

Original FOIA Number: 2003-0260-F

6th FOIA Number:

2nd FOIA Number:

7th FOIA Number:

3rd FOIA Number:

8th FOIA Number:

4th FOIA Number:

9th FOIA Number:

5th FOIA Number:

10th FOIA Number:

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential
Library Staff.**

Record Group:	Bush Presidential Records
Office:	Records Management, White House Office of (WHORM)
Series:	Subject File - General
Scanned/Unscanned:	Scanned

WHORM Category Code:	JL001
WHORM Category Name:	Amnesty-Clemency-Pardons

Document Number:	360123
Alpha File Name:	

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 360123

56001

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: OCTOBER 30, 1992

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: RABBI MORRIS SHERER

SUBJECT: REPORTS ON A RESOLUTION THAT WAS ADOPTED BY
THE BOARD OF AGUDATH ISRAEL OF AMERICA IN
SUPPORT OF THE PETITION JONATHAN J. POLLARD'S
PETITION FOR COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
✓ DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		PAK ORG	11 03 92/10/30		A92/11/13
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4500 4400
MI MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

*ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION *OUTGOING *
* * *CORRESPONDENCE: *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL * OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-COMPLETED * CODE = A *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC * OUTGOING *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * * *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE * * *
*X-INTERIM REPLY * * *

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.



U.S. Department of Justice

Pardon Attorney

Washington, D.C. 20530

NOV 13 1992

Rabbi Morris Sherer
President
Agudath Israel of America
84 William Street
New York, New York 10038

Dear Rabbi Sherer:

This responds to your letter of October 23, 1992 to the President urging that he commute Jonathan J. Pollard's sentence.

We appreciate your sharing your views on this matter, and thank you for writing to the President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Margaret C. Love".

Margaret C. Love
Pardon Attorney

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

NOVEMBER 3, 1992

TO: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 360123

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED OCTOBER 23, 1992

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: RABBI MORRIS SHERER
PRESIDENT
AGUDATH ISRAEL OF AMERICA
84 WILLIAM STREET
NEW YORK NY 10038

SUBJECT: REPORTS ON A RESOLUTION THAT WAS ADOPTED BY
THE BOARD OF AGUDATH ISRAEL OF AMERICA IN
SUPPORT OF THE PETITION JONATHAN J. POLLARD'S
PETITION FOR COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE

(OR DRAFT) TO:

AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

360123

נס"ד



Agudath
Israel
of America

אגודת ישראל באמריקה

11-E
DOJ

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 23, 1992

The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I know your mind is elsewhere these days, and I am sure you will not see this letter until after the election, but I do wish to relay to you an urgent resolution adopted yesterday afternoon by the board of Agudath Israel of America in support of Jonathan J. Pollard's petition for commutation of sentence.

As you may be aware, Pollard received a life sentence in 1987 after pleading guilty to the crime of espionage -- conspiracy to deliver national defense information to a foreign government. The foreign government in question was Israel. Pollard is currently incarcerated in the maximum security facility in Marion, Illinois, where he is kept in solitary confinement.

Over the past two years or so, Pollard has engaged in a legal effort to have his plea withdrawn, and to seek a new trial. That effort has now run its course, unsuccessfully, as the Supreme Court earlier this month refused to hear Pollard's appeal from a 2-1 ruling against him by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. We are advised by Pollard's representatives that they have now appealed to you for commutation of sentence.

The severity of Pollard's sentence is incredible, for several reasons. Life imprisonment is apparently the harshest punishment ever meted out to someone found guilty of spying during a time of peace. Indeed, since the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg during the Korean War, no spy has received a harsher sentence even during a time of war.

Pollard did not stand trial for his crime. Rather, he received his life sentence after entering into a plea bargain agreement with the government. He entered into that agreement, relinquished his right to a trial, cooperated with government investigators, pleaded guilty -- all with the reasonable expectation that some leniency would be shown in his sentence. The expectation was reasonable, but it proved illusory. The "bargain" was all one-sided.

The Honorable George Bush
October 23, 1992
Page Two

Perhaps most incredibly, Pollard was sentenced to life in prison despite the fact that he was never accused of delivering classified information to an enemy of the United States. He was accused of spying for Israel, a staunch American ally.

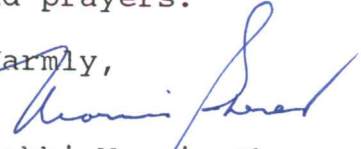
A comparison of Pollard's sentence with those recently received by other convicted spies -- some of whom spied for enemy countries, some of whom did not plea bargain -- reveals an extraordinary and inexplicable disparity. How, for example, can one justify imprisoning Pollard for life when William Bell received only an eight year sentence for delivering anti-tank missile radar technology to a Polish agent (N.Y. Times, Jan. 9, 1981)? when Abdelhader Helmy received a 46 month sentence for illegally exporting to Egypt classified ballistic missile technology (N.Y. Times, Dec. 7, 1989)? when Richard Miller received a 20 year sentence for delivering counter-intelligence information to the Soviet Union (N.Y. Times, Feb. 5, 1991)?

As you can well imagine, Mr. President, this is not an easy plea for us to make. Espionage is among the most serious and abhorrent of all crimes, and Jonathan Pollard has admitted that he committed espionage. One need not condone Pollard's act, however, to understand the sense among many Americans that the incredible severity of Pollard's punishment is entirely out of proportion to the harm he committed.

Mr. President, Agudath Israel of America directs this humanitarian appeal to you as a friend. You know that we have been with you on numerous issues of great importance -- your America 2000 education initiative, your stand on civil rights legislation, your nominations to the Supreme Court, your courageous leadership in the Gulf War, your call for a return to traditional family values. We know you as a humanitarian leader who is fair, just and compassionate. We ask you to exercise those humanitarian attributes, and to consider favorably the request that Pollard's sentence be commuted at this time.

Many, many thanks for your attention to this urgent plea. As always, you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Warmly,


Rabbi Morris Sherer
President

RMS/ps