

**“FREE POLLARD”  
PRESSURE PEAKING**

Hoping to call in IOUs with President Bush and the U.S. Government for Israel's compliant behaviour during the Gulf Crisis, some American Jewish groups and others in Israel are seeking commutation of the sentence of convicted U.S. naval intelligence analyst Jonathan Pollard. Pollard received a life sentence in 1985 for spying for Israel and has maintained that his life sentence without parole is far too harsh for the crime of selling thousands of classified documents to the Israelis. Pollard backers include Harvard University law professor Alan Dershowitz, Baltimore University law school professor Kenneth Lasser and others.



**FBI NOT INTERESTED IN GAME**

Using Saki's *Gift of the Magi* reasoning, these supporters are arguing that Pollard agreed to plead guilty to free his wife, while she agreed to plead guilty to spare him a life sentence. The FBI was to have followed along, freeing her, and giving him a light sentence. Instead, it prosecuted them both. Pollard's accomplice/wife Anne, after serving two and a one-half years of her sentence, was released. She fled to Israel for "medical treatment." To further support these views, defense counsellor Alan Dershowitz has written a new book in June titled *Chutzpah* [Little Brown, \$22.95 HB] proposing that the ruthless prosecution of Pollard, and the "draconian" sentence he received, was mainly triggered by his "Jewishness" and the fact that he spied for "the Jewish state".

**POLLARD COUNTS ON APPEALS**

A formal petition has been filed to set aside Pollard's sentence and will be heard in September before the U.S. Court of Appeals. Rumor has it he might well get a new trial. Once accomplished, his supporters are hoping their view will prevail and Pollard will be joining his "ex-wife" in Israel before 1993 where it is expected he will perform community service as final punishment for his offense.

**JUSTICE ... OR DANGEROUS PRECEDENT?**

This leaves open the question of what signal a reduced sentence sends to other special interest groups in classified jobs elsewhere in the U.S. Government. Can IRA-supporters now steal documents (and expect light sentences if caught) to abet more terrorist attacks against the UK government? What about U.S. supporters of Mandela in South Africa? Of the Contras

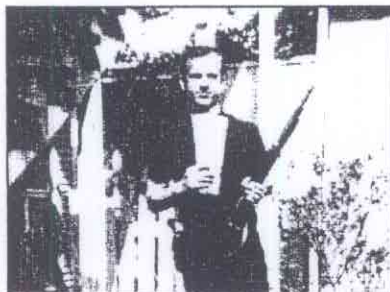
in Nicaragua? Of Lithuanian freedom fighters fending off Soviet domination? May all of them pick and choose to release anything they want from the classified material which cross their desks every day? This appears worth settling prior to any release of Mr. Pollard.

**SPYCATCHER**

**LATEST LEGAL PENALTIES**

On Thursday, April 11, the House of Lords [UK] upheld a contempt ruling against *The Sunday Times* for publishing in July 1987, despite a gag order given to two other newspapers, material from the Peter Wright bestseller, *Spycatcher*. The order had been made specifically against *The Observer* and *The Guardian*, but *The Times*, thinking that the order did not apply to it, went ahead and published a series of excerpts from *Spycatcher*. In 1989, however, a court ruled that *The Times* and *The Independent* were in contempt of the order, and the fine was upheld on another appeal in 1990. This final appeal, to the House of Lords by *The Times* alone, was unsuccessful, as well.

**ASSASSINATION  
IN THE ARTS**



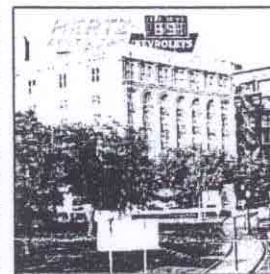
**SONDHEIM'S SEPPUKU**

Stephen Sondheim's latest Broadway venture, which has quickly and appropriately been deemed preposterous and perverse, is his new musical *Assassins*, portraying and oddly glorifying people who have tried to kill U.S. presidents. Set to music. Through a series of skits, the various assassins are shown to be a brotherhood of like-minded folk, each inspiring the other. The nine assassins (4 successful and 5 failures) are John Wilkes Booth (Lincoln's), Charles Guiteau (Garfield's), Leon Czolgosz, (McKinley's), Giuseppe Zangara (Roosevelt's), Lee Harvey Oswald (JFK), John W. Hinckley Jr. (Reagan's), Samuel Byck (Nixon's), Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme and Sara Jane Moore (both Ford's). Singing the kick-off and closing song "Everybody's Got The Right [to kill someone] ...", they conspire, in the final scene, to encourage Oswald to assassinate JFK rather than commit the suicide he originally planned.

For the curious, *Assassins* appears to have closed after a brief Off-Broadway run.

**CONSPIRACY THEORY COMES TO FILM,  
POINTS FINGER AT CIA & FBI**

Filmmaker Oliver Stone [Talk Radio, *Platoon*, and *Born On The Fourth of July*], in his newest patriotic film titled *JFK*, joins others who do not believe that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963. He has selected Kevin Costner to play New Orleans prosecutor James Garrison — a man who maintained that President Kennedy was assassinated through a CIA and FBI conspiracy. Oswald is deemed a patsy or fall guy. Garrison himself will be in the film, playing U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren, head of the Commission that issued the September 1964 Warren Report declaring that Oswald acted alone.



Stone had some difficulty when he asked officials at the Texas School Book Depository [now the County Administration Building] in Dallas to move their museum exhibits to permit the film crew more realistic interior shots. He entered into an agreement with the city permitting extensive alterations to the exterior of the Depository to return it to the look of 1963. The museum exhibits, which have been open to the public every day except Christmas, were to be temporarily suspended during the shooting, but this move was deemed unacceptable by the city and filming was delayed. An agreement was recently reached and filming begins April 15. The movie is facing an early 1992 release. And Warner Books will be issuing a paperback release of Garrison's hardcover book *On the Trail of the Assassins: My Investigation and Prosecution of the Murder of President Kennedy* [Sheridan Square Press, 1988, \$19.95 HB]. The paperback edition will be titled simply *JFK*.

**MORE CONSPIRACIES ON FILM**

HBO and A&M Films are producing their own fictionalized account of the life of assassin Lee Harvey Oswald through their adaptation of the engrossing 1988 book by fiction writer Don DeLillo. That work, called *Libra* [Viking Books], painted a world where "everyone was a spook or dupe or asset, a double courier, cutout or defector, or was related to one ... all linked in a vast and rhythmic coincidence, a daisy chain of rumor, suspicion and secret wish."