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INFIGHTING IN THE HERUT PARTY TO NAME A SUCCESSOR TO BEGIN By Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Aug. 31 (JTA) — A fight to decide on a successor to Premier Menachem Begin has broken out within the top echelon circles of his Herut Party. Several hours after Begin told party stalwarts and other leading representatives of the Likud coalition that he will not reverse his decision to resign, Herut Cabinet ministers and senior party officials met here in special session last night and continued today.

Ministers stressed that the discussion to name a successor would also have to entail the how and the where for deciding on a candidate acceptable to all the parties and factions comprising the Likud coalition. Although earlier yesterday party officials said it appeared certain that Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir would be the party's candidate, Deputy Premier David Levy said last night that "all options are open. When the debate starts there will be more than one candidate."

While Shamir's supporters want the choice of the candidate to be discussed by small inner forums of the party, Levy's supporters for his candidacy feel he has a better chance of success in the larger party central committee. Levy has many grass root supporters in the central committee while Shamir, a veteran member of the "fighting family," has more support among the top party functionaries.

Supporters of Ariel Sharon, former Defense Minister and now Minister Without Portfolio, also feel he has a chance if the vote in the central committee is by secret ballot. But they gave him little chance if the discussion takes place in the smaller forums.

A Decision Must Be Made Soon

In any event, there is a general feeling in the Herut hierarchy that some decision on a candidate must be made at most within a day or two to avoid growing rancor and disunity among the coalition groupings, thus paralyzing a unified decision and thereby creating a basis for the Labor Alignment being called upon to form a new government.

Once a candidate is chosen, the party will try to put together a list of at least 61 Knesset members who will support a new Likud-led coalition headed by an agreed upon candidate. Begin could then take this list with him when he hands his letter of resignation to President Chaim Herzog, with the suggestion that the list be accepted as the new coalition.

If the delay in naming a candidate for the Premiership and getting together a Knesset list extends too long — even a few days — Begin may feel that he must submit his formal resignation without a proposed coalition. In that case, Herzog may have no alternative but to call on Shimon Peres, as the leader of the Labor Alignment, the largest party in the Knesset, to suggest an alternative government within 21 days with the possibility of extending this period for another 21 days.

Peres, who kept a low profile since Begin announced his intention to resign last Sunday to a stunned Cabinet, broke his silence and that of the Labor Party last night. He told an Israel Television interviewer he

was doing so now because it was "evident beyond doubt" that Begin was resigning. Peres said the most urgent need at the moment was "to end the crisis. We are beset with major problems — in Lebanon and in the economy — and the most urgent need is to establish a wide coalition which can deal immediately with those problems." He said he was confident the Labor Alignment could establish such a wide coalition.

Peres said that no official contacts had yet been made with possible coalition parties, but unofficial talks indicated that some of the smaller parties, at least, would cooperate with Labor.

Asked how this jibed with party reports that they would continue with the Likud, Peres replied: "That was yesterday. What we are now dealing with is today and tomorrow."

Peres said he had "personal respect for Begin the man" but not for his policies. "I agree with him on one thing — he described the war in Lebanon as a tragedy, and I agree with that." Asked how he estimated his "Likud rivals," Peres said: "They are not my rivals at the moment. They are their own rivals."

Awaiting The Results Of The Debate

Meanwhile, leaders of the various coalition parties said they were awaiting the results of the debate within Herut on procedures to name a successor to Begin and for a successor to then be named. While expressing general support for the present coalition, even under a new head, some coalition leaders agreed that a new situation has been created.

Agudat Israel spokesmen noted that "the Likud without Begin is not the same Likud," and some party leaders have hinted that if the struggle for the succession within Herut goes on for too long, they may consider an approach by the Labor Alignment if Peres is called on by the President to build a new government.

Editorial Reactions

Editorials in the Israeli press adopted a wait-and-see attitude for the first few days after Begin announced his resignation, postponing hard comment until the Premier submits his formal resignation. But today some editorials began to edge toward harder comments.

The Jerusalem Post stated that it is to Begin's credit that he carried through his intention to resign and did not waver in the face of an "unprecedented orgy of personal adoration by breast-beating supplicants imploring him to stay on." It added that "Likud without Begin, even without one who feels he can no longer carry the burden of leadership, will not be the same. Among his putative successors there is not one who begins to measure up to Mr. Begin in stature, let alone popularity."

The independent Haaretz said Begin's resignation was a sad end to the career of a man who had finally achieved power after 29 years in opposition, made even sadder by the infighting in his party for his successor.

The National Religious Party's daily, Hatzofeh, said that a united coalition government would have weighty problems to deal with, not the least of which would be the economic and social problems. If such a government could not begin to cope with these prob-

lems at once, early elections would be preferable in order to get the kind of government that would be responsive to these needs.

The Histadrut's daily, *Davar*, stated that however urgent the establishment of a new coalition was, it should not be formed "at any price, at the demand of each and every small coalition partner." Without Begin at the helm, the editorial continued, "the magic has passed and the glue has run out."

Comments by people on the street quoted by the Israeli media have been along predictable political and ethnic lines. In general, the Sephardim tend to regard Begin as a "father" who they thought would never desert them. A resident of Kiryat Shmoneh, a predominantly Sephardic town, referred to the "panic" among the residents following the first reports of Begin's intention to resign.

KOHL CANCELS VISIT TO ISRAEL

BONN, Aug. 31 (JTA) -- Chancellor Helmut Kohl has cancelled his scheduled trip to Israel, which was to have begun today, in the aftermath of Premier Menachem Begin's resignation from office. A government spokesman said Kohl hopes to go to Israel later this year, but that it was unlikely he would visit Israel before his scheduled tour of Arab countries starting early October.

The government spokesman, Peter Boenisch, told a press conference yesterday that the main purpose of Kohl's visit was to pursue friendship and reconciliation between the two countries. The major obstacle threatening West German-Israeli relations is the possible sale of advanced Leopard tanks to Saudi Arabia, a move which Israel said would threaten its national security.

A visit at this time by Kohl, when Israel is politically tense over Begin's resignation, would not be conducive to relaxed talks about friendship and reconciliation, Boenisch said.

Meanwhile, before Kohl announced his decision to cancel his visit to Israel, the Arab ambassadors in Bonn published a statement warning the Chancellor not to extend additional financial aid to Israel during his talks in Jerusalem. The envoys said that such aid, if given, would contribute to Israel's policy of "aggression and terrorism."

However, no one in any official capacity in Bonn knew of any plans to increase financial aid to Israel, which now stand at 140 million Marks annually in long-term loans. West German diplomats expressed dismay at the warning by the Arabs.

NICARAGUA ASSURES ADL IT WILL RETURN COUNTRY'S ONLY SYNAGOGUE TO ITS CONGREGATION

NEW YORK, Aug. 31 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith today said it welcomes the Nicaraguan government's assurance that the country's only synagogue will be given back to its congregation.

The pledge for the synagogue's return and other assurances relating to Nicaraguan Jews were made by Antonio Jarquin, the Nicaraguan Ambassador to the United States, at a meeting with six ADL leaders in Washington. The diplomat acknowledged during the meeting that a mistake had been made when authorities seized the synagogue following the July, 1979, Sandinist revolution.

In response to Jarquin's remarks, Kenneth Bialkin, ADL's national chairman, stated that the "record of the government of Nicaragua will be determined by actions, not assertions. . . . Nicaragua should do what is right, just and fair, acting on the basis of facts."

The meeting was held to discuss charges made by ADL last May that the Nicaraguan Jewish community had fled because of Sandinist anti-Semitism and the confiscation of Jewish-owned property, including the synagogue. The ADL had first raised the issues in a private meeting with Nicaragua's Foreign Minister, Miguel d'Escoto, in October, 1981.

Substantive Response To Complaints

According to Abraham Foxman, ADL's associate national director and head of its International Affairs Division, Jarquin's statements were the first substantive responses to ADL's complaints. Foxman said that positive elements in the Ambassador's remarks included the following:

He denounced anti-Semitism as "morally reprehensible" and declared it is contrary to Nicaraguan law; pledged to clarify the status of Jews in exile by informing ADL of any charges pending against them and said those who have no charges against them would be welcomed back to Nicaragua; and suggested that those who have no charges against them should petition the Ministry of Justice for the return of their confiscated property, as has been successfully done by some other Nicaraguans.

At the meeting, Bialkin urged that the government of Nicaragua take specific steps to insure the security of Jews wishing to rejoin the few members of the Jewish community who remained in the country despite intimidation.

Nicaraguan Jews Plan To File Complaint

Jarquin was also told that some Nicaraguan Jews plan to file complaints with the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights charging that their property was confiscated without trial on the basis of false allegations.

The ADL group requested that Nicaragua allow the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, an international tribunal, to be the final arbiter over any human rights violations found by the Commission. This procedure, it was pointed out, is consistent with the American Convention on Human Rights to which Nicaragua is a signatory.

SHULTZ: U.S. INTENDS TO AID GEMAYEL IN HIS NEW INITIATIVE AND DEAL WITH NEW ISRAELI GOVT. WHEN IT IS FORMED

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz declared, at a press conference at the State Department today, that the United States intends to help Lebanese President Amin Gemayel in his new initiative to restore order in his country, and also that the United States will deal with a new Israeli Government when it is formed.

In a prepared statement, Shultz said: "As we all know, there has been widespread fighting recently throughout Beirut and its suburbs. At present we are advised by the Lebanese central authorities that effective measures are being taken to restore order. We all pray that they will be successful."

Shultz said "a historic problem in Lebanon has been to find a formula for reconciliation of the various communal and confessional groups. President Gemayel has been working hard to do just that throughout his tenure in office. Today, with his Council of Ministers, he issued a call for key Lebanese leaders to join in a dialogue aimed at constituting a new national ap-

proach to reconciliation and unity." Shultz said that the United States "firmly supports this effort" and that it is consistent with President Reagan's firm policy of support for an independent Lebanon, and withdrawal of all foreign forces with security arrangements for Israel's northern border. Shultz added that "we intend to help President Gemayel in his new initiative in every way possible through our own efforts and through cooperation in the multinational force with France, Italy and Great Britain."

He also said, "We call upon the international community in general and particularly on Syria, which has the largest army in Lebanon, to respect and support this process."

The Secretary of State affirmed that the United States will continue to provide training and support for the Lebanese armed forces and for the MNF and the United States marine contingent of that force, as well as active diplomatic efforts. Shultz stated emphatically, "Let no one doubt that if attacked, the marines will take care of themselves with vigor."

Shultz said that "the problems of Lebanon, important in their own right, are at the same time a part of the greater question of peace for the Middle East." He said that President Reagan's September 1, 1982 peace initiative is still valid and "a workable basis for negotiating." He added that "any serious efforts in the days ahead, must return to these fundamentals" of the Camp David accords and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

During the question and answer session, Shultz stated that the U.S. has "no plan under consideration at the moment to change the size or role or mission of the multinational force or the United States marine contingent of it ... when the process of withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon really gets under way, questions can be raised about changes in the role the MNF might undertake."

Shultz also said he has no plans to go to the Middle East after his upcoming scheduled trip to Madrid. However, he described Reagan's special envoy Robert McFarlane and Ambassador Richard Fairbanks as "very competent people, doing an outstanding job, and handling the situation well."

Reaction To Begin's Resignation

Shultz, asked about the implications of Premier Begin's planned resignation, declared that in his dealings with the Premier, he found him to be "a person of clear strong mind, vigorous, he was a gentlemanly person to deal with, and I wish him well."

Shultz disclosed that last spring "we were close to a Palestinian participation" on negotiations "that would have reinvigorated the negotiating process that failed at the last minute, but perhaps we can bring it back."

FORMER CIC MEMBER AND FRENCH RESISTANCE FIGHTER SHOCKED BY JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT ON BARBIE

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 31 (JTA) -- A former member of the U.S. Army's Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) who was responsible for gathering and preparing information on Nazi war criminals in Europe immediately after World War II, said here today that he was "shocked" by a Justice Department report which said CIC officials in Europe had been unaware of the activities of Klaus Barbie when the U.S. hired him for intelligence activities.

Michel Thomas, a Jewish French resistance fighter who was employed by the CIC from 1944-

1947, said his responsibilities included setting up "information nets" and finding and apprehending for trial alleged war criminals. He said that while in Munich, working in the CIC office in 1945, he had established an "extensive" file on gestapo officials with profiles and activity reports, including detailed information on the activities and locations of those individuals.

One of those gestapo officials who he maintained a file on was Barbie, the notorious "butcher of Lyon." Thomas told a press conference at the Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Center. "The Barbie report was a short one, but stated that he was wanted by the French as a war criminal and for crimes against humanity," Thomas said. "Most of the information in those profiles, which I personally prepared, had been obtained during interrogation of captured gestapo officials."

Because of these existing files in Munich, Thomas said, he was shocked by the Justice Department report issued August 16 in Washington which said the decision to employ Barbie "was a defensible one (which) depends upon the fact that the persons who made those decisions cannot be charged with knowledge that Barbie committed, or likely committed, or was wanted for, war crimes or crimes against humanity."

The Justice Department study was conducted by Allan Ryan Jr., a special assistant in the criminal division of the Department and the former head of the Office of Special Investigation, responsible for investigating and prosecuting Nazi war criminals living in the United States.

His 218-page report and its more than 600 pages in supporting documents admitted for the first time that U.S. intelligence employed Barbie from 1947 to 1951 and then helped him flee from Germany to South America where he lived until last February when he was returned from Bolivia to France. He currently awaits trial for "crimes against humanity."

Report Called 'Morally Unacceptable'

The Wiesenthal Center, meanwhile, called the Justice Department report "morally unacceptable" and asserted that after discussions with Thomas, found it containing "inaccuracies and omissions." The Center said it takes "strong exception" to a statement by Ryan in the conclusion of the report which said, "I cannot conclude that those who made the decision to employ and rely on Klaus Barbie ought now to be vilified for the decision."

The Center, in a prepared statement, said: "The history of the gestapo was and forever will be associated with genocide. To employ an individual whose very organization was dedicated to the mass murder of Jews cannot be defended under any pretext." Furthermore, the Center described as "morally disgraceful" Ryan's assertion that "whatever his crimes, he (Barbie) has never been in the same category as Adolph Eichmann ... and other SS leaders."

The Center has called on Congress to establish a bi-partisan, independent inquiry into the "entire issue of all U.S. utilization of Nazi war criminals after World War II." The request for a congressional inquiry has received the support of California Democratic Representatives Mel Levine and Howard Berman.

The Center released at the press conference a packet of documents, some of them marked confidential, supporting Thomas' statements that he was employed by the CIC and his particular responsibilities. He emigrated to the United States after his service with the CIC and lives in New York State. His family died at the Auschwitz concentration camp.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE END OF AN ERA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 31 (JTA) — Menachem Begin won a stunning upset over the ruling Labor Party in the 1977 elections to become the nation's first non-Labor Premier after having been in the opposition for 29 years.

Finally, at the age of 64, Begin felt that his political and social views had been vindicated and that, despite the bitter attacks against him and his colleagues in the Knesset by the successive Labor Party governments, the majority of the people of Israel were on his side.

Begin felt exhilarated and exuberant, filled with dreams of putting his Revisionist Zionist philosophy into practice. Six years later, at the age of 70, Begin resigned from office, physically ill, psychologically depressed and proclaiming that "I cannot bear the responsibility any longer."

In the interim period Begin led his country to a peace agreement with Egypt and to a controversial war in Lebanon. He handed back the entire Sinai to Egypt but strengthened Israel's hold on the administered territories. Under his Premiership, Israel annexed the Golan Heights, but stopped short of annexing the West Bank.

Begin Was a Fighter

Begin was a fighter, if not always a diplomatic one. He took on President Hafez Assad of Syria, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France, Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, and derided and rejected President Reagan's peace initiative.

But at the end of his reign, Begin seemed to have lost that combativeness and began to acquiesce to most American requests, including the latest one that Israel delay the redeployment of its troops in Lebanon.

The agreed-to delay came after the two U.S. marines had been killed and eight others wounded in the Beirut area by heavy shelling between Shiite Moslems and Christian Phalangists. Observers noted that it would have been difficult for Israel to reject the requested delay because if any further American casualties had occurred after an Israeli refusal, Israel might be blamed for further American deaths.

Affected By A Number Of Events

Begin leaves his office as a man who had grown weary of the petty infighting and bickering among the Cabinet ministers, especially in the past few weeks, sparked by the mounting toll of Israeli soldiers killed and wounded in Lebanon and by an austerity economic package proposed by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor.

Close associates of Begin said he was grieved by the death of 517 Israel soldiers and the wounding of more than 2,000. He termed the war in Lebanon a "tragedy" and admitted that he had never anticipated that the war would become a quagmire.

In the past year Begin suffered two tragedies: his beloved wife Aliza died last November while he was in the United States, and his close friend and political partner, Simcha Ehrlich, died in June.

Distressed By Economic Crisis

Begin was also reportedly distressed by the nation's economic crisis, the complexities of which were not within his grasp. He never claimed to understand economic problems and left all that work up to the ministers in charge, first and foremost, Aridor. At first Aridor's economic policy enabled

the Likud to win office for the second time in 1981. Those economic policies created an atmosphere of prosperity, with major consumer goods flooding the market at prices available even to low income families.

But those policies began to fail, inflation ran as high as 140 percent annually and the deficit in the balance of payments mounted. Even Aridor realized this month that this situation could not go on, and he waged a desperate debate with his colleagues to cut 55 billion Shekels out of this year's government budget. The budget crisis was one of the key reasons prompting Begin to resign, although not the main reason.

Dogged By Failures And Disappointments

Other political failures and disappointments dogged Begin. The peace agreement he signed with President Anwar Sadat began to break down and finally stalled altogether. The autonomy talks were dead-ended because Israel and Egypt were at odds over the degree of autonomy to be granted to the Palestinians on the West Bank. While Begin believed in autonomy "for the people, not for the land," Egypt viewed autonomy as a stepping stone toward a Palestinian state. Egypt, infuriated with the autonomy stalemate and the war in Lebanon, recalled its Ambassador.

Begin also leaves behind an Israeli society more divided than ever: religious against the secular, Sephardim against Ashkenazim, Jews against Arabs. These divisions have caused violence: Sephardic Jews attacking Ashkenazic property and daubing them with slogans reminiscent of Nazi Germany; ultra-Orthodox Jews attacking secular archaeologists; the murder of Peace Now activist Emil Grunzweig during a demonstration following the report of the Kahan Commission on the massacre of civilians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps; the killing and wounding of Arab students at the Islamic College in Hebron; and the attempted assassinations of three West Bank Arab mayors.

Seeks To Dispel Hardline Image

At the beginning of his Premiership, Begin seemed to go out of his way to dispel the image of him as a hardliner. From his sick bed (he suffered from a heart condition) Begin called up Laborite Moshe Dayan and invited him to become Foreign Minister. The move paid off — Dayan was instrumental in achieving the peace agreement with Egypt. Begin's hardline image concerning his views of Israel's Arab neighbors was also dispelled when he and Sadat forged the historic Camp David accords, along with President Carter.

But at the same time, Begin gave the green light for the rapid construction of settlements in the West Bank, creating a situation described by many as "irreversible," from the point of view of leaving the door open for future negotiations with Jordan.

Begin's hardline image also re-emerged when he ordered the bombing of the nuclear reactor in Iran and the invasion of Lebanon. The invasion, during which the massacre at the refugee camps by Phalangist forces took place while Israeli troops were nearby, left Begin with the political stigma that he headed a government which did not know how to prevent such an atrocity.

Neither Israel nor his Herut Party and the Likud coalition he headed will ever be the same again without Begin. For six years he was the cement that held together the building blocks of diverse elements. In the end, history was stronger than the individual, but the individual — Begin — contributed a great deal to that history. With his resignation, an era has come to an end.