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Navon Makes It Official: HE WILL NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION; WILL RETIRE TO PRIVATE LIFE

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- President Yitzhak Navon announced today that he will not seek re-election when his five-year term expires next May and would retire to private life.

"I do not intend to ask the Knesset to elect me to another term and I do not plan or intend to enter political life," Navon told a press conference at the Presidential residence this morning. He said he would devote his time to writing books and to social and educational work which he did not specify.

He said he had concluded, after long and difficult deliberations that he could not fulfill the office of President for another five years. The office, though prestigious, is largely ceremonial and it is widely believed that Navon could win re-election by the Knesset with ease had he chosen to run.

His decision not to has raised hopes in some Labor Party circles that Navon may eventually be persuaded to return to the political scene and possibly head that party's ticket in new elections.

A 'Cooling Off' Period Seen

Although Navon, a former Labor MK, said specifically that he would not enter politics after leaving office, many observers believe that he has set for himself a "cooling off" period after which he may reconsider political activity.

He has been an immensely popular Chief of State and Laborites do not overlook the fact that as the first President of Israel of Sephardic ancestry he would doubtlessly appeal to many Sephardic voters. Sephardim, or Oriental Jews, comprise over 60 percent of Israel's population. They voted overwhelmingly for Premier Menachem Begin's Likud party in the last two Knesset elections.

Reactions By Labor Knesset Members

Labor Alignment Knesset members indicated today that the party could not afford to have a personality such as Navon "sitting on the fence" for an indefinite period. Raanan Na'im, a Labor hawk, said he was not put off by Navon's reputation as a dove. "Compared to Yossi Sarid, he is a hawk of substance," Na'im said, referring to one of Labor's most outspoken doves in the Knesset.

Sarid himself, though he shares many of Navon's views, said today that it was too early to decide whether Navon is the right man to head the leading opposition party. The difficulties facing Labor are matters of substance, not personalities, Sarid said. If Navon replaced the party's present leadership, Labor would still suffer from the same ailments, according to Sarid. He said that if and when the time came, he would judge Navon by his political line, not his personality.

Labor MK Haim Herzog reflected the general view when he said "A man of Navon's calibre and prestige cannot stay out of politics." Another Labor M.K., Na'ava Arad declared that "Ever since Navon's trip to Egypt I have been convinced that

that he is the man to bring peace to the Middle East." She said she would support a Navon candidacy for chairmanship of the Labor Party, an office now held by Shimon Peres.

Labor MK Michael Bar Zohar believed that if Navon became party leader it would end the bitter power struggle between Peres and Labor's No. 2 man, former Premier Yitzhak Rabin. Both Peres and Rabin are presently abroad.

Likud politicians expressed different views. MK Yosef Rom acknowledged that Navon was a "very good President" but did not believe he was capable of restoring the Labor Party to power.

A public opinion poll published here a week ago indicated that even with Navon at the head of the Labor list, Likud would win the next elections, though by a somewhat reduced margin. But another poll, published today by the Dahaf Research Institute indicated a Labor-Likud tie if Navon were to run for Prime Minister. The poll was released before Navon announced his intention to retire.

Future Role Not Ruled Out

Some political observers here expressed the opinion that Navon's decision not to seek re-election to the Presidency means he will hold himself open for a political career sometime in the future.

Based on that surmise, powerful pressures are being exerted on Rabin, especially by his supporters in the kibbutz movement, to agree to a Navon-Peres-Rabin line-up in the next elections. Navon would be candidate for Premier, Peres for Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister and Rabin for Defense Minister.

Peres, whose standing in the public opinion polls has been dropping steadily in recent months, reportedly has indicated he would accept such a line-up. But there are opposing pressures on Rabin from his city-based supporters who fear that if he is maneuvered into the No. 3 spot, they would lose their seats in the Knesset and in the various party forums.

Some pundits are saying that if Rabin puts up a fight for party leadership he might be doing Navon a favor by allowing the popular President to demonstrate to the electorate that he is not just a figurehead but a tough politician. They believe such an image would help Navon in a national election campaign against Likud.

Meanwhile, speculation is growing over who will replace Navon in the presidency. The law requires the Knesset to elect a new President not more than 90 days and not less than 30 days before the incumbent's term expires. The only candidate mentioned so far is Interior Minister Yosef Burg, a senior leader of the National Religious Party. Burg has indicated that he would accept the nomination, but only if he had bipartisan support from both Likud and Labor.

**PERES URGES U.S. NOT TO PRESSURE
ISRAEL ON LEBANON TALKS; SAYS
INTERIM ACCORD MIGHT BE A SOLUTION**
By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Israel's Labor Party leader Shimon Peres called on the United States today to refrain from exerting any pressure on Israel, warning that such a move would be "counter-productive."

Peres said he understood American impatience with the slow progress of the talks with Lebanon but said the issue was highly complex and might have to be solved on the basis of an interim agreement. The first phase of such an arrangement could consist of the withdrawal of all foreign troops -- Israeli, Syrian and PLO -- from "the heart of Lebanon and the Shouf mountains," Peres told a press conference here this afternoon.

The Israeli leader had earlier conferred for over an hour with President Francois Mitterrand and had later been the luncheon guest of Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy. He had also met with Minister of Culture Jack Lang and Socialist Party Secretary General Lionel Jospin.

Peres, who flew back to Israel this evening, said Mitterrand has come out in favor of Jordan's King Hussein's participation in future peace talks with Israel. The Israeli opposition leader also said Mitterrand will personally urge Hussein to join the peace talks and will also use his influence with the West Bank Arab mayors.

Cites Reasons For Slow Talks

Peres said the peace talks with Lebanon are slow and complex "because Israel would rather achieve an agreement and normalize its relations with all of Lebanon rather than sign a peace treaty with part of Lebanon," implying that such a treaty with the Phalangists would have posed no major problem.

He also called for security arrangements for Israel's northern border and said this could be achieved by integrating Maj. Saad Haddad into the Lebanese army and appointing him to head security arrangements in the border strip.

Peres and Lang agreed to organize an international peace conference for Palestine in Jerusalem with the participation of Socialist intellectuals from all over the world. No date for the meeting has been fixed but Peres informed Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek of the plan immediately after his meeting with Lang this morning. Kollek reportedly welcomed the project.

Warm Praise For Navon

Peres refused to comment on Israeli President Yitzhak Navon's decision not to seek a second term and not to run against Premier Menachem Begin, in spite of persistent questioning by French leaders and the press. Peres said his comments, if any, will be made in Israel. In France he only paid "warm tribute to Navon's qualities as President and as a close personal friend."

Peres had spent three days in France as the guest of the United Jewish Appeal. He addressed fund-raising meetings in Paris and in the south of France.

MAPAM MK SUGGESTS PLATFORM FOR TALKS, INSTEAD OF PEACE PLANS, BETWEEN ISRAEL, JORDAN, PALESTINIANS By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Asserting that the Arab-Israel conflict has been marred by a series of failed peace proposals, Mapam Knesset member Elazar Granot yesterday suggested that instead of peace plans a "platform for negotiations" should be developed for Israel, Jordan and representatives of the Palestinian people.

Such a proposal, Granot said, if backed unanimously by the United States and Europe, "based on principles of equality and mutuality, could not be rejected out of hand by any of the parties concerned." He added, that a peace platform "would steer the peace forces in the area by providing them with a plan they could fight for, without being accused of betraying the interests of their people."

Addressing some 200 people attending the 1983 Human Rights Luncheon at the Sheraton Centre, sponsored by the Americans for Progressive Israel, the Givat Haviva Educational Foundation and the Kibbutz Artzi Federation, Granot said such a platform should be composed of the following principles: mutual recognition of the right to self-determination of all states in the region; honoring the sovereignty of all states; the establishment of peace between Israel and its neighbors behind secure and recognized borders; an obligation to refrain from aggressive actions during the negotiations period, including a freeze on Israeli settlement policy on the West Bank; and the right of each participant to present within the negotiations, its own peace plan.

The Mapam MK said that acceptance of the platform would qualify a party as a legitimate negotiator.

Klutznick: Jews Have Right To Debate Israel's Policy

Also addressing the luncheon was the former president of the World Jewish Congress, Philip Klutznick, who affirmed the right of diaspora Jewry to be actively involved in policy debate within Israel because of the deeply rooted links between the two. He said that because of Israel's unique experience in relations to world Jewry and the Mideast, the situation "should demand debate."

"We cannot be one in our need and separate in our ability to speak and write the truth to one another," Klutznick declared. He said that when Israel shines in the eyes of the international community, the diaspora "basks in its sunlight," and when Israel's international standing diminishes, the diaspora feels the effect.

Klutznick, who was Secretary of Commerce during the Carter Administration, addressed the advantages of peace in relation to the economy of Israel. He called Israel one of the most productive states in the world, a "miracle in the use of high technology," which last year boasted a Gross National Product more than \$20 billion.

Says Israel Could Become The Japan Of The Mideast

Continuing, he said Israel cannot continue to spend one-third of its GNP on its military budget and not meet the needs of its people and work force, which he said suffers from a lack of sufficient technological training.

Klutznick said that if a peace agreement could be achieved, then Israel could become "the Japan of the Middle East." As it stands right now, he noted, the technological market to the nations in Asia remain closed to Israel, as do many of the markets to the Third World nations and African states.

Klutznick said that after the establishment of the Jewish state, and especially now as it has proven itself to be a major military strength in the Middle East, it is the next step of the diaspora to increase Jewish education and culture. He said Jewish cultural continuity in the diaspora "is as important as 1,000 F-16s."

"If Jewish life is assimilated in the diaspora, it will generate a loss of security for the State of Israel and the future of the State of Israel that is more dangerous than the failure of Washington to provide extra" military hardware, he declared.

The Kibbutz Artzi Federation was presented with the 1983 Human Rights Award for its continued efforts on behalf of peace in the Middle East.

TRUDEAU SAYS HE WILL INTERVENE WITH ANDROPOV ON BEHALF OF SHCHARANSKY

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau met in Ottawa with Avital Shcharansky, wife of Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky, and promised her he will intervene with Yuri Andropov, Soviet Communist Party leader, for the release of her husband on humanitarian grounds.

Mrs. Shcharansky later told a press conference that she was going to Paris to meet with Georges Marchais, leader of the French Communist Party, and give him her personal letter addressed to Andropov, appealing for her husband's release from Chistipol prison where he has been on a hunger strike since September 26 Marchais, who is scheduled to meet Andropov in Moscow this week, released a letter last week from the Soviet Communist leader stating that Shcharansky had ended his hunger strike.

During her visit to New York, before arriving in Ottawa, Mrs. Shcharansky said that she had no independent confirmation that her husband had ended his hunger strike. Prof. Irwin Cotler, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, who has been Mrs. Shcharansky's defense counsel since her husband was arrested more than five years ago, told the press conference that "despite affirmations to the contrary, Shcharansky continues his hunger strike and is deprived of any contact with his mother."

Cotler also appealed in a letter to Andropov for Shcharansky's release from prison "on humanitarian grounds. He has endured the ravages of a hunger strike, the pain of forced feeding and deprivation of any human contact with his family. His continued confinement serves neither the cause of human rights nor the cause of Communism with a human face."

During her visit to Ottawa last Thursday, Mrs. Shcharansky was received with standing ovation by members of the House of Commons and government officials. David Smith, a member of Parliament and the head of the Parliamentary Committee in Support of Shcharansky, said the Canadian government has appealed four times in behalf of Shcharansky, but that Moscow has never answered these appeals.

CJC URGES PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY TO RECONSIDER INVITING NEO-NAZI TO ITS NATIONAL CONVENTION

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) expressed dismay to the Progressive Conservative Party today that a person associated with a neo-Nazi organization will be a delegate at its forthcoming convention in Winnipeg.

In a telegram sent to the party on the eve of the convention, CJC executive vice president Alan Rose noted that Ann Ladas will be an accredited delegate from the Beaches-Woodbine Riding. He observed that Ladas, 27, is executive officer of the Nationalist Party of Canada, formerly known as "Western Guard," an avowed neo-Nazi party notorious for its racist views.

Although Ladas states that she resigned from the latter organization six months ago, its bulletin of December 1982 congratulates her on the good showing she made for them in a Board of Education contest during the Toronto municipal elections last November, Rose pointed out.

"The Canadian Jewish Congress is dismayed that Ladas will be a delegate" Rose's telegram said, "in view of her history of incitement to racism and bigotry when drawn to the attention of party leadership. Our belief is that it is totally improper that someone advancing such views be present as a delegate at the PC convention. Your party has a long and honorable record in opposition to all forms of racism and it is unfortunate that the Riding Association did not recognize her as an unsuitable representative."

Rose expressed hope that "The PC party with its fine record respecting individual dignity and liberty will see fit to reject her."

JEWISH GROUPS URGED TO STAY AWAY FROM POLISH GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING OBSERVANCE

NEW YORK, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- The Workmen's Circle has rejected an invitation from the Polish government to participate in the government-sponsored commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising next April and has urged all other Jewish organizations to do the same.

Dr. Israel Kugler, president of the Jewish labor fraternal order, cited among other things the Workmen's Circle's support of the Polish Solidarity movement, outlawed by the regime of Wojciech Jaruzelski. He said the invitation was extended through "a Polish government puppet front -- the Jewish Cultural Farband."

"As supporters of Polish Solidarity who have witnessed the repressive measures exhibited by the Jaruzelski regime, we cannot and will not permit ourselves to be exploited. Nor do we wish to see kindred Jewish organizations equally exploited for the hypocritical purposes such participation would mask," Kugler said.

He noted that the Jaruzelski government "and predecessor Polish Communist governments have a long history of anti-Semitic actions which drove out the remnant of surviving Polish Jews, purged members from its own political ranks just because they were Jews, and revived the notorious Grunwald movement to use anti-Semitism against the free trade union movement--Solidarnosc -- Solidarity."

Kugler said his organization would support "all legitimate commemorations" of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising "in those countries where democracy is practiced." It is supporting the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors in Washington April 11-14.

EL AL SUSPENDS SABBATH FLIGHTS

NEW YORK, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- As part of the new labor agreement that has enabled El Al to resume its worldwide operations, the airline today announced that it has suspended all flights on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays worldwide.

El Al never had flights on the Sabbath between Israel and North America. There were only some Sabbath flights between Israel and Europe. After a four month hiatus, passenger service resumed on January 12 with service from Tel Aviv to Nairobi and Johannesburg. U.S. service began yesterday on a twice-weekly basis.

Rafi Hargy, the newly appointed president of the airline, said "We will abide by the government's decision concerning the suspension of Shabbat service and will do everything we can to overcome all past difficulties for the good of our passengers and the company."

"We believe," continued the President, "that El Al, the airline of Israel, is also the airline of the Jewish people, and that our responsibilities extend to Jews everywhere. We will continue to maintain the highest standards of Kashruth, and remain sensitive to the special needs of every passenger."

ITALY SEEKING EXTRADITION FROM GREECE OF TERRORIST BELIEVED TO HAVE ATTACKED ROME'S SYNAGOGUE

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Italy is seeking the extradition from Greece of a 22-year-old Jordanian, Osama Abdel Al Zumar, believed to be one of the terrorists who attacked the main synagogue in Rome last October 9, killing a two-year-old child and wounding 33 other persons, it was disclosed here today.

Al Zumar was arrested in Athens at the end of last November. On December 23, two Italian magistrates, Luigi Gennaro and Pasquale Lapadula, issued extradition orders after learning of the arrest through Interpol. The Italian government submitted a formal extradition request to the Greek government on January 8 and is awaiting a reply.

Cover Version By Greek Authorities

News of these developments was suppressed until now in the hope that Al Zumar's accomplices -- said to number at least four -- would be traced in other countries with the cooperation of local police and Interpol.

According to press reports here, the Greek authorities released a deliberately false report of the circumstances of Al Zumar's arrest so as not to alert other terrorists and to allow police to investigate his activities and those of his accomplices in secret.

The cover version given by the Greek authorities was that Al Zumar and two other Arabs were arrested when their car was stopped at the Greek-Yugoslav border and found to be carrying "a large quantity of explosives." It is not clear whether Italian authorities furnished their Greek counterparts with information that led to Al Zumar's arrest or whether the information was transmitted after the arrest was made.

Tracing Terrorist Movements

The main objective of the police investigation in Greece seems to be to trace terrorist movements. Since the Palestine Liberation Organization was expelled from Lebanon, terrorists have been using Cyprus and Greece as way-stations, one Italian newspaper reported. According to the paper, Al Zumar and three accomplices stopped off in Cyprus where the PLO has reportedly established an active center of operations to plan new terrorist acts. They travelled to Greece from Cyprus, the paper said.

Another paper reported that the Italian magistrates were informed by Interpol that fragmentation grenades used in attacks on Jewish institutions in other European capitals in the past few years were identical to those used in the Rome synagogue attack. The terrorists have been linked to an extremist Palestinian terrorist group headed by Abu Nidal which is also purported to be responsible for attacks on PLO representatives in Europe.

FRANCE WILL MAKE FORMAL REQUEST TO BOLIVIA FOR BARBIE'S EXTRADITION

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- Official sources here said that France will make a formal request to the Bolivian government for the extradition of war criminal Klaus Barbie as soon "as materially possible." The sources predicted, however, that the legal and administrative process might last 2-3 weeks.

Barbie, known as the "butcher of Lyon," the French city where he was gestapo chief during World War II, was sentenced to death in absentia by French courts in 1952 and 1954 for his role in the deportations of thousands of French Jews to Nazi death camps and the murder of French resistance leader, Jean Moulin. He fled to Bolivia where he acquired citizenship under the name of Klaus Altmann.

May Be Expelled In A Few Weeks

The West German government has already formally requested Barbie's extradition. Le Monde quoted Bolivia's Vice President, Jaime Paz Zamora as saying that Barbie-Altmann will be expelled or extradited to West Germany in a matter of weeks.

Barbie was arrested by the Bolivian authorities recently on charges of defrauding a State-owned company of \$10,000 and remains in detention. The Bolivian Attorney General has ruled in favor of West Germany's extradition request although there is no extradition treaty between the two countries.

Bonn has argued that extradition is in order because Barbie used a false name to acquire Bolivian nationality and committed his crimes before he fled to that country. The new regime in La Paz seems to agree and wants to be rid of him.

For many years the wanted war criminal enjoyed the protection of Bolivia's far rightwing military government. He prospered in a lumber business, had homes in La Paz and Cochabamba and is suspected of having advised the "death squads" run by Bolivia's military rulers. An extradition request by France in 1972 was rejected by the Bolivian Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, Barbie's lawyers have informed the courts that his family is prepared to make restitution and pay any other costs in exchange for his immediate release from prison. They claim that Barbie, 69, is in poor health.

Barbie was allowed to appear on local television last week. He denied he had murdered Moulin, claiming he only handed the resistance leader over to the Vichy authorities and that Moulin was in good health at the time. "I learned of his death in an American magazine in 1957," he said.

When France filed its first extradition request 10 years ago, Barbie claimed he was a victim of mistaken identity. Later he admitted to having been a Captain in the gestapo but "war is war and I was a soldier who had to defend his country."

JEWISH JOURNALISTS AMONG DISAPPEARED PERSONS IN ARGENTINA

GENEVA, Jan. 31 (JTA) -- The issue of disappeared persons in Argentina will be among the topics to be discussed at a conference on human rights sponsored by the United States beginning today. A Swiss committee that has been working on behalf of the disappeared persons told a press conference this issue will be taken up by a number of ambassadors attending the conference.

The committee distributed a list of 103 journalists who have disappeared in Argentina which included a number of Jewish journalists. They are: Roberto Elias Asf, Rafael Callelupo, Guilerma Engel, Ariel Gelman, Raymundo Gleyzer, Felix Granovski, Mario Idelman, Ignacio Ikonikoff, Enrique Raab, and Rodolfo Esparati. There was no indication under what circumstances the journalists had disappeared.

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CORRECTION: Gerhart Riegner is the secretary general of the World Jewish Congress, not the World Jewish Organization, as was inadvertently reported in the January 24 Bulletin.