
One Year Later

Pollard-Soviet ties revealed by media

by Jeffrey Steinberg

On March 1, 1986, *Executive Intelligence Review* released a 126-page *Special Report* detailing the Soviet KGB's control over the nominally Israeli Jonathan Jay Pollard spy ring. Now, 13 months later, as the result of a secret 46-page affidavit submitted by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger to Federal District Judge Aubrey E. Robinson, the sentencing judge in the Pollard espionage case, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *New York Post* have publicly reported that hostile foreign intelligence services, including the Soviet KGB, were the ultimate recipients of U.S. secrets pilfered by the 32-year-old Office of Naval Research consultant.

Writing in the Sunday, April 5, 1987 edition of the *Los Angeles Times*, Ronald J. Ostrow and Robert C. Toth reported from Washington:

"Not only did the former civilian intelligence analyst for the Navy deliver thousands of pages of classified documents to the Israelis, sources said. But some of the material may have been 'brokered away'—traded or sold to other countries—or stolen by foreign spies, including Soviet KGB agents who, one source said, may have penetrated Israel's vaunted intelligence organizations. . . .

"Weinberger told Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosanne, according to reports in the Jerusalem press, that Pollard should have been hanged or shot and that the United States might have to spend \$1 billion to rectify the damage."

Four days later, *New York Post* correspondents Niles Latham and Uri Dan were even more blunt. Referencing a Pentagon "damage assessment" of the Pollard spy case, the *Post* reported on April 9 that "a massive investigation is under way to determine whether the Pollard material was obtained by a 'mole' in Israel's legendary intelligence network. The CIA and the Defense Intelligence Agency have reportedly advised Israeli intelligence officials of the 'strong possibility' that their organizations were 'penetrated' by Soviet-bloc agents."

While the contents of the Weinberger affidavit remain secret, sources close to the Pollard case have told *EIR* that the Pentagon and CIA are in possession of hard evidence that the Soviets obtained much of the material that Pollard passed

on to his Israeli intelligence handlers. This material, they charge, included the names and identification codes for numerous U.S. agents and human intelligence sources inside the East bloc, the Middle East, and South Africa.

Even as the *EIR*'s identification of Pollard as a "false flag" Soviet agent was breaking belatedly into the national news, other developments in the Israeli spy affair were pointing toward possible new indictments and the anticipated unraveling of a far broader Soviet-Israeli espionage network.

The Harold Katz case

U.S. prosecutors revealed on April 6 that a Boston attorney living in Tel Aviv since 1972 named Harold Katz was under investigation as the suspected paymaster for the Pollard spy ring. A Washington, D.C. condominium purchased by Katz in 1983 with \$83,000 in cash had been used as the "drop point" and safehouse for Jonathan Pollard and the Israeli embassy officials who regularly received the classified material from the counterterrorism consultant. Last September, the Justice Department seized four Bank of Boston accounts maintained by Katz in the belief that those accounts had been used to launder the tens of thousands of dollars paid to Pollard during his 18 months of spying.

When U.S. Department of Justice officials attempted to get Katz back to the United States for questioning, the Israeli government stepped in to block his departure. Katz, it seems, had been a high-level legal "consultant" to the Israeli Defense Ministry through at least 1983. Israel balked at the idea of Katz revealing state secrets to which he had been privy through his Defense Ministry tenure. Or so they said.

EIR's own files show that Katz was a top figure in the Lekem unit that ran Pollard. The Katz involvement points additionally to a retired Israeli general who once ran the scientific research division of the Israeli Defense Forces, Gen. Yitzhak Ya'akov. Now based in New York City at the 360 E. 57th Street offices of Robotics and Software International (RSI), Ya'akov was the founder of the Israel-U.S. Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation (BIRD Foundation), a government-to-government technology transfer agency that now appears to be the "official" cover for Lekem's activities in the United States. An April 10, 1987 call to the RSI office in New York confirmed close ties to the BIRD Foundation: "RSI works in the private sector in close parallel to the work that BIRD does on the governmental level," a company spokesman told *EIR*.

A review of the BIRD Foundation's annual reports for 1984 and 1985 shows that the general counsel for the foundation is Harold Katz.

The Katz-Ya'akov tie-in to the Pollard affair, according to U.S. and Israeli sources, will add a significant new dimension to the still-ongoing spy scandal. According to one prominent Israeli journalist, "This [Katz's association with Ya'akov] explains everything. Israel will never let Katz leave the country—ever."