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The Advocate editorial of December 19 portrays Jonathan Pollard's guilt as solely espionage, and compares his case to that of others who procured and transmitted classified U.S. information to other nations, yet received far lighter sentences. The editorial goes on to cast Pollard in a sympathetic light, stating that he is a sick man who has spent nearly half his life in prison, for similar actions.

All of this is true, and I personally agree that it is time to free Jonathan Pollard. However, one piece of the puzzle that has always bothered me is how much money Pollard made for his activities. Mercenaries are neither greatly admired nor easily excused, and that could easily apply to this case, especially when the amount of payment is considered.

According to a USA Today article in April of this year, Pollard was originally paid \$11,000 and a monthly salary of \$1500 by his Israeli handlers, who also kicked in a sapphire and diamond engagement ring for his fiancée. They also awarded him special Israeli citizenship.

The article also reports on a 1987 CIA report cited a history of extensive marijuana use and irrational and unstable behavior, including Pollard's bragging about his association with Mossad while at Stanford, even waving a weapon around.

Whenever Pollard became apprehensive about his espionage activities, greater remuneration, which included a Swiss bank account with \$30,000 deposited yearly over 10 years, seemed to keep him on target. More anxiety resulted in a salary raise to \$2,500 a month, and another \$12,000 to cover his marriage in Venice and a honeymoon in Europe.

While spies likely do not work for free, all this palm-greasing does makes me wonder if he was acting out of true love for Israel, or following the money. According to the USA Today article, US prosecutors had the same question.

And to myself and other lay jurors weighing his case, even if we believe that at this point he ought to be freed, it's an important one.

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<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/04/01/pollard-bio-israeli-spy-imprisoned/7161963/>