

COHEN-ORGAD WINS CABINET, KNESSET APPROVAL AS THE NEW FINANCE MINISTER
By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Yigal Cohen-Orgad was sworn in as Finance Minister today after winning the Cabinet's unanimous endorsement and Knesset approval by a vote of 60-48 of his appointment by Premier Yitzhak Shamir.

He is the 10th Finance Minister since the State was founded and takes office in the midst of its worst economic crisis. He reportedly told Shamir, before his appointment was officially announced, that his first task would be to restore public trust in the Israeli economy.

Cohen-Orgad, a 46-year-old Herut hawk, replaces Yoram Aridor who resigned last Thursday under heavy fire from Likud colleagues and the opposition for his economic policies. Cohen-Orgad's economic policies, whatever they are, have yet to become an issue. But his selection by Shamir for a senior Cabinet post threatened to raise a political storm in Likud's Liberal Party wing which had expected the Treasury portfolio.

The Liberal Party's problem was its inability to agree on a candidate. Both Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Minister of Commerce and Industry Gideon Patt aspired to be Finance Minister and each threatened an internal crisis if the other was nominated. A Herut leader, Deputy Premier David Levy, flatly rejected the job when it was offered to him last week.

Shamir Threatened To Resign

Shamir reportedly told a Liberal Party deputation yesterday that he had run out of patience and decided to appoint Cohen-Orgad. "My decision is final and irreversible," he was quoted as saying.

Liberal threats to oppose Cohen-Orgad in the Cabinet and Knesset evaporated quickly when Shamir reportedly told them that if they did, he would immediately hand in his resignation. That would have meant early elections which Likud and its coalition partners are determined to avoid. (See analysis, P. 4.)

Shamir is considered likely to compensate the Liberals if only to keep the peace within Likud. There was speculation today that Mordechai will be appointed Deputy Premier and Levy would be made Foreign Minister, the portfolio Shamir retains. The Housing Ministry, which Levy presently heads, was expected to go either to Levy's deputy, Moshe Katzarov, or to Michael Dekel, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

But Liberal Party sources have already indicated they would not be satisfied with this arrangement. Mordechai has made it clear that he wants to be Foreign Minister and Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor said today that he, too, considers himself a candidate for that office.

U.S. MARINE KILLED IN LEBANON DESCRIBED AS A 'VERY PROUD JEW'
By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Marine Sgt. Allan Soifert, killed last Friday by sniper fire as he drove his jeep through a Shiite Moslem dominated sector of south Beirut, was described today as a "very proud Jew."

"He didn't hide his Judaism and everyone knew he was Jewish," said Soifert's stepfather, Chaim Romer, in a telephone interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Romer said his stepson was an active member of the Jewish community in his hometown of Nashua, New Hampshire, where Soifert was buried today.

The 25 year-old marine is believed to be the first Jewish American soldier killed in Lebanon as part of the U.S. contingent in the multinational force. Romer stressed that Soifert viewed his participation in the MNF as a purely military endeavor. Soifert served as a bomb disposal expert.

Willing To Fight For Peace

At funeral services today at the Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua, Soifert was eulogized "as a marine who was even willing to sacrifice his own life for peace so that others could live." Rabbi Shlomo Hochberg of the Montifiore Synagogue in Lowell, Mass., who delivered one of the eulogies, said:

"Allan is not only a national hero but a personal hero. The telephone calls of sympathy have come not only from the President, the Governor and the marine commander, but from childhood friends and teachers who remember Allan."

Soifert was born in Toronto, Canada, and became a naturalized U.S. citizen. He dropped out of high school in 1977 to join the marines. He served a six-month tour of duty in Lebanon last year. He visited Nashua last July and said he had volunteered for a second tour of duty in Lebanon.

McFARLANE PROVIDES SOME CLUES ON WHERE U.S. POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS HEADING
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Robert McFarlane's appointment yesterday to replace William Clark as Assistant to President Reagan for National Security Affairs came as the Administration was beginning a high level review of the United States' policy in the Middle East.

After Reagan announced the appointment at the White House, McFarlane, who has been special Middle East envoy since July 22, told reporters he believes in continuity in U.S. Mideast policy. But he noted that he saw his job as "not to be an advocate, but to be a coordinator."

At the same time, he gave some clues as to where that policy is going when he was asked whether the Administration was concerned about the Palestinian people. He replied that that concern was reflected in Reagan's September 1, 1982 Mideast peace initiative. "The history of the Palestinian community like that of the Lebanese is a very sad history," McFarlane said.

He said there were a "number of ideas in progress" for improving the conditions of the Palestinians in Lebanon and on the West Bank. While not going into details, he said the Palestinians are in a state of "flux" and the U.S. "has opportunities it has not had until now." Repeating that Palestinian history was "sad," he declared: "It's time to stop reading about it and try to make a little of it."

At the same time, McFarlane, who has been Deputy Assistant for National Security Affairs under Clark, stressed that he believes in a "strong" U.S.-

Israeli relationship. "I have always felt that way and I shall remain to think that way." He also noted that the U.S. was "concerned" about Israel's economic difficulties and would welcome exchanges with Israel about means of helping to alleviate it.

McFarlane also stressed that a "strong relationship is vital to the security of American interests in the Middle East." But he maintained that reports that during his negotiations in Lebanon saying he tilted to one side or the other were completely untrue. There has been "no tilt to anybody," he said.

McFarlane revealed the U.S. method of trying to bring Syria into support of the present efforts to reach a national reconciliation among the various religious groups in Lebanon and the eventual withdrawal of all foreign forces from that country. He said the U.S. sought to "intensify and make more frequent our talks" with the Syrians. "We're looking for common ground that can lead to Syria's interests being accommodated without prejudicing the well-being of Lebanon," he said.

Determined To Keep Marines In Lebanon

Both Reagan and McFarlane made clear the Administration's determination to keep the U.S. marines in Lebanon despite the casualties they have suffered. Reagan said the marines are there because it is "vitally important for the security of the United States and the Western world that we do everything we can to further the peace process in the Middle East."

While saying the "loss of life is unacceptable," McFarlane said that since the U.S. forces entered Lebanon there have been "some" who have by "threatening, killing" hope to "cause us to pull out. Their expectations are wrong." He did not identify who the "some" are.

He expressed high hopes that the meeting that starts Thursday in Lebanon will bring progress toward national reconciliation because he said the various groups realize that they must compromise since the "alternatives to reconciliation are worse."

Reagan left open who will succeed McFarlane as special Mideast negotiator. He said it will be one of his "hardest tasks" since McFarlane did such an "excellent" job. McFarlane seemed to indicate support for his deputy in the Middle East, Richard Fairbanks, who is still in Beirut. He noted that Fairbanks has conducted as many meetings as has he himself, but he said the decision was up to the President.

A Major Question Raised

A major question raised by the McFarlane appointment is whether it will lead to a renewal of the public squabbles over the Middle East, as well as other issues, between Secretary of State George Shultz and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger or whether McFarlane will be able to control this in his job as "coordinator" of policy. Shultz reportedly had supported McFarlane's appointment, as did Clark, while it had been opposed by Weinberger and Central Intelligence Director William Casey.

McFarlane admitted yesterday that Clark was "as close as any man" to the president. The 45-year-old McFarlane, a retired marine Lt. Col., is basically a staff man who received his first experience in negotiations when he replaced Philip Habib in Lebanon three months ago.

He served in the National Security Council in the Nixon and Ford Administrations and was a staff member of the Senate Armed Services Committee during the Carter Administration.

In the Reagan Administration he was first the State Department counselor under Alexander Haig but when Clark left his post as deputy assistant Secretary of State to go to the White House as National Security Advisor, he took McFarlane with him as his deputy. There, with Clark unfamiliar with military and foreign affairs, McFarlane was credited with the day-to-day administration of affairs.

Both Reagan and McFarlane stressed yesterday that he would have access to the President. But whether this will lead to the continuation of the U.S.-Israeli cooperation that has existed since the May 17 Israeli-Lebanese agreement or whether confrontation will once again be in the forefront, remains to be seen.

REAGAN CONDEMNS USSR FOR THE 12-YEAR SENTENCE IMPOSED ON BEGUN By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- President Reagan today strongly condemned the Soviet Union for the 12-year sentence against Jewish activist Isosif Begun, calling it an "illegal and inhumane act."

In a statement issued at the White House, Reagan accused the Soviet Union of "launching a new campaign of repression against human rights activists" after it had made a commitment to respect human rights "nearly a month" ago at the Madrid conference on compliance with the human rights clauses of the Helsinki accords, of which the Soviet Union is a signatory.

Calling Begun a "courageous Jewish believer," Reagan said "Soviet persecution of religious and political dissidents is not new. In the case of Mr. Begun the Soviet regime has refused for 13 years to honor his request to emigrate to Israel."

Reagan said that "Soviet policy toward Jewish emigration and dissident movements has sunk to a new low of brutality and repression. Anti-Semitism has escalated dramatically as has harassment of other human rights defenders." He said that a Lithuanian Catholic priest, Father Sigita Tankevicius, "is facing a similar fate" to Begun and Oleg Radzinskiy, a Soviet peace activist, has been held for almost a year.

"We condemn these illegal and inhumane acts," Reagan said. "We hold the Soviet Union accountable for its violations of numerous international agreements and accords on human rights to which it is a party. We call upon the Soviets to reverse their inhumane policies and to prove to the world they will back up their words with action, and start living up to their agreements."

SOVIET MISSILES ARRIVED IN SYRIA

TEL AVIV, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Moshe Arens confirmed today that the first consignment of Soviet-made SS-21 ground-to-ground missiles have arrived in Syria, but said they did not radically change the balance of military power in the region.

However, Arens stressed that Israel would have to continue to increase its defense budget because of the massive rearmament of the Arab states. Priority in the national budget must be given to defense, he said.

The SS-21s have a range of about 75 miles, which is less than that of the SCAD missiles already used by the Syrians. But they are more accurate, military sources here said, and can reach targets in much of Israel.

SPECIAL ANALYSIS

THE ROAD AHEAD FOR SHAMIR

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 18 (JTA) — Premier Yitzhak Shamir managed to overcome the first internal crisis that threatened his new government when his nominee for Finance Minister, Yigal Cohen-Orgad, won approval by the Knesset today.

But he did so only after a tough confrontation with Likud's Liberal Party wing which wanted the Treasury portfolio for one of its own men but couldn't agree on a candidate and was forced to back down when Shamir reportedly threatened to resign.

The messy struggle, barely a week after Shamir's government was installed, reflected in many ways the problems of the new coalition and the elements that Shamir must keep in delicate balance if the coalition is to survive.

Among these are interparty rivalries; rivalries within the coalition parties themselves, particularly the Liberals who appear irreparably torn by internal discord; and the ideological dimension epitomized by the ultra-nationalist Tehiya Party and the far right-wing of Herut.

They demonstrated their ability to veto any candidate not to their liking when they easily quashed Likud attempts to bring former Defense Minister Ezer Weizman back into government. Weizman, closely associated with the Camp David accords and the Israel-Egypt peace treaty, is anathema to the far right.

Powerful Desire To Avoid Early Elections

Hovering over the new government like a thunder cloud is the very serious and ongoing economic crisis. It is likely to remain a backdrop to Shamir's administration, at least for the first few months of its tenure.

Yet there is one element on the credit side of Shamir's future balance sheet which may well outweigh all of the difficulties: The new government, despite its lack of cohesion is held together by a powerful desire on the part of all of its components to avoid early elections. That is why, when Shamir reportedly threatened to resign if his nominee for Finance Minister was opposed, a shudder went through coalition ranks.

The relentless haggling for concessions which preceded the coalition's formation and continued during its first week in office, suddenly stopped. Shamir's resignation would have made immediate the prospect of early elections from which the coalition partners recoil in horror.

They are expected to set aside their rivalries and stand fast to defeat a Labor opposition motion for early elections which will soon come before the Knesset.

'Strength Through Weakness Syndrome'

Observers have termed this powerful glue binding together the disparate elements of the Shamir government "the strength through weakness syndrome." It has been an underlying political reality in Israel since the 1981 elections when Likud was returned to office with a razor-thin majority.

The unpopular war in Lebanon, the decline and departure of Menachem Begin and the worsening economic situation have rendered the strength through weakness rationale more powerful in recent months.

Each of the partners in the 64-member Knesset coalition is anxious to put off a confrontation with the electorate as long as legally possible. The govern-

ment's term officially ends in 1985. They are united on this — though on little else — for different reasons.

Likud, by far the largest and strongest component of the coalition, knows that it would be punished by the voters for fouling up the economy and for the embroilment in Lebanon to which no end is in sight.

Israelis, even those not schooled in the complexities of economic theory, realize now that the buying spree of consumer durables encouraged by the government to ensure its re-election in 1981, is proving a costly mistake.

For some, it will cost their jobs as the inevitable recession that lies ahead leads to business failures and unemployment. For everyone, the outlook now is a sudden and drastic lowering of living standards and a period of economic retrenchment and uncertainty.

According to some observers, this is the optimistic prognosis, based on the assumption that the government, with a new Finance Minister, can curb the country's headlong economic decline and restore a modicum of public trust and confidence. Other prognoses are so grim as not to bear thinking about.

As for the involvement in Lebanon, this will be the second winter that Israeli troops, regulars and reservists, find themselves snowbound in that tortured land, not quite understanding why they are there or who their enemy is.

Granted that the recent redeployment from the dangerous Shouf mountains to the south has relieved some political pressure, there is still massive resentment toward the government over what is now widely viewed as an ill-conceived adventure from the start.

Likud, therefore, is plainly interested in postponing the judgement day at the ballot box in the hope that by 1985 political, military and economic conditions will have improved.

Concerns Of The Smaller Parties

The smaller coalition parties share the same concerns to some extent. But each has its own particular motives to avoid elections now.

The National Religious Party is in an advanced state of deterioration. Interfactional feuds have ripped it apart. The NRP lost half of its Knesset mandates in the 1981 elections and has not recovered. The defection of Rabbi Haim Druckman, an extreme hardliner who now sits in the Knesset as an independent, has reduced the NRP to five seats. Opinion polls show that if elections are held now, they would prove fatal to the party.

Tami, which represents a low-income Sephardic constituency, did well in 1981 when it won three Knesset seats. But at that time, its leader and founder, Aharon Abu-Hatzeira, was still seen as the victim of a judicial witchhunt in Sephardic circles.

Today, according to political pundits and pollsters, that image has largely evaporated. Abu-Hatzeira, convicted of misusing charitable funds, is currently serving a three-month sentence.

In a new election, Tami would be hard pressed to retain its three seats. It is, therefore, casting about for a popular issue. That explains its aggressive demands on Shamir for concessions to the poor. The more time it has to hammer out a new platform, the better its chances.

The Aguda Israel party and Tehiya have basically stable constituencies. For Aguda, which stands to the right of the NRP, it is the Orthodox community; and for Tehiya, the settlers in the West Bank. Both are loyal and these parties have less to fear from voter defection than the others.

But elections could well mean the end of the present precarious coalition. They might give one or the other of the big blocs -- Labor or Likud -- a solid majority. In that eventuality, the Aguda and Tehiya parties would be deprived of their leverage as holders of the balance of power and of their ability to extract concessions from whatever party heads the government.

Tehiya is especially fearful that early elections might return Labor to power. That would mean a return to a restrictive and selective West Bank settlement policy in place of the present government's unrestricted settlement drive in the territories. From Tehiya's standpoint, it is better to stick with Likud regardless of frequent disputes within the coalition.

That maxim seems to guide the political aims of all of the coalition partners and leading analysts have predicted that however weak and wobbly it may look, Shamir's coalition will survive its full term.

BERMAN: ISRAEL SHOULD BEWARE OF SUPPORTING RIGHTWING CHRISTIAN AMBITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES
By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Israel should beware of supporting rightwing Christian ambitions in the United States, an American Jewish leader said here. Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, was commenting on the warm relations that former Premier Menachem Begin of Israel established with American fundamentalist movements such as the Moral Majority led by the Rev. Jerry Falwell.

Describing this as one of the most delicate issues facing American Jewry, Berman said he did not mind Israel cultivating good relations with the Moral Majority elements in the hope that they would have a favorable influence on U.S. foreign policy. But, he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "U.S. Jewry does not accept that Israel should also give them a quid pro quo over their internal policies in the United States."

Approves Shultz's Efforts

Berman, who was accompanied by Yehuda Hellman, executive vice chairman of the Presidents Conference, voiced strong approval of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's efforts to ensure that any disagreements between the U.S. and Israel -- as for example on the West Bank settlements -- would be worked out "without any massive confrontation."

He also said that Sen. John Glenn (D. Ohio), who is seeking the Democratic Party presidential nomination, has had some success in his efforts to "reach out" to the American Jewish community. The substantial number of Jews who had voted for Ronald Reagan as President in the last national election had shown the Democrats that American Jewry "cannot be taken for granted."

Berman was speaking at the end of his two-day visit here during which he held talks with British Jewish leaders aimed at strengthening ties between the Presidents Conference and its British counterpart, the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Berman and Hellman left for Paris last night for similar talks with French Jewish leaders.

GHETTO FIGHTERS' HOUSE IN ISRAEL IS IN THE PROCESS OF EXPANSION
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Beit Lohamei

Haghtaot (Ghetto Fighters' House), the museum and memorial for the Holocaust and resistance against the Nazis, located in Kibbutz Lohamei Haghtaot northern Israel, is in the process of expanding.

Expansion plans include a research center, a dormitory to accommodate students from all over the world, and a children's memorial to specifically commemorate the more than one million children who perished in the Holocaust, according to Tzvi Netzer, a member of the executive board of Beit Lohamei Haghtaot, who is touring the United States to help raise funds for the project.

"We decided to establish the research center on the resistance and heroism by the Jews in the ghettos of Europe because this subject was very little researched," Netzer said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

"The truth is that there was not one single ghetto in which there was not at one time or another an attempt to revolt against the Nazis. This phenomenon even took place inside some of the concentration camps. We are going to emphasize the aspect of heroism in the ghettos and make it a part of the legacy of the destruction of European Jewry for generations to come."

Elements Of The Expansion Plan

Netzer said that the research center will be named after Yitzhak Zuckerman (Antek) and Zivia Lubetkin, leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, who were members of Kibbutz Lohamei Haghtaot until their death more than a year ago.

The children's memorial, Netzer said, will contain four units: a shrine; a section dealing with Jewish children during the Holocaust; a section dealing with art by Jewish children; and a wing devoted to the life and legacy of Janusz Korczak, the famed educator who was murdered by the Nazis.

There is also a plan to build an auditorium and classrooms as well as a dining room and coffee shop as part of the Beit Lohamei Haghtaot Museum, Netzer said. He added that the project will cost several million dollars, part of which will be raised in Israel and part in the United States through the American Friends of the Ghetto Fighters' House.

The House started as a documentation center which has expanded over the years. It now has a library with more than 60,000 volumes in many languages. Its archive of photographs contains more than 40,000 pictures and its film library has some 340 items from which two full-length documentary films on the Holocaust -- "The 81st Blow" and "The Last Sea" -- have been produced. The House has also published more than 140 books in Hebrew and scores of books in other languages dealing with the Holocaust.

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) -- The Security Council Tuesday extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for another six-month period. The vote was 13-0 with the Soviet Union and Poland abstaining. The current mandate of the force expires Wednesday.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- International Red Cross representatives visited the six Israeli POWs held by the PLO in Lebanon last Friday, it was reported here Tuesday. One of the POWs reportedly sent his parents a tape recording in which he told them he was well.