

**ZIONIST CONGRESS UNLIKELY TO MEET BEFORE 1978 DUE TO GOVERNMENT CRISIS**  
By Gil Sedan and Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Dec. 20 (JTA)--The next World Zionist Congress is not likely to be held before 1978 as a result of the government crisis precipitated by Premier Yitzhak Rabin's ouster of the National Religious Party from his Cabinet yesterday. The World Zionist Organization Executive that was to have met today to set a date for the Congress postponed its meeting. Jewish Agency and WZO circles said the various political factions now anticipate early general elections and have no time to discuss Zionist Congress problems.

If early elections are called, possibly for April or May, Israel's political parties will be fully occupied campaigning for Knesset seats. Also coming up are municipal elections, Histadrut elections and internal elections within the parties. The latter are intended to demonstrate to the electorate that the parties are governed by the democratic process.

The World Zionist Congress originally was to have opened in Jerusalem next month. A recent decision by the Congress Court that elections must be held for delegates in all 30 participating countries necessitated a postponement. Although some Zionist leaders insisted that the Congress could be held next summer, most agreed that the Congress should not conflict with the election campaign. It is clear now that there will be no Congress until a new government is installed, either by early elections or elections next fall when the term of the present government expires.

**KADUM MARKS ITS FIRST ANNIVERSARY**  
By Yitzhak Shargil

KADUM, Dec. 20 (JTA)--The Gush Emunim settlement of Kadum marked its first anniversary with a celebration Saturday night that lasted until daybreak yesterday. Among the thousands of persons who came to this Samaritan settlement were Welfare Minister Zevulun Hammer, Chief Ashkenazic Rabbi Shlomo Goren, Likud leader Menachem Begin, Ariel Sharon of Shlomzion and other members of the Knesset.

The settlers welcomed the guests in the cold clear December night with songs, dances and the lighting of a large Chanuka menorah. Goren said the presence of thousands at the celebration indicates that the victory of the Hashmonai has its spirit still alive in the people that come to settle in Israel and is imbued in the settlers of Kadum. He criticized the erosion in the belief that the Jewish people have the right to all of Eretz Israel.

Hammer's presence at the ceremony may have widened the rift between Premier Yitzhak Rabin and the National Religious Party since the government is on record that the Kadum settlers must withdraw from the settlement which adjoins an army base in Samaria. The Kadum settlement resulted as a compromise between the government and supporters of the ultra-nationalist Gush Emunim movement after members of Gush Emunim sought to start an illegal settlement outside Nablus last Chanuka. In June the government offered the Kadum settlers alternative sites

but they refused them.

Hammer said Saturday night his presence was legal since the government had approved it with the provision that it not be a permanent settlement. But on Friday, Justice Minister Haim Zadok said Kadum cannot receive any government assistance for housing or industry since the government has not approved Kadum as a settlement.

But Gush Emunim has been developing Kadum as a permanent settlement. The settlers displayed the products they are manufacturing and claimed that they were selling them in the United States. Benni Katziner, the representative of the settlers, said an electronics plant is about to be constructed and plans are being prepared for an urban center to provide homes for 10,000 people. Katziner said it is expected that industry at Kadum will provide work for 60 percent of the population.

**SPECIAL ANALYSIS**

**RABIN'S IMAGE ENHANCED IN ALIGNMENT; PREMIER FEELS ELECTIONS SHOULD BE ADVANCED; NATIONAL CRISIS ATMOSPHERE PREVAILS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY**  
By Gil Sedan and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin appeared today to have greatly strengthened his position within the Labor Alignment as a result of his ouster of the National Religious Party from the Cabinet yesterday. Top Alignment leaders, attending a meeting here last night called by the Premier, were virtually unanimous in their praise of Rabin.

The man who had been widely criticized for indecisiveness was hailed as a leader who could act forcefully when he had to. Moreover, he did not act unilaterally or in haste but only after consultation with such powerful Labor Party figures as former Premier Golda Meir, Justice Minister Chaim Zadok, Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz and the influential Labor veteran Israel Galili, Minister-Without-Portfolio.

All of them apparently agreed that the time had come to drop the NRP, an increasingly unreliable coalition partner. More important for Rabin's future leadership of the party, they all appeared prepared to support the Premier against such challengers for his office as Defense Minister Shimon Peres and former Foreign Minister Abba Eban.

Rabin went before the Knesset this afternoon to inform it officially of his dismissal of the NRP. He said he believed the elections should be advanced and would recommend this to the Labor Alignment. Rabin said the crisis was not caused by differences of opinion between the coalition parties but stressed that "the basics of a democratic society" must be maintained. When a coalition partner refuses to oppose a no-confidence motion, that is tantamount to resignation under the law and the law must be upheld, he said.

Nevertheless, Rabin expressed hope that the historic partnership between Labor and the NRP would continue in the future. His conciliatory tone was not matched by the ousted NRP minis-

ters who denounced Rabin's action and warned of dire consequences for the government and for Israel's future. The various parties are expected to convene tonight to decide how to vote on the no-confidence motion tomorrow.

But while the Labor Party, rent by internal dissension and feuding in recent months, rallied behind its leader, a crisis atmosphere prevailed throughout the country. The Alignment, reduced to 57 out of 120 Knesset seats, no longer commands a majority. In fact, it faces the imminent loss of four more seats if the Independent Liberal Party carries out its threat to resign from the coalition.

Rabin must decide, by tomorrow at the latest, whether he will submit his resignation to President Ephraim Katzir, present a bill to the Knesset calling for early elections, or attempt to ride out a Likud no-confidence motion and govern as a minority regime.

#### Situation Fraught With Peril

Any one of those options is fraught with peril. Elections could not be held for at least four months, most probably not before June. During that time, Israel's faltering economy might worsen since no caretaker government would be able to take decisive measures to control inflation and stem the rising tide of unemployment.

The new budget, due to be submitted to the Knesset next month, would have no chance of approval with elections pending. The Treasury would have to present an interim budget, a move the Finance Ministry is anxious to avoid. As Amnon Rubinstein of the newly formed Democratic Movement for Change put it today, "A caretaker government means a period of total immobility except for the money-printing machine."

There are also dangers in the foreign policy field. Rabin is due to go to Washington next month for meetings with President Carter and officials of the new Administration. He hopes to return with political gains. But fears were expressed here that as the leader of an interim regime or even of a minority government, he could expect little in the way of commitments from the U.S.

Many observers here are deeply concerned over the condition of political flux in Israel at a time when pressure is sure to mount from the U.S. and other friendly Western nations for Israel to enter into full-scale negotiations with the Arabs at the earliest possible date. The Egyptian-Syrian peace offensive and Saudi Arabia's move last week to link oil prices to Middle East negotiations may well erode Israel's support in the West.

#### Why At This Time

Analysts here are wondering therefore why Rabin precipitated a government crisis at this time. At last night's Labor Alignment meeting the Premier stressed the principle of collective responsibility. He said that a government that acquiesced when one of its partners refused to support it on a no-confidence motion was a government headed for disintegration.

But the Labor Alignment has had similar difficulties with the NRP in the past and often yielded to it to preserve the coalition at times when the political situation at home and abroad was much less urgent. Some political observers believe Rabin is deliberately seeking early elections.

For one thing, he would like to go to the polls before the recently formed opposition factions

have an opportunity to consolidate their positions. Rabin sees a serious challenge to Labor from both the Democratic Movement for Change, headed by Hebrew University archaeologist Yigal Yadin, and the Shlomzion faction launched last month by the popular Yom Kippur War hero, Gen. (Res.) Ariel Sharon.

Furthermore, according to these observers, with elections imminent, the Labor Party is likely to cancel its internal elections. Thus Rabin would be assured that the same party leadership that elevated him to the Premiership three years ago would continue to hold the positions of power. They are considered more likely to support Rabin than his most serious challenger, Defense Minister Peres.

#### Trying To Head Off Breakaways

Meanwhile, consultations are being held with Mapam leaders to head off a possible breakaway from the Labor Alignment. Labor Party bosses are also sounding out the various dovish factions such as the Civil Rights Party, Moked, the Independent Socialists, the Free Center and Dr. Binyamin Halevy an Independent MK. With their support, the Labor Alignment might be able to defeat Likud's no-confidence motion which now is certain to be supported by the NRP and the Aguda bloc.

But the Independent Liberals present a serious problem. Last month they submitted a series of demands to the Alignment covering government reforms, compulsory labor arbitration and national health insurance. They served notice that if no satisfactory replies were forthcoming they would quit the coalition.

The Alignment was to have replied Jan. 6. But in view of the present crisis and the possibility of a caretaker government being formed, the ILP said yesterday that they wanted the answers immediately. Some of the ILP demands conflict with policies favored by Mapam and Rabin will have to perform a delicate juggling act to preserve what is left of his coalition, observers said.

#### U.S. ALOOF OVER ISRAELI CRISIS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 (JTA)--The United States remained officially aloof today over the political crisis in Israel. State Department spokesman Robert Funseth termed it "essentially an internal development" when asked if Premier Yitzhak Rabin's ouster of the National Religious Party from his coalition government yesterday would affect U.S. efforts to promote peace negotiations and whether the Rabin government is now stable enough to enter into negotiations.

Funseth said "the search for peace" will have "high priority" in the Carter Administration but noted that he could not make any assessments on its behalf. He said he has not seen a "suggestion of anyone holding back" in the U.S. effort toward peace in the Middle East.

#### ORTHODOX GROUP RAPS ISRAEL'S MOVE ON WEDDINGS BY CONSERVATIVE RABBIS

NEW YORK, Dec. 20 (JTA)--The Rabbinical Alliance of America protested yesterday to Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Religious Affairs Minister Yitzhak Rabin over the recent decision by Israel to grant recognition to Conservative rabbis to perform weddings in Israel.

In a strongly worded telegram signed by Rabbi Abraham B. Hecht, president of the Alliance, the Orthodox organization stated that the

decision "is an exercise in folly for which the State will surely suffer domestically and even more tragically universally." It also affirmed that "whatever credibility your government ever enjoyed" has been destroyed "by the reckless and irresponsible decision." The Alliance's telegram added:

"Orthodox rabbis and their constituents world wide are now being coerced into making a painful review of their relationship vis-a-vis financial and moral support of a State hell bent on destroying religion and religious life in its borders. Time will tell the consequences. The one thing of which you may be certain is that you are creating a chasm and gap between Israel and the diaspora which will soon become unbridgeable. You and your colleagues must carry the burden of the unfortunate condition you have created. We appeal to you to immediately rescind your ruling and return religion in Israel to its status quo position."

#### BUKOVSKY MAY VISIT ISRAEL SOON

TEL AVIV, Dec. 20 (JTA)--The Soviet human rights activist Vladimir Bukovsky, now in Switzerland after his release from a Soviet prison, is expected to visit Israel soon. According to former prisoner of conscience Joseph Mishner who served time with Bukovsky, the activist spoke often of his desire to visit Israel. Meanwhile, another Soviet dissident, mathematician Leonid Ployesht, arrived here with his wife and son to visit former Jewish colleagues who have emigrated to Israel.

Ployesht, now living in France, was certified insane by Soviet authorities and spent several years in a mental institution. He was allowed to leave the USSR after his release. Western physicians who examined him found his physical condition poor as a result of his treatment at the asylum but said he was mentally sound. He and his family were greeted at Ben Gurion Airport by Prof. Eliyahu Goldenfeld of the Hebrew University who once worked with Ployesht in Kiev.

#### RABIN SUBMITS HIS RESIGNATION

By Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin submitted his resignation to President Ephraim Katzir shortly before midnight to night. He went to the President's residence following a Cabinet meeting at which the Labor Alignment approved his course of action. The Premier's resignation is tantamount to the resignation of the entire Cabinet which now constitutes a caretaker government pending elections.

Rabin made the move apparently to offset a no-confidence vote in the Knesset tomorrow. A canvas of the various independent and splinter factions indicated that the Labor Alignment could not count on their support and would be unseated. In view of Rabin's resignation, Likud will withdraw its no-confidence motion.

Earlier today, the Labor Alignment approved Rabin's recommendation to advance the elections originally scheduled to be held late next year. But the two Independent Liberal ministers, Moshe Kol and Gideon Hausner, tendered their resignations rather than participate in a caretaker government from which ministers are not permitted to resign under law. Their resignations will not become effective for 48 hours and they are expected to remain in the Cabinet as non-participating members.

Katzir may ask another Knesset member to

form a new government. But he will have to consult with leaders of the various parties in the Knesset before he can entrust the formation of a new government to any one of them. The Knesset has the option of dissolving itself and setting an early date for elections.

#### NEW CENSUS SHOWS THERE ARE 28,000 BLACK ETHIOPIAN FALASHA JEWS

NEW YORK, Dec. 20 (JTA)--A new census, taken under most difficult conditions in war-torn Ethiopia, shows that there are more than 28,000 Black Ethiopian Falasha Jews. Previously, authorities thought the remnant population of this ancient Jewish group had dwindled to a mere 20,000. The new figures, released by the American Association for Ethiopian Jews, shows the dramatic decline of the Falashas from 500,000 in the 16th Century to the present.

The Association's report showed that more than half of the population is 18 years old or younger and that there are 6000 families, mostly residing in 488 villages and two towns in the central highlands within the provinces of Begemdir, Tigre and Wollo. Most are either landless sharecroppers or poor craftsmen. The report noted that disease, poverty, discrimination and intense conversion efforts by Christian missionaries are still taking their toll.

According to the report, there are 400 Falashas currently living in Israel, all successfully employed. Some are attending universities and a few are studying for the rabbinate. All adults serve in the army. Unfortunately, the report adds, many of those in Israel have parents, spouses and children living in Ethiopia eagerly waiting to join their relatives. One of the major goals of the Association, the report stated, is to reunite members of these broken families in Israel.

These family reunification efforts are part of a new four-point program of relief, Jewish education, vocational retraining and aliya recently undertaken by the Joint Distribution Committee and ORT which concentrates solely on the first three programs within Ethiopia, the report noted, while the Association itself is concerned with aliya.

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--A poll published by Haaretz Monday claimed that 39 percent of Israelis would accept participation by the Palestine Liberation Organization in a reconvened Geneva peace conference if the PLO recognized Israel's right to exist. The poll, conducted by the Pori Public Survey Group, said that 47 percent of the respondents supported the government's official position that it will not negotiate with a terrorist group under any circumstances. No opinion was registered by 13.5 percent. The results of the poll indicated a slight shift in favor of negotiations with the PLO though no basis of comparison with earlier polls was given.

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--Prof. Shlomo Avineri, director general of the Foreign Ministry, will visit Rumania next month, the Foreign Ministry announced Monday. It will be an official visit in reciprocation for the visit of Rumania's Deputy Foreign Minister to Israel last year, the Ministry said.

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GENEVA (JTA)--The International Committee for European Emigration reported that during January-November, 12,760 Jews emigrated from the USSR, and only 6336 went to Israel.

# U.S. COMMISSION WARNS OF LEAD POISONING RISK IN CERTAIN CANDLES CONTAINING LEAD CORE WICKS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 (JTA)--The potential risk of lead poisoning associated with certain candles containing lead core wicks includes some kind of yahrzeit candles but not Chanuka candles, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission.

The JTA inquiry was based on the Commission's warning to consumers and religious groups that "the amount of lead given off by such candles is small and does not, by itself, present an unreasonable health hazard, but the additional lead may present a problem for persons exposed to other sources of lead poisoning, such as older housing with lead-based paint, or in urban neighborhoods with high concentrations of automobile exhaust. The hazards of lead poisoning are well documented, particularly in infants and young children, where brain damage may result."

The Commission, however, also pointed out that "the risk of illness was not sufficient to declare lead wick candles an imminent hazard and ban them," as a petition from the Health Research Group, a public interest body in Washington, had asked in December, 1973. The wiring, a spokesman said, is used to stiffen the wicks. While this is used in some types of candles in Jewish homes, it is not found in Chanuka candles since they are too small for wiring.

The Commission said that "consumers can easily identify candles with lead core wicking." It pointed out that "the lead wire running through the center of the wick can be exposed by peeling back the surrounding cotton braid." The "primary use" for this wicking "appears to be in glass container candles and votive lights used by churches," the Commission statement said.

In its statement, the Commission reported the two firms continuing to produce lead core wicking are the Queens Braidworks Inc., of Middle Village, Queens, New York, and the American-Wick Company of North Bergen, N.J.

## 5 RABBIS KILLED IN CAR ACCIDENT

DOWNTOWN, Pa., Dec. 20 (JTA)--Five rabbis were killed in a highway accident near here today and a sixth was injured and taken to a hospital in Coatsville, Pa., Pennsylvania State Police informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The names of the victims will not be released pending notification of next of kin. According to the police, the rabbis were from Brooklyn and were heading for Lancaster. The accident occurred when the car they were in passed another vehicle on a small bridge and skidded on ice. The car jumped the divider into the opposite lane and was struck head-on by a tractor-trailer, police said.

## SOVIET JEW MAY FACE TRIAL ON CHARGES OF 'DEFAMING THE STATE'

NEW YORK, Dec. 20 (JTA)--Naum Salensky, whose home is the site of the regularly held Jewish cultural seminar in Vilna, is being investigated by Soviet authorities on charges which could mean three years imprisonment, according to the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. The leading activist, who holds a doctorate in physics, has been told not to leave the Vilna area until the authorities complete their investigation. His mother, dying of cancer in Israel, has

sent numerous appeals to Soviet authorities to be reunited with her son.

In recent weeks, Salensky's home has been searched and personal effects and papers have been confiscated. He has been called in for lengthy interrogations by the KGB, and has expressed fears for his personal safety. Salensky is being investigated for violation of Article 190-1 of the criminal code.

The Soviet Criminal Code, on which the Lithuanian code is modeled, states that Article 190-1 entails, "The systematic circulation in an oral form of fabrication known to be false which defame the Soviet state and social system." Also included is "the preparation or circulation in written ... form of works" of similar content. Violation of the Article is punishable by three years imprisonment.

Robert Abrams, Conference chairman, said: "If Mr. Salensky goes to trial, it will be the first trial of a Jewish activist in nine months. Just two months ago, Western pressure brought about the unprecedented release of two Moscow activists who faced five years imprisonment. We must do all in our power to keep Salensky out of prison and indeed, to secure for him the right to rejoin his ailing mother in Israel."

## HERZOG, WALDHEIM CONFER FOR AN HOUR ON MIDEAST AND PEACE IN THAT AREA

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 20 (JTA)--Israeli Ambassador Chaim Herzog conferred this morning with Secretary General Kurt Waldheim for more than an hour during which they discussed the situation in the Middle East and ways to promote peace in that area. According to a spokesman at the Israeli UN Mission, Herzog stressed to Waldheim that any progress toward reconvening the Geneva peace conference should be in accordance with Security Council Resolution 338 which was adopted after the Yom Kippur War, not in accordance with General Assembly resolutions.

The Assembly adopted 10 days ago an Egyptian-inspired resolution calling for the resumption of the Geneva talks. Israel and the United States were the only two countries to oppose the resolution, charging that it indirectly invited the Palestine Liberation Organization to participate in the Geneva talks.

During the meeting this morning, Waldheim raised the possibility of his pending visit to the Mideast. Herzog said Israel will be glad to receive Waldheim "in his capacity of UN Secretary General" but not in connection with the General Assembly resolutions adopted at the end of the Mideast debate 10 days ago. One of the resolutions requested Waldheim to contact the parties to the Mideast conflict for the purpose of reconvening the Geneva conference. Herzog said today's discussion, which Waldheim requested, was in the "framework" of Resolution 338.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Central Bureau of Statistics reported Monday that 47,000 persons were unemployed as of September and the number of jobless is growing. According to projections, the number of unemployed may reach 70,000 in 1977. The government is expected to take measures to stem the tide during the election year by easing up on anti-inflation programs.