

THE TASK OF FORMING A NEW GOVERNMENT By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Sept. 5 (JTA) — The arduous task of putting together a new Likud-led government in the aftermath of Premier Menachem Begin's resignation last week is expected to continue until well after the High Holy Days. Begin, who had been expected to submit his formal letter of resignation to President Chaim Herzog over the weekend, has postponed doing so at least until after Rosh Hashanah. He is apparently anxious to give Likud more time to complete negotiations with its constituent parties.

But the smaller coalition parties, aware of their strong bargaining positions, have delayed signing a coalition agreement and are laying down conditions for their participation in a new government which now has an excellent chance of being headed by Yitzhak Shamir, now the Foreign Minister. This has created an air of uncertainty.

Shamir was elected by the 900-member Herut Central Committee late Thursday night to succeed Begin. He defeated his rival, Deputy Premier David Levy, by a vote of 436-302 in what was described as an upset victory resulting from massive efforts by the Herut party machine.

Coalition chairman Avraham Shapira of the Aguda Israel party announced later that all coalition partners had signed a letter to Herzog asking him to call on Shamir to form a new government once he has Begin's resignation.

A Coalition Tactic

But the "letter of intent" appeared to be only a coalition tactic to forestall the possibility of Herzog calling on Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres to form a new government. The Labor Alignment is the largest Knesset faction, commanding 50 seats to Likud's 46. That situation accounts for the bargaining strength of the smaller parties — Aguda Israel, Tehiya, National Religious Party and Tami — whose combined votes give the government its Knesset majority.

The ministerial negotiating team, headed by Levy, met Monday with representatives of the coalition partners. But fears were expressed in Likud circles that the task is growing more and more complicated. One reason is that the NRP and Tami seem to be considering an alternative coalition and their representatives have been negotiating openly with Labor.

The four Aguda MKs have also spoken in favor of "negotiating" with the Alignment. Mordechai Ben Porat of Telem, a Minister-Without-Portfolio, is scheduled to meet with Peres in an effort to convince the Labor leader to join Likud in a national unity government.

Some Difficulties Ahead

Shamir, meanwhile, met with the coalition parties Sunday in what was described as an "atmosphere of animosity and suspicion." The fact that no coalition agreement has been signed more than a week after Begin announced his intention to resign has worried Likud. Begin, by hinting that

he might turn in his resignation to the President at any time, seemed to be putting pressure on his coalition partners to strike a deal quickly.

Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai of Likud's Liberal Party wing, said Monday that if a coalition agreement had been signed immediately after Begin announced he would resign, a new government could have been formed without delay. As matters stand now, there are difficulties, he said.

A senior Herut source was quoted by Yediot Achronot Monday as saying "Things are not that simple. We are no longer that confident that Shamir will succeed in forming a government."

But Deputy Premier Levy has discounted the negotiations between the smaller coalition elements and Labor. He said there was no reason to panic because Likud's partners were talking to the opposition. He said he fully trusted earlier statements by the partners that they preferred to be members of a Likud-led coalition than one headed by Labor.

Alignment Expresses Cautious Optimism

Nevertheless, the coalition partners, except the ultra-nationalist Tehiya, are continuing discussions with Labor Alignment leaders. Alignment sources expressed "cautious optimism" that their prospects of forming a new government were no less than Likud's. Six Likud Liberals and representatives of the NRP and Tami have indicated they are at least considering such a possibility.

Tami, whose constituency is the Sephardic community, said it would press Likud for full implementation of the social clauses in the coalition platform still to be hammered out. Aguda Israel spokesmen said their signatures on a coalition agreement depended on "Full and complete fulfillment of all outstanding coalition agreements," including the controversial "Who is a Jew" issue which is opposed by Liberal Party members.

Another Troubling Factor

Another troubling factor is reports of a deal between Shamir and former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, now a Minister-Without-Portfolio, according to which Sharon was promised the chairmanship of the influential Ministerial Settlement Committee. That would put him in charge of settlement activities on the West Bank.

This is opposed by the Liberals, who want the post for their man, Minister of Agriculture-designate Pessal Grupper, and by Tehiya, which wants it for their leader, Science Minister Yuval Neeman.

Moreover, a comeback by Sharon is strongly opposed by Liberal Party doves headed by Yitzhak Berman and Dror Seigeman. Levy, for his part, has promised to support Shamir despite their bitter rivalry for the Likud leadership before the party vote last Thursday. Shamir has vowed to continue the policies laid down by Begin. He said he regarded his appointment as a "temporary trusteeship" which he would readily hand back to Begin whenever the latter wishes.

It is considered unlikely that Begin, who recently turned 70 and is not in the best of health, would agree to resume the Premiership at a later date. There were reports this week, however, that Begin does not intend to withdraw entirely from political life for

the time being. According to the reports, he will continue to serve as a Knesset member.

PROFILE OF SHAMIR By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 5 (JTA) -- If Yitzhak Shamir becomes Israel's next Premier, he will certainly follow in Menachem Begin's footsteps as a strong willed fighter for a safe and secure Israel. His background and training is similar to Begin's.

Both men were born in Poland where they were active in the Revisionist Zionist movement founded by Zeev Jabotinsky. Both men were also active in the underground movement in Palestine against the British, although Begin was the leader of the Irgun and Shamir was a leader in the Stern Group.

But in many other ways, Shamir differs from Begin in one and personal style. The short, moustached 68-year-old Shamir, with his heavy eyebrows and ready smile, is friendlier and more diplomatic than Begin, does not share Begin's penchant for ceremonies, lacks a sense of humor and has a liking for secrets, perhaps a carryover from his days in the Stern Group and the Mossad.

Shamir was born in Ruzinov, a small Hasidic village in eastern Poland. His family name was Jezenicki. He graduated from the Bialystock Hebrew Gymnasium and then studied law at the University of Warsaw.

Jailed Several Times By The British

Shamir went to Palestine in 1935 at the age of 20, where he continued to study law at the Hebrew University but soon became involved in local political activities. He first joined the Irgun Zvai Leumi. Three years later, when Abraham Stern left the Irgun to form his own, more radical group, Lohamei Herut Yisrael (Lehi), Shamir joined that group.

Shamir was jailed by the British several times, first in Mizra, near Acre, then in Latrun, near Jerusalem, and eventually in Eritrea. When the State was established the Stern Group was suspected of murdering Count Folke Bernadotte of Sweden, a United Nations representative who was pressing a plan to partition Palestine between a Jewish and an Arab state.

In 1955, Shamir joined the Mossad where he worked for the next 10 years, making Paris his main base of operation. In 1970 he joined the Herut Party which was headed by Begin. He was elected to the Eighth Knesset in 1973 and two years later became chairman of the Herut Executive and in effect the party's number two man. When the Likud came to power in 1977, Shamir was named Knesset Speaker. After Moshe Dayan resigned from the Cabinet in 1979, Shamir replaced him as Foreign Minister.

Criticized For Passivity During Lebanon War

When the Knesset approved the Camp David accords, Shamir abstained because he was suspicious of the terms of the treaty, a suspicion he continues to harbor. Prior to the war in Lebanon he maintained a strong standing among his Cabinet colleagues and was considered Begin's heir apparent. However, his passivity during the war, leaving Defense Minister Ariel Sharon free to guide the military activity in Lebanon and influencing the Foreign Ministry, lost Shamir some of his standing and credit in the Cabinet. He justified his passivity, saying: "When the guns thunder,

diplomacy keeps silent." The Kahan Commission which investigated the massacre of Palestinian civilians at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps reprimanded Shamir, saying that "he erred in not taking any measures" to help prevent the tragedy, after another minister had warned him about the Christian Phalangist actions in the camps.

If Shamir becomes Premier, he is expected to adopt a policy similar to that of Begin. And with the aid of a strengthened Sharon, it might even be more hawkish.

IDF REDEPLOYED TO NEW DEFENSE LINE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 5 (JTA) -- Israeli soldiers were safely dug in on their new defense line along the Awali River in south Lebanon this week after successfully completing a hazardous withdrawal Saturday night and Sunday from the Shouf mountains and the vicinity of Beirut without a hitch and without casualties or accidents.

But fierce new fighting developed in the wake of the Israeli departure between Christian Phalangists and Druze and Syrian-backed leftist forces for control of the evacuated area. Two U.S. marines of the multinational force were slightly injured in the shelling of the Beirut airport area Monday. They brought to four the number of marine casualties sustained in the renewed fighting which coincided with the Israeli pullback.

Reject Last Minute Appeal By The U.S.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens, praising the "perfect order" in which the Israeli withdrawal was carried out, disclosed at a press conference Sunday night that Israel had received -- and rejected -- a last minute appeal by the U.S. to delay its departure from central Lebanon.

This was confirmed by Administration spokesmen in Washington. Israel had agreed to two earlier requests by the U.S. to postpone the pullback, one as recently as Sunday, August 28, the day Premier Menachem Begin announced his intention to resign.

But the latest request, relayed to Jerusalem Saturday through the Lebanese government came too late for consideration, Arens said. The Israeli soldiers "were already packed up and ready to move," he explained.

The Lebanese army has not yet attempted to move into the Shouf mountains area abandoned by Israel where Druze and Phalangists are battling. The Lebanese forces are confining themselves to attempts to secure control of the coastal road linking Beirut with the new advance Israeli position at a bridge over the Awali River, a few kilometers north of Sidon.

IDF's Two Objectives

Arens said at his press conference that the Israel Defense Force now has two objectives -- to try to ensure that no hostile elements enter the evacuated area, and to avoid harm to local residents. He said the IDF pullback during Saturday night through difficult terrain was carried out "in perfect order. It was a well planned operation and well implemented, in the best tradition of the IDF. Well done to the Chief of Staff and his officers."

Oblique Warning To Syria

The Defense Minister gave an oblique warning to Syria not to attempt to take over the territory abandoned by Israeli forces. He said Damascus was well aware that this would be unacceptable to Israel and he was confident that the Syrians would refrain from any provocation.

An army spokesman reported Saturday night that while Israeli armor and troops were withdrawing, tanks were spotted moving out of Syrian-controlled territory

on the Beirut-Damascus highway in the direction of Beirut. Two Israel Air Force jets protecting the rear echelons of the Israeli column flew three "strafing sorties" against the tanks as a "warning," he said.

The tanks were not identified and the results of the sorties were not disclosed. Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy, who appeared at the press conference with Arens, said the tanks were not manned by Syrian soldiers and that no Syrian intervention was evident during the Israeli withdrawal.

Regret Over Lack Of Accord

Arens expressed regret that no agreement was reached between the Lebanese government and army and the Druze to end the fighting. Such an agreement was the objective of U.S. special envoy Robert McFarlane and it was to give him more time that Washington had urged Israel to delay its pullback.

"We hope that agreement will still be reached," Arens said, "but the shooting we heard behind us does not indicate that this is near." He said the requests that Israel delay its departure from central Lebanon were actually a compliment, indicating that everybody seemed to feel that only the Israeli presence prevented bloodshed.

Arens disclosed that some Israeli tanks and troops were evacuated from Lebanon by sea and taken directly to Israel. He said the IDF would remain in its new positions until Israel was certain that the Lebanese army could control all of its territory and prevent the movement of elements hostile to Israel.

(Appearing on a pre-taped interview on the ABC-TV "This Week With David Brinkley" program Sunday, Arens stressed that Israel could not stay in Lebanon indefinitely and that ultimate responsibility for peace, law and order rested with the Lebanese government and its army. He said the Israeli pullback was a "test" for the Lebanese forces.)

Awali River Marks The Security Zone

It was not known how many of the 20-25,000 Israeli troops in Lebanon were involved in the pullback. But the soldiers seemed relieved to be safely behind the Awali River. Some are back in Israel. The Awali River line, 28 miles north of the Israeli border, marks the security zone in south Lebanon.

The stated objective of the Israeli incursion into Lebanon in June, 1982 was to secure the zone after having driven Palestine Liberation Organization forces out of rocket and artillery range of towns and villages in northern Israel.

Even after the redeployment, the IDF remains in control of about 1,000 square miles of Lebanese territory with a population of 95,000 Palestinians, 65,000 Lebanese Christians, 30,000 Druze, 60,000 Sunni Moslems, and 270,000 Shiite Moslems, most of them resentful of the Israeli presence.

JEWISH LEADERS EXPRESS GRIEF, SORROW OVER JACKSON'S DEATH By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Sept. 5 (JTA) -- American Jewish leaders and spokesmen for major Jewish organizations have expressed grief and sorrow over the death of Sen. Henry Jackson (D. Wash.) last Thursday night. Jackson, one of Israel's staunchest supporters in the Senate and a champion of Jewish causes, died after a massive heart attack at the age of 71 in Everett, Washington.

In their statements the Jewish leaders noted Jackson's consistent support of Israel and the fact that he was one of the sponsors of the Jackson-Vanik amendment, tying American economic concessions and benefits to the Soviet Union with the Kremlin's policies on Soviet Jewish emigration.

Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Meir Rosenne, said: "It is painful to think of America, Washington, the U.S. Congress and U.S.-Israeli relations without 'Scoop' Jackson. All of us have lost a pillar of strength, wisdom, human kindness, energy and friendship.

"Israel and the Jews all over the world, especially in the Soviet Union, have lost a gigantic supporter. His ceaseless efforts on behalf of Israel's security and well-being will always be cherished by the entire Israeli nation."

Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said: "American Jewry is deeply saddened by the passing of an ardent champion of human rights and a loyal friend of the State of Israel, Senator Henry Jackson.

"His forceful advocacy of freedom for Soviet Jewry, his leadership in the battle for human rights against all forms of totalitarianism and his outspoken support of Israel in the chambers of the Senate for more than two decades have earned him the eternal gratitude of the Jewish people. We join with all Americans in mourning this noble statesman."

Paul Zuckerman, a member of the Jewish Agency Board and a former United Jewish Appeal national chairman, recalled his personal 25-year friendship with Jackson. "I remember how he once told me, with tears in his eyes, that as an officer in the U.S. army he entered the concentration camps in 1943 and he confessed that 'I've had a nightmarish dream almost every night of my life since'."

In 1972, Zuckerman said, "the Jackson-Vanik bill was born in my living room at three o'clock in the morning. We were trying to arrive at a way to loosen up the immigration of the Jews from Russia and we agreed that Most Favored Nation (MFN) status might be held out as an incentive. The Jackson-Vanik bill was passed finally in 1974 and it worked for a while where-by over 250,000 Jews escaped from Russia. Russia never did get MFN privileges because it did not live up to other phases of the bill."

Other Jewish leaders who recalled that Jackson spoke out forthrightly in behalf of Israel and was a consistent critic of the Soviet oppression of its Jewish citizens, included: Howard Friedman, president, American Jewish Committee; Kenneth Bialkin and Nathan Perlmuter, national chairman and national director, respectively, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; Dr. Daniel Thursz, executive vice president, B'nai B'rith International; Seymour Lachman, chairman, Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry; Raymond Patt, president, American Zionist Federation; Howard Squadron, president, American Jewish Congress; Sam Rothberg, general chairman, Israel Bond Organization; Rabbi Avraham Weiss, chairman, Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry.

Charlotte Jacobson, president, Jewish National Fund; Eryk Spektor, national chairman, Herut Zionists of America; Harold Jacobs, president, National Council of Young Israel; Alleck Resnick, president, Zionist Organization of America; Rabbi William Berkowitz, president, American Jewish Heritage Committee.

BEGIN'S ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE

JERUSALEM, Sept. 5 (JTA) -- The following message from Menachem Begin on the occasion of Rosh Hashanah, 5744, was issued here several days before he announced his resignation as Premier:

5743 was a difficult and painful year. With all our hearts, we pay homage to the precious sons of our people who gave their lives to assure the security of the northern part of our country. We pray for the recovery of those wounded in this fight against a cruel enemy.

As we look at the events of the past and anticipate the days and months ahead, there is cause for some comfort and satisfaction.

During this year we signed an agreement with Lebanon terminating the state of war. Lebanon is the second of our immediate neighbors to sign such an agreement with us. Much remains to be done to give effect to the letter and spirit of that agreement. But the foundation has been laid.

We respect the integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon and will leave its soil when, as it is understood under the terms of the agreement, all foreign forces will withdraw. Meanwhile, we have begun preparations for the redeployment of our forces for the sake of the security of our men. Our northern neighbor will have to see to it that Lebanon is never again used as a springboard for attack against our population.

Need To Confront The PLO Menace

Preventing the return of the PLO is essential not only for us. It is vital to the future stability of Lebanon, which has at last been partially freed from the domination of that barbaric force.

Gradually the Western world realizes that the PLO, operating from Beirut, was the center of international terrorism, undermining stability around the globe. On the basis of our experience, we urge the free democratic world to confront this menace until it is overcome.

Some Positive Indications

As we enter the New Year, there are positive indications that we may expect some developments in our foreign relations. Nations that had severed their ties with Israel ten years ago are now considering the restoration of normal diplomatic relations. And we are especially pleased that some of those who moved their embassies out of Jerusalem are returning. We hope it will not be long before all of them do so. The day will surely come when all nations with whom we have normal diplomatic relations will recognize that Jerusalem is the capital of our country and that their embassies should be here.

We derive satisfaction from the growing acceptance of our people's right to live in Judea and Samaria. Our presence there is not an obstacle to peace but, on the contrary, an encouragement to peaceful coexistence. We have always maintained that there is adequate room for Jews and Arabs to live together in mutual respect, in dignity and in peace.

Let us now apply ourselves to the tasks of strengthening our people residing in the land. We must strive for greater unity of purpose within the diversity of opinion in our democratic society. Let us combine all our forces into one strong nation -- veterans and newcomers, Sephardim and Ashkenazim, city-dwellers and the farming community, religious and non-observant. We are all part of this great ancient and renewed House of Israel.

There are still large numbers of our brethren who yearn to join us, but are prevented from doing so by the hostile policies of their governments in the Soviet Union, Iran, Ethiopia and Syria. Again we urge the leaders of those nations to let our people go. They are not hostages, they are not refugees; they do seek to exercise their elementary human right to repatriation.

And our brethren in the free world should know that the greatest contribution they can make to the Israel they love is to come here and share in its development and its upbuilding.

Strengthened in numbers, in spirit and in resolve, we shall ensure that our beloved Eretz Israel will endure, will flourish and will shine for all generations to come.

As we enter the New Year 5744, my heartfelt greetings go out to the entire Jewish people from our eternal capital, Jerusalem.

TANYA LEVICH DEAD AT 66

NEW YORK, Sept. 5 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held in Tel Aviv last Thursday for Tanya Levich, 66, the wife of Dr. Benjamin Levich, world renowned physical chemist and the most prominent Jewish scientist ever to emigrate from the Soviet Union. It was reported here over the weekend.

Mrs. Levich (Tatiana Solomonovna Rubinstein) died August 28 in Locarno, Switzerland, after a short illness. The Leviches had been in Europe on vacation before Dr. Levich was to resume his dual teaching responsibilities as Albert Einstein Professor of Science at the City College of the City University of New York and as a faculty member of Tel Aviv University.

Mrs. Levich, a gifted writer and translator with an excellent command of English, was born in Moscow and lived there until 1978. For almost seven years she and her husband endured the frustrations of life as refugees, having been denied permission to emigrate to Israel when they applied in 1972.

Dr. Levich, a corresponding member of the prestigious Soviet Academy of Sciences, head of a department in the Academy's Institute for Electrochemistry, and a professor at Moscow University, was dismissed from his teaching posts. Although their two sons, Alexander and Evgeni, were allowed to leave in 1975, the Leviches had to wait three more years before they were given exit visas thanks to the continued efforts of Western scientists, political leaders and Jewish human rights organizations.

Despite her poor health as a result of those stressful years, Mrs. Levich maintained her zest for living and sense of humor.

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BONN (JTA) -- Various labor and youth organizations and the Jewish community of Lower Saxony have protested against a decision by the town of Fallingb. to rent a hall to the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NDP) for its national convention October 1-2. The Central Trade Union (DGB) and other groups announced they will organize a protest march on those dates to the former Nazi concentration camp of Bergen-Belsen. Youth organizations and others will participate in protest demonstrations in Fallingb. b. o. s. t. e. l.

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REMINDER: There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated September 9, Rosh Hashanah.