewish tourists to the Soviet Union by creating suitable nation-wide machinery via Jewish organizations, suitable individuals and especially through the use of tourist agencies. . . . Jewish agencies, particularly B'nai B'rith, are especially useful because of mass organization and trained and

experienced personnel throughout the country.”

After informing B'nai B'rith that “I have been asked to centralize activities, to find, choose and to establish personnel wherever necessary” for this intelligence operation, Shulman states the following requirements:

“1. In order to set the machinery into motion whereby the job can be done, it is essential that I be provided a proper base of operation which includes the following items:

“a. A name and a title. A sub-committee under the Office of International Affairs B'nai B'rith, with a name invented that is natural for the purpose would be ideal and the best base from which to operate. Such a committee might consist of Phil Klutznick as [sic] myself as secretary. In this manner, I would be provided with a handle that would be relatively inconspicuous but meaningful.”

‘She was working for them’

Who ultimately controlled this intelligence operation is shown by a confidential Korey memo to Klutznick dated Nov. 2, 1960, in which he reports:

“Last Friday, I met with our friends plus Moshe [Decter] and Avis. Our friends wanted to know about the future budget for Avis. I made it clear that this was a matter for the International Council which meets late November. I said that while the present period was provisional, we looked forward to seeing how it would work and the hope that it could work successfully. They indicated that they were looking forward to its success but wondered out loud whether the project could run into difficulties with B'nai B'rith structure. They stated that if it did, then perhaps as an eventual alternative and simpler method, there ought to be formed an independent committee made up of Jews within which the project would operate.

“Concerning her title, I proposed the term ‘liaison’ but they objected, indicating that they wanted something with greater dignity and status—like ‘consultant.’ They said that they would think about it and come up with a proposed alternative. Again they indicated they wanted her name on the letterhead.

“They then surprised me by (for the first time in our discussions) noting, that her instructions would come only from them, that her program would operate independently of B'nai B'rith, that she would report only to them, the only exception being that she would keep me abreast of her activities approximately once a week. I objected, stating that I had assumed that she would be technically under our jurisdiction, that I would be in a position to place limits on any specific activity of hers that might prove embarrassing to B'nai B'rith, that, in effect, she would clear with me.

“They stated, that in the nature of the case, this was impossible, she was working for them, that her instructions came from without. . . . They indicated that they wanted but very few people to know the inner mechanism of the operation.”

Documents submitted in the suit show that Jofte repeatedly warned Klutznick that aiding Israeli intelligence operations in the United States was illegal. In one memo dated Sept. 16, 1960, Jofte denounces the Shulman scheme, and concludes, “I ask only one thing: before I am overruled, take a look at U.S. code Title 22 Sec 611-621 (1938 as amended) and Title 18 sec 951 (revision of 1 Sept 48).” The sections refer to registration of foreign agents operating in the United States.

Despite Jofte's resistance, and even Korey's queasiness about “our friends,” Klutznick went ahead and placed Shulman at B'nai B'rith. All evidence suggests that her secret cell still exists.

The Fulbright investigation

Even before the 1967 Jofte suit, numerous U.S. intelligence officials were concerned about Zionist lobby facilitation of foreign intelligence operations in the United States. Reflecting this concern, in 1963, Sen. J. William Fulbright, then chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, convened hearings into “Activities of Agents of Foreign Principals in the U.S.” One session of the hearings, held May 23, 1963, proved that planting Avis Shulman at the offices of B'nai B'rith was merely one of several operations directed by Uri Ra'an at the time.

Other Israeli spying operations exposed by Fulbright include the Jewish Minorities Research project at the American Jewish Congress, directed by Ra'an agent Moshe Decter; the “Russian research project” of the Jewish Agency, directed by the ubiquitous Philip Klutznick; and the American Conference on Soviet Jewry. The overall purpose of these Russian projects was to penetrate U.S. intelligence by providing Washington purportedly high-quality information on Moscow. That the project was not a one-way street was later exposed in the Pollard case. The policy of Israeli intelligence has always been to sell U.S. secrets to Moscow.

American Jewish Congress documents subpoenaed by Fulbright showed that “the Jewish Minorities Research project, of which Mr. Moshe Decter is the director, has for several years specialized in research on the status and problems of the Jews in the Soviet Union, and secondarily of the Jews in other East European countries.” Toward this end, Decter was allegedly only involved in “discussions with individuals who have had personal experience of life in the U.S.S.R.,” and “discussion with American and foreign scholars and experts in the field of Soviet and East European affairs.”

Left unsaid by this memo is that Decter, a protégé of lifelong Soviet asset Sidney Hook, was working under the direction and funding of Ra'an. Assisting Decter in this project was Avis Shulman.

Funding for this American Jewish Congress operation did not come solely from that organization, or even the Jewish Agency, a de jure arm of the Israeli government. Some

indication of the covert laundering of funds for the Dexter project is indicated by a Jewish Agency interoffice memorandum dated July 7, 1961, where director Isidore Hamlin states:

"Further to my memorandum to you dated June 16, about the Russian research project, you will find attached hereto copy of a memorandum dated July 6, from the Consulate to the Treasury of the State of Israel asking them to transfer to our account the sum of \$5,500. You are asked to carry out the following:

"1. Inform the Treasury office that the \$5,500 has to be applied to the joint fund. . . .

"2. Of the \$5,500 transferred to us by the Consulate, \$4,375 has to be added to our monthly remittances to the American Jewish Congress for the Russian research project in proportionate amounts. . . ."

Under questioning, Hamlin confessed that the joint fund was administered by the director of the Office of Information at the New York Consulate, in 1963, Mr. Arnon. In 1960, the fund was administered by Uri Ra'anan.

Joftes' attorneys' 1967 deposition of Maurice Weinstein, then chairman of the International Council of B'nai B'rith, shows that Klutznick continued to push his Russian project as late as 1966:

Q: Now look at the last paragraph [referencing an internal B'nai B'rith memo]. . . . 'The Israelis are adamant we must keep the American Jewish conference on Soviet Jewry, make it a permanent body, and they will help us raise the funds. In this they are now giving directions and will brook no opposition.' . . . Does the B'nai B'rith International Council take orders from the Israelis?

A: No. . . .

Q: Now I see your report . . . to the Triennial Convention in Washington in 1968. . . . It said, 'At the London meeting, October 1966, the International Council adopted a proposal by former President Philip N. Klutznick to establish, with the International Council a special budget of \$100,000.00 for work on the problem of Soviet Jewry.' . . . Was that special budget \$100,000.00 created?

A: Yes.

Q: Now, where is that \$100,000.00 in the B'nai B'rith International Council budget? Do you know? . . . Here is . . . the B'nai B'rith International Council budget. Where is the \$100,000.00 special budget in it? . . . Do you know whether any of that \$100,000.00 has been spent?

A: Yes.

Q: How much of it?

A: I don't know.

Q: You know where that money is deposited?

A: I don't.

Q: Isn't this the \$100,000.00 budget the Israelis demanded be set up for the American Conference on Soviet Jewry?

Other instances of B'nai B'rith spying

Among the other examples of B'nai B'rith operations

exposed by the Joftes case is that showing that the ADL has spied on various Arab embassies in the United States, and Arab governments abroad. Long-term ADL operations against such natural U.S. allies as Egypt have disrupted U.S. policy and diplomatic initiatives to Soviet advantage. U.S. Zionist Lobby operations in the Middle East continue to be a major block to peace needed by both the Arab states and Israel alike. Testimony and documents taken from then-ADL national chairman Benjamin Epstein, and ADL and B'nai B'rith General Counsel Arnold Forster, shed some light.

In a subpoenaed letter to Joftes dated July 7, 1961, Epstein reveals:

"As you know, the Anti-Defamation League for many years has maintained a very important, confidential investigative coverage of Arab activities and propaganda. In terms of our interest, the anti-Jewish and anti-Israel propaganda programs for which the Arabs are spending millions of dollars, emanate primarily from the United Nations, New York, Washington, D.C., and Cairo. Their impact is worldwide and include anti-Jewish and anti-Israel programs affecting almost every nation in the world where they have diplomatic relations. In the course of our work, we have maintained an information-gathering operation since 1948 relating to activities from the Arab Consular Offices, Arab United Nations Delegations, Arab Information Center, Arab Refugee Office, and the Organization of Arab Students."

Asking for increased funding for this spying, Epstein states:

"In order to obtain complete and thorough data on these activities, we must follow the Arab diplomatic corps in their political efforts, lobbying activities, and propaganda programs emanating from their embassies, as distinguished from the Arab League, Arab relations with organizations like the American Friends of the Middle East and all their professional publicity efforts.

"Our information, in addition to being essential for our own operations, has been of great value to both the United States State Department and the Israeli government. All data have been made available to both countries with full knowledge to each that we were the source.

"The nature of these activities has supplied us with substantive, documented information which has been the basis for exposés of anti-Semitic activities, anti-Israel programs and political maneuvers. In many cases our information has exposed Arab plans before they have been put into effect."

During deposition, Epstein is asked:

"I notice this letter, which is dated July 7, 1961, plaintiff's exhibit no. 1 for identification in your deposition, states, 'As you know, the Anti-Defamation League for many years maintained a very important, confidential investigative coverage of Arab activities and propaganda.'

"Do you have investigative agents of the ADL in Cairo?"

A: First of all, I won't answer the question.

Q: First of all what?

A: I don't care to answer the question.

Q: Why not?

A: I don't see its relevance to what we are talking about.

Q: Let me determine that.

A: You are entitled to your view. I am entitled to mine.

Q: Is there something of a confidential nature that you might reveal to me if you answer the question?

A: I don't care to answer that.

Q: Of what possible interest to the Anti-Defamation League would anti-Israel propaganda be?

A: The line between anti-Israel and anti-Jewish propaganda is a very faint line, about which many people might differ.

We are concerned about its impact on the status of American Jews. In many cases, attacks have been made on American Jews, under the guise of attacking them as Zionists and using anti-Israeli propaganda to attack American Jews.

Q: Is it the policy of the ADL to activate its organization to protect Israel from anti-Israel propaganda?

A: I think our basic concern is to protect American Jews from any attack upon their security and position.

Q: Israel is an independent nation. That is correct; isn't it?

A: Yes.

Q: How could propaganda that is anti-Israeli affect the Jews in the United States?

We see here, incidently, one of the reasons that the ADL insists that anti-Zionism, or for that matter, anti-Sovietism, is the same as anti-Semitism. If it did not do so, it would be admitting to being in violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. To combat anti-Zionism or anti-Sovietism is to act explicitly in the interest of a foreign power.

Current operations

It is not just the ADL effort to smear the Bush campaign as Nazi-connected which shows that Ra'an'an's 1960s secret unit at B'nai B'rith remains operational. The role of the ADL and Ra'an'an in recruiting and protecting Jonathan Pollard shows an unbroken continuity of foreign intelligence operations.

When Jonathan Pollard was arrested outside the doors of the Israeli embassy in November 1985 with classified U.S. documents, the ADL predictably screamed "anti-Semitism," just as it is doing now. From 1982 through 1985, Pollard had funneled top-secret documents, estimated in the thousands, to the Israeli government, dealing with such matters as the identities of U.S. intelligence operatives on the ground in the U.S.S.R. and Soviet analysts within the CIA. These documents were duly passed to Soviet intelligence agencies which had jointly deployed Pollard with the Mossad.

Investigations indicate that Pollard was recruited to what he naively believed was merely a Mossad operation by his professor, Uri Ra'an'an, then based at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Diplomacy, one of the CIA's top recruit-

ing grounds. Even following his arrest, Ra'an'an praised Pollard's alleged capacities.

Information presented before the U.S. District Court in Washington regarding Pollard's arrest shows that Pollard's handler from 1984 on was one Col. (now Gen.) Aviem Sella, then a New York University graduate student. Sella's wife, Ruth, was an employee at the ADL's legal department at its New York headquarters. Pollard admits being "tasked" by ADL official Mrs. Sella during this period.

During this same period another one of Ra'an'an's students, Myra Boland, was already directing the Washington offices of the ADL's Fact-Finding Department, its intelligence unit.

From its inception in 1938 through 1979, Arnold Forster directed the ADL legal department, which employed Ruth Sella. Forster also served as the B'nai B'rith's counsel. Forster's knowledge of Ra'an'an's operation within the B'nai B'rith is established by documents submitted in the Joftes suit. In fact, Forster and Joftes had repeatedly clashed over Joftes' charges that the ADL was making wild claims as to the extent of anti-Semitism in South America.

In his recently published memoirs, *Square One*, Forster admits having been a friend of Mossad official Rafi Eytan since Eytan's kidnaping of Adolph Eichmann in 1961. It was Eytan who oversaw Sella's deployment of Pollard. Forster admits meeting with Eytan in 1987, two years after the Mossad official was exposed for directing Pollard's theft of classified U.S. documents on behalf of Moscow and Jerusalem. Speaking of his relation to Eytan and Israel, Forster frankly states: "Among other Israeli intelligence operations, the Mossad—an acronym for the Hebrew name of the underground service assigned to operate abroad—constantly sought leads from reliable governments and from other contacts and sources. I was a source."

Until recently, Ra'an'an's former agent, Moshe Decter, held a job at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), whose empire of political action committees controls whole blocks of congressional votes. Under the pretext of defending Israel, AIPAC has strong-armed Congress into denying vital arms contracts to the Arab states, and other actions overtly against U.S. interests. This behavior triggered the recent Saudi agreement to purchase several billions of dollars worth of arms from Ra'an'an's Britain. Decter's former wife, Midge, meanwhile, directs the Committee for a Free World, which paved the way for the disastrous INF agreement. The Decters' son-in-law, Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, oversees the handing of Central and South America to Soviet interests, by enforcing usurious IMF policies. As recently as 1985, Ra'an'an was consulting with the CIA on Soviet defectors, indicating that the "Russian project" is alive and well.

When ADL national chairman Abe Foxman, born in the Soviet military town of Baranovichi, complains about "Nazis" in U.S. politics, this is the network for which he speaks.