

# The Pollard affair

**J**onathan Pollard, a U.S. Navy "anti-terrorism" intelligence expert, was sentenced last week to life in prison for spying for Israel.

Described by government prosecutors as one of the worst cases of spying in American history, the Pollard affair provides many fascinating insights into what had been, until now, the most taboo subject in American journalism: Israeli espionage against its closest ally, the United States.

This unpleasant and explosive subject has been almost unknown to the general public. The media, including its famed muckrakers, has generally avoided this topic or handled it with kid gloves. Politicians and the judiciary in the U.S. have closed their eyes. Among the professional intelligence community, however, Israel's intelligence activities in the U.S. are well known.

The CIA's secret survey, *Israel: Foreign Intelligence and Security Services*, captured intact by Iranians when the U.S. Embassy in Tehran was stormed in 1979, makes fascinating reading. Among many other topics, it itemizes long-term efforts by Israel's Mossad to penetrate U.S. decision-making levels, acquire defence secrets and technology, influence friends and neutralize groups or individuals deemed hostile. Cited also are deeply disturbing examples of the Mossad bringing pressure on American Jews to pass U.S. secrets to Israel.

Last year, a former assistant director of the FBI stated he knew of at least a dozen incidents in which American officials gave secret information to Israel. None was prosecuted. Nor have many other cases from earlier years — including the rumor that an undersecretary of state was caught spying for Israel — been prosecuted.

The former chief of the Justice Department's security section said last year that the public thought when Pollard was arrested it was the first case of Israeli spying against the U.S. "That's

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not true at all," he went on. "The Israeli intelligence service . . . was the second most active in the United States, next to the Soviets."

Why, then, did the Justice Department finally decide to publicly prosecute Pollard rather than hushing up the case, as in the past? The reason, I suspect, is that Israel finally went too far. For a long time, as I have been saying in this column, Israel has been arrogantly treating the U.S. government like a giant candy store from which it could take whatever it wanted at will. So successful had Israel become in getting its way with Washington that it lost all sense of caution and common sense.

In 1985, the American Jewish Congress put out a warning on just this point, cautioning that pride comes before the fall. The AJC urged Israel and its powerful Washington lobby to pull in their horns before a backlash occurred. But the dominant Israeli right wing refused to heed this good advice. Now, with the Pollard case, the backlash has arrived.

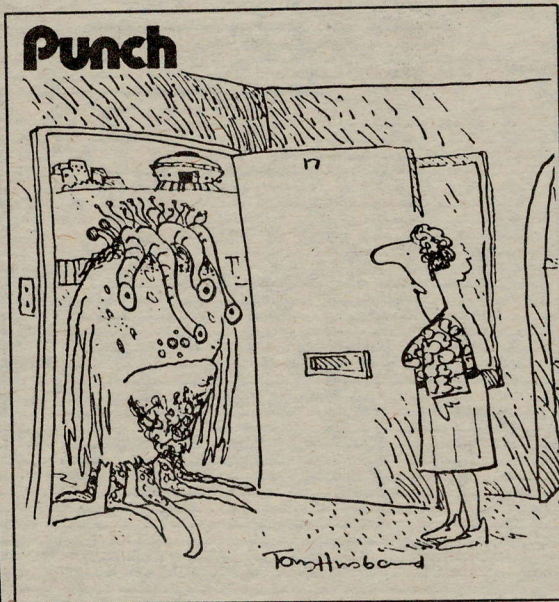
On Sunday, this column will speculate on the extent of Pollard's treachery and the vast damage he is reputed to have caused. We will probably never get all the details of the Pollard affair, but the clues now available suggest that this case was an integral part of a far larger conspiracy linked to the Reagan administration's Irangate disaster.

Spying, though, is not the worst aspect of this case. Most nations spy on one another. The U.S. has long spied on Israel even though both sides co-operate closely and are warm allies. What upsets me deeply, as an often critical but still strong supporter of Israel, is the blatant use by the Mossad of American Jews to spy on their own country.

This pattern has been repeated in the Soviet Union and Iran. Israel needs secret information for its security. But, at the same time, by using Jews in other nations for spying, the Mossad is clearly creating the potential for a horrible anti-Semitic backlash.

Anyone who takes the trouble to read Iranian or Soviet publications will see them filled with references to some of their Jewish citizens as "Zionist spies." Lies, to be sure, but there is also a kernel of truth. There are Jonathan Pollards in Moscow as well as Washington. Israel's use of Jewish citizens of other nations for spying is madness.

Israel speaks a lot about representing the interests of the world's Jews. Its reckless behavior in the Pollard case and the Iran arms fiasco shows that in these cases, Jerusalem has allowed its own mania for intelligence to imperil the very Diaspora Jews it claims it wants to protect.



"Yes?"