

Add another American to the Middle East casualty list. Thirty-two-year-old Jonathan Jay Pollard is a victim, make no mistake.

He faces spending the rest of his natural life in federal prison for divulging U.S. secrets to a foreign power. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger offered the opinion that Pollard committed more intelligence damage to this nation than any other spy in recent history. Weinberger clearly included the Walker family ring, which operated for years in the pay of the Soviet Union.

At his trial, prosecutors emphasized the extent of financial rewards promised Pollard and his wife, sentenced to two 5-year concurrent terms on lesser charges.

In excess of \$300,000 was the amount the couple expected to be paid; this placed the Pollards in the same secrets-for-cash bracket as the Walkers. In no other way can the cases be compared.

In modern espionage, the closest parallel that comes to mind was the divulging of atomic research by a British scientist working in this country at the end of World War II.

Klaus Fuchs believed U.S. monopoly of the A-bomb was bad for international peace. He helped the Soviets to develop an atomic arsenal in order to create a balance between the superpowers.

As spelled out in court, Fuchs' espionage was motivated by his moral objection to war. He did not consider his acts as endangering the welfare of the United States or England, the country which had given him shelter from Nazi Germany. In his view, sharing atomic secrets was in the best interest of all humanity.

Jonathan Jay Pollard possessed a similar reasoning that justified his stealing from U.S. intelligence files. He acted with no desire to damage the best interests of this nation. He simply meant to help Israel against all its enemies, whomsoever.

Supplying files withheld by this government from the nearly total intelligence sharing between Washington and Jerusalem fulfilled Pollard's need to make a substantial contribution to the foreign nation, which he perceived as the embodiment of his Jewish faith.

In fact, unless he practices Orthodox Judaism, Pollard would be hard-pressed to secure synagogue membership in Israel. Reform and conservative rabbis are not officially recognized in that nation.

In its exercise of statecraft, Israel has demonstrated no more adherence to Mosaic/Talmudic principles than so-called Christian nations observe the teachings of Jesus and the New Testament. Its claim on world Jewry stems, to a large degree, from the Nazi Holocaust, whose horrors fueled Israel's creation.

Behind the watchwords, "Never Again," the Zionist movement depicts

the existence of Israel as the ultimate guarantee against a new Holocaust. Therefore, the logic goes, every Jew has a primary duty to provide protection to the Jerusalem government. Indeed, many Zionists hold there are no valid Jews who live by choice outside Israel. Thus, that nation is able to exact support from non-Israeli Jews as compensation for their failure to move to Israel.

From published stories, it is possible to understand how Israeli intelligence employed a powerful mixture of this cultivated guilt feeling combined with rewards, especially praise, to push Pollard into virtually emptying U.S. intelligence files, in his job as a Navy research analyst with secret clearance to computer banks. He was finally caught because his "handlers" demanded material outside the young man's assigned fields, forcing him into acts that aroused suspicion.

There is no question of Pollard's guilt under U.S. laws; he freely confessed in great detail. While the Jerusalem government has attempted to disown the espionage operation as unauthorized, its denial has kicked up a thunderstorm of anger inside Israel from such distinguished leaders as former foreign minister Abba Eban. The nation's newspapers have raised an editorial howl over the government's disavowal of Pollard, while handing fat promotions to his handlers.

Underlying the present crisis is the fact that the young American received life in prison. His sentencing triggered his wife's courtroom collapse. It cannot be imagined that the Israeli government or public was any less surprised. The severity of the punishment delivered a similar shock to the American Jewish community.

After all, the argument goes, Israel looks out for U.S. interests in the Middle East. It is this nation's "best friend." It is not as if Pollard had handed over America's intelligence jewels to the communists.

To the young spy's misfortune, the commonly accepted U.S.-Israeli "special" relationship had been severely damaged by the Tower Commission report, issued shortly before his sentencing. The commission found that the present scandal besetting this nation had been set in motion by Israel's success in drawing the White House into selling arms to Iran to further Israeli objectives.

While holding the Reagan administration fully responsible for its decisions, the Tower panel clearly pointed out that Israel sometimes acts in ways that damage the best interests of the United States.

In a real sense, Jonathan Jay Pollard paid the price for the new realism entering U.S.-Israeli relations. While his spying contributed to the change, Pollard is more a victim than a villain in the story which continues to unfold.

FRIDAY: After the spy

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Spy

