

## TWO LIKUD MKs QUIT PARTY, COALITION GOVERNMENT APPEARS IN JEOPARDY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 18 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin's narrowly based coalition government appeared in jeopardy today after two Likud Knesset members announced they were quitting the party. Annon Lin and Yitzhak Peretz said they would vote with the opposition Labor Alignment on a no-confidence motion in the Knesset tomorrow.

Lin and Peretz said their move reflected longstanding disenchantment with Likud but made it clear they were not joining the Labor Alignment. Their defection rests the fate of Begin's government in the hands of two small opposition factions, Telem, founded by the late Moshe Dayan, and the ultra-nationalist Tehiya. Together they command five seats in parliament. Both factions were reportedly demanding major policy concessions from Begin in exchange for their support.

The Tehiya secretariate decided last night to vote against the government but it was scheduled to meet again tonight for a final decision. Tehiya bitterly opposed Israel's withdrawal from Sinai. It had voted against the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty in 1979. It is now said to be seeking commitments from Begin that would tighten Israel's grip over the occupied territories.

Telem, on the other hand, wants Israel to impose autonomy unilaterally on the West Bank and Gaza Strip if no agreement can be reached with Egypt or the Palestinians. This was proposed by Dayan when he was Foreign Minister in Begin's first administration, but it was overwhelmingly rejected by Likud. Telem MK Mordechai Ben-Porat said today that his party would support whichever bloc seemed most likely to implement the Dayan plan.

### Knesset Balance Could Be Reversed

The dependence of the Likud regime on parties representing only a small fraction of the electorate stems from its precarious one-vote margin in the Knesset. Likud, together with the two religious parties that comprise Begin's coalition command 61 votes in the 120-member parliament.

The Labor Alignment and the opposition splinter parties on both left and right have 59 votes. With Lin and Peretz voting against the government, the Knesset balance would be reversed with the opposition commanding a 61-59 majority.

But this would not necessarily mean a new government led by Labor. Political observers pointed out today that it was far from certain that the Labor Alignment would retain the support of all of the factions that might join it in the no-confidence motion, or of Lin and Peretz.

Both Likud defectors are political hawks, as are the two Telem MKs. Tehiya is far to the right of Begin himself on most issues. The Aguda Israel and the National Religious Party, which hold 10 Knesset seats between them, have made it clear that they could not join a Labor-led coalition government under present circumstances. Both Orthodox factions have extracted major concessions to religion from Begin which the secular Laborites are not likely to match.

It appeared, therefore, that if the government is defeated tomorrow, early elections would be inevitable. Likud nevertheless, was jolted by the defections of Lin and Peretz and accused them of accepting political bribes from the opposition. The two MKs were not, however, original disciples of Begin. Both began their political careers in Mapai.

They joined the late Premier David Ben Gurion when he broke with Mapai and formed the Rafi faction of Labor. When Rafi split in later years, they became members of the State List, one of several break-away factions. The State List joined Likud in the 1977 elections which unseated the Labor Party.

### Not A Spur Of The Moment Decision

Lin called a press conference today to explain his move and to reply to charges by Begin and other Likud leaders that he had surrendered to bribes. He said his decision to break with the coalition was not taken on the spur of the moment. He said he had been made to feel like an outcast in the party and charged that "associates of the Premier incited various elements to hurt him physically."

According to Lin, his disenchantment with Likud derived in part from its persistent dredging up of past quarrels with Labor and incitement against Labor Alignment leaders.

"I was among those who helped shatter the hatred for Menachem Begin, but I'm afraid that we are returning to the days of hatred," Lin said. The MK, who once headed Mapai's Department of Arab Affairs, also accused the government of failure to adopt a policy of encouraging moderates among Israeli Arabs. He said the Alignment had promised to follow such a policy. He also said he was angered by Likud's surrender to the religious parties.

### EXPERT ON SOVIET UNION GIVES GLOOMY ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION OF SOVIET JEWRY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 18 (JTA) -- A Columbia University expert on the Soviet Union suggested today that the West Europeans might be able to exert more leverage than the United States on the Soviet Union in behalf of Soviet Jewry.

But, Dr. Seweryn Bialer, director of Columbia University's Research Institute on International Change, said that most West European governments, especially West Germany, are "insensitive" to the issue. "They want to have detente with the Soviet Union at any price," he told the 1981 Policy Conference of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Bialer told the Jewish leaders from across the country, attending the Conference, which ended today, that U.S. leverage is limited now because the Soviet leaders are assessing whether President Reagan's policy toward the USSR is more than just "tough" talk.

Bialer gave a gloomy assessment of the situation for Soviet Jewry. He said the situation in the 1980s is "dangerous" for Jews in the USSR because the Soviet standard of living will stagnate or

deteriorate, especially in the cities, causing unrest among workers; and there would also be increased unrest among the non-Slavic nationalities, whose population is increasing, over the Slavic peoples. He said this will cause the government to use the Jews as scapegoats.

In addition, Bialer predicted that in the next few years, not only will Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev be replaced, but also half of the present Soviet leadership. He said this will bring in a new leadership who came into the government in the post-Stalin era and who will not only be more authoritarian, but will be the most chauvinistic Soviet leadership since the 1917 Bolshevik revolution. He also said that this new leadership will be more anti-Semitic personally than the present generation of leaders.

Among international developments that may be harmful to Soviet Jewry, Bialer predicted a major Soviet drive for influence in the Persian Gulf. He said this may result in the Soviet Union restricting emigration of Jews in order to gain more influence with Arab nations.

### Racing Against Time

Theodore Mann of Philadelphia, who was re-elected to a second term as NCSJ chairman, told the group that "what we have accomplished in a decade is nothing so short of miraculous. But we are racing against time."

Mann said American Jews must be more involved in the Soviet Jewry movement, making it part of their everyday life. He announced that a letter writing campaign to the White House will be conducted during the next two months to assure that the Administration will "vigorously" raise the question of Soviet Jewry in negotiating a renewal of the grain sales and in other negotiations with the Soviet Union. He also said that the NCSJ leaders will try to get the Administration to spell out the goals they will seek to obtain from the USSR on Soviet Jewry in these talks.

At a session yesterday, Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, reaffirmed Reagan's commitment to place Soviet Jewry on the agenda of any negotiations with the USSR. "Our strength and our firmness on these issues are the only road to peace."

David Smith, a Canadian member of Parliament, declared: "The Canadians demonstrate, and have always maintained, a strong position on this issue," on rights for Soviet Jewry.

Much of the NCSJ's efforts for the next few months will be preparing for the third annual Brussels World Conference on Soviet Jewry to be held in Paris in October.

### JEWISH LEADERS URGE ADMINISTRATION, CONGRESS TO LAUNCH PROBE OF WAR CRIMINALS SMUGGLED INTO THE U.S.

NEW YORK, May 18 (JTA) -- American Jewish leaders and organizations urged the Reagan Administration and Congress today to undertake immediate investigations of allegations that U.S. officials smuggled hundreds of Russian-born Nazi war criminals into the country after World War II and that various government agencies covered up that covert operation for years thereafter.

The charges were made by John Loftus, former prosecutor for the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI), in an appearance on the CBS-TV "60 Minutes" program Sunday.

The B'nai B'rith International, in a resolution approved unanimously by its Board of Governors at their semi-annual meeting in Washington, demanded an immediate probe by the Administration and Congress to determine who was responsible for the smuggling and cover-up.

According to Loftus, hundreds of collaborators who belonged to the Nazi-controlled Byelorussian puppet government during World War II, were clandestinely brought to the U.S. for anti-Soviet propaganda and intelligence purposes. Many were participants in the extermination of Jews.

The B'nai B'rith International resolution said: "Just action should be taken against those U.S. officials responsible for either the development of this policy or the cover-up and expeditious steps should be taken to expel Nazi war criminals from our country."

Nathan Perlmutter, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in New York, called on the House Judiciary Committee and the Administration to open immediate investigations of the allegations. "The American people have the right to know whether reputed Nazi war criminals are presently employed in any capacity by the U.S. government," Perlmutter said. He said the disclosures on the "60 Minutes" program "confirmed earlier reports of such immoral operations."

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, called on President Reagan to name a commission "of impeccable stature, with full powers and with your total support" to investigate the charges. In a telegram to the White House, Schindler said:

"That agencies of the U.S. government would defy Presidential directives, mislead the Congress and violate the most fundamental American traditions of morality and decency in hiring the most loathsome creatures of our generation is a charge of such magnitude that it requires a prompt and thorough investigation by a Presidential commission."

### Justice Department Says It Is Probing Charges

Meanwhile, the Justice Department said yesterday in a prepared statement that it has been investigating "for some time" whether the war criminals entered the United States illegally, with or without the help of U.S. officials. "If and when evidence of that strength is assembled in the investigations of Byelorussian emigres, charges will be filed against them just as they have been in more than two dozen other cases in the last three years," the Department statement said.

The government must prove that alleged collaborators lied about their Nazi past when applying for admission to the country and for U.S. citizenship, before the Immigration and Naturalization Service can denaturalize them and begin deportation proceedings.

### KENNEDY RAPS ADMINISTRATION'S INTENTION TO SELL ARMS TO JORDAN

NEW YORK, May 18 (JTA) -- Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.) sharply criticized the Reagan Administration's intention to sell advanced F-5 fighter aircraft, portable Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and laser guided bombs to Jordan.

Addressing more than 1,500 people at the 60th annual dinner of Agudath Israel of America at the New York Hilton, Kennedy declared: "I reject the incredible idea of putting Jordanian warplanes, missiles and bombs within minutes of the Western Wall in Jerusalem, the factories of Tel Aviv, the boyards of Haifa, and the kibbutzim in Galilee."

Peace, Kennedy asserted, "can never be bought by compromising the security of Israel, or by surrendering even one inch of earth to Jewish enemies."

Turning to the issue of Soviet Jewry, Kennedy said: "The Soviets may close Hebrew classes or confiscate books of Jewish learning, but they can never kill the idea of freedom. I am proud that we have worked together to reunite divided families and to free dissidents and prisoners of conscience from Soviet tyranny."

Rabbi Moshe Sherer, president of Agudath Israel of America, presented the organization's 1982 Humanitarian Award to Kennedy for his role in the reunification of Jewish families from the Soviet bloc countries. As part of the ceremonies, Sherer presented the Senator with a mezuzah which the organization had planned to present to the late Sen. Robert Kennedy.

Rabbi Shneur Kotler, dean of America's largest rabbinical seminary, in Lakewood, N.J., and a member of Agudath Israel's Council of Sages, urged the national religious movement to continue its historic mission of demonstrating the efficacy of a Jewry united under Torah. Referring to the efforts by the Aguda Party in Israel to convince the government of Premier Menachem Begin to end El Al flights on the Sabbath and religious holidays, Kotler declared:

"For 4,000 years Jews have made sacrifices for the Jewish Sabbath, casting aside considerations of gains and losses. How can a national Jewish airline fly in the face of this glorious history?"

Governor Thomas Kean of New Jersey, whose father, a New Jersey Congressman, had been one of 36 Senators to petition President Harry Truman to recognize the State of Israel, observed that Israel had made enormous sacrifices for the sake of peace. He also applauded Agudath Israel for its activities. "I stand with you for your traditional values, the strength of family and commitment to timeless ideals," Kean said.

#### AUSTRALIAN P.M. SAYS HIS COUNTRY STEADFASTLY SUPPORTS ISRAEL AND REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE THE PLO

NEW YORK, May 18 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser of Australia pledged here today that his country would remain "unshakably steadfast" in its support of Israel and its refusal to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization. At the same time, Australia's Foreign Minister, Toney Street, suggested that Israel should not now be pressured into resuming the autonomy negotiations because it needed "time to digest" the withdrawal from Sinai.

Street and Fraser, currently visiting the U.S. made their remarks during an hour-long off-the-record meeting with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations presided over by its chairman, Howard Squadron.

Fraser told the assembled American Jewish leaders that Australia's concern for Israel was based "not only on the history of Jewish settlement of the Holy Land but also on the right of a free people to exist without the threat of aggression."

During his talk, and in a question-and-answer session that followed, the Australian Prime Minister warned of "a world-wide campaign to paint the PLO as an underdog" and to diminish support for Israel. "For this reason,

it is important for Israel, in the conduct of its own affairs, to do everything possible to permit its friends, like Australia, to continue to support her."

#### Need To Consider World Response

Noting that "the number of countries supporting Israel is declining," Fraser said Israel should take into account the response of other countries "to actions such as an incursion into Lebanon... The implications of Israeli actions and the effect they will have in the wider world cannot be overlooked," he said. "If Israel must go into Lebanon -- and I recognize Israel's many serious concerns -- it will be perceived in many places as an unprovoked invasion, and this will make it more difficult for Israel's friends to support its actions," he said.

Street said he was "certain" that progress could be made in the autonomy talks but that he would "be hesitant about pushing for early progress now. Let there be time for confidence to be built in Israel about peace with Egypt," he said. In that connection, he noted that President Hosni Mubarak had told him it was "unthinkable that the present generation of Egyptians would go to war with Israel."

#### CONGRESSMAN DENIES INVITING PLO OFFICIAL TO WASHINGTON

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 18 (JTA) -- Rep. Lee Hamilton (D. Ind.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, has denied inviting Farouk Kaddumi, the Palestine Liberation Organization's foreign policy spokesman, to visit Washington in June.

News agency reports from Damascus and Beirut today, quoting a Beirut newspaper, said that according to high ranking Palestinian officials, Kaddumi had accepted an invitation from Hamilton to meet him in Washington next month and that he was also expected to meet with Sen. Charles Percy (R.Ill.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

But a staff member of Hamilton's subcommittee told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that no such invitation was extended by letter or otherwise. What did happen, the staff member said, was that several weeks ago some Palestinians telephoned from New York to ask if they could meet with Hamilton in Washington. The staff member said the Congressman has never refused to meet with Palestinians who come here but that those who telephoned did not come.

A staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said he had also seen the report of the invitation to Kaddumi that first appeared in a Beirut newspaper but could find nothing to confirm it among committee members.

\*\*\*

OTTAWA (JTA) -- Egypt and Canada signed Monday an agreement for peaceful nuclear cooperation, paving the way for future sales of Canadian nuclear reactors to Egypt. The 30-year accord was signed by Energy Ministers Maher Abaza of Egypt and Marc Lalonde of Canada, who also agreed to set up a committee to discuss the implementation of the agreement. Lalonde said that the Canadian government supports Egypt in its "search for lasting peace in the Mideast," and described Egypt as a leader in efforts to reach a peaceful settlement in the Mideast. The nuclear accord with Egypt reverses Canada's long-standing refusal to sell nuclear technology to Middle East countries. Canada's policy in the future will be decided by the peaceful intentions and stable economic policies of a given country.

## NLRB ISSUES UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICE COMPLAINT AGAINST JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, May 18 (JTA) — The attorney for the Brandeis Teachers Association (BTA), which has been on strike since last September 15 against a Long Island Conservative Jewish day school, said today that the National Labor Relations Board, in issuing an unfair labor practice complaint against the Brandeis School, had rejected the school board's contention that, as a religious institution, the 417-student, day elementary-high school is exempt from NLRB jurisdiction.

Joseph Rosenthal told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that, in issuing notice of a formal hearing on the labor dispute, scheduled for October 4, the NLRB indicated that it did have jurisdiction. This may be one of the first times that the NLRB has issued an unfair labor practice complaint against a Jewish day school.

In the hearing notice, the NLRB noted that the school was involved in the course of its operations, in interstate commerce, and was "an employer engaged in commerce within the meaning" of the National Labor Relations Act. The school is in Lawrence, N.Y.

Under terms of the complaint, both the union and the school board were invited to seek a voluntary settlement of the dispute. Rosenthal told the JTA that the board had remained adamant in its refusal to resume negotiations with the BTA.

### Factors In The Strike

Raphael Ellenbogen, the Brandeis School executive director, said the principal difference was money, adding that the school board offered an 8.5 percent pay increase for the first year of a new contract and 8 percent in the second year, with pension increases. The BTA asked for a 13 percent increase in a one-year agreement.

Ellenbogen said the principal factor was money but Ronald Nanulin, BTA president, said that under terms of the contract offered by the school board, most full-time teachers would be dropped to part-time status, lose tenure and benefits, be barred from union membership and subject to immediate dismissal.

Ellenbogen denied the board was engaged in "union-busting" but said Brandeis, as a private school, could not afford the salary increases sought by the union. He said when the deadline passed, "we had to have teachers" and the board hired 22 teachers to replace the secular teachers who had walked out, along with 22 Hebrew teachers.

### Elements In The NLRB Complaint

According to the NLRB complaint, the union accused the board of by-passing the union to bargain with the Hebrew teachers "to induce them to abandon the strike activities and return to work." The Hebrew teachers did return to work.

The NLRB complaint added that board members promised those teachers "wage increases and other benefits in excess of those it had offered to the union during the negotiations" which failed to bring about a new contract and led to the walkout.

A BTA spokesman said the union hoped that the hearing could result in an order to the

school to reinstate the striking teachers and pay them back wages. The school is a member of the Solomon Schechter Day School Association.

## CUSTODY IS AWARDED TO FATHER FOR SONS TO BE RAISED JEWISH

DETROIT, May 18 (JTA) — An Oakland County (Michigan) Circuit Court judge has taken custody of two children from the mother one year after a divorce and awarded custody to the father in order to raise the children Jewishly.

Attorney Joel Schavrien said Judge George La Plata made the custody decision last week because the mother of two boys aged 9 and 12 had violated the divorce settlement by interfering with the boys' Jewish education.

Schavrien said the mother, who was born Catholic, had a Reform conversion before her first marriage and a Conservative conversion before her second marriage. As part of the Conservative conversion, the mother agreed in writing to raise any children of the marriage as Jewish.

### Mother Became A Catholic Again

In recent years, Schavrien said, the mother decided to become Catholic again and raise the boys as Catholic. The husband and wife were divorced last year, with custody awarded to the wife. However, as part of the divorce agreement, the judge ordered that "the sole and exclusive religious training and education of the minor children be in the Jewish faith ..."

Schavrien said he petitioned for the custody change on behalf of the father after, contrary to the judge's order, the mother interfered with the boys' Jewish education and encouraged Christian beliefs.

The mother involved the Oakland County Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union in the case. The ACLU said the children had the right to make their own decision on religion, based on the First Amendment protections of the Constitution. Judge LaPlata, however, ruled after interviewing the boys that their professions of Christianity were the mother's thoughts and not the beliefs of the children.

## SYNAGOGUE GROUP URGES NUCLEAR FREEZE

NEW YORK, May 18 (JTA) — The Synagogue Council of America has called for an end to the nuclear arms race, declaring that "as Jews we are survivors of Hitler's Holocaust and experience a special sense of responsibility to raise our voices lest we drift into a nuclear catastrophe which would spell the doom of all mankind."

The Council is the national coordinating agency for the Conservative, Orthodox and Reform rabbinic and Congregational organizations. Its statement is one of an increasing number of appeals by American Jewish organizations for a freeze on nuclear proliferation in the United States and the Soviet Union.

The Synagogue Council's statement pointed to a "religious duty" of Jewish leaders, "not to stand by idly when the very survival not only of Americans but that of the entire human species is at stake because misguided experts cling to the myth that nuclear war is winnable." Dismissing unilateral disarmament as a prelude to "nuclear blackmail or outright aggression," the Council called for an immediate halt to the arms race, with the aim of achieving "a mutual reduction of nuclear arms and stockpiles."

The Council's message included a quotation from the Book of Isaiah, which states that "the earth was created to be settled," not, observed the Council, "for mass extinction of creatures bearing the image of God."