

## HERZOG NAMES PERES TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT, STRESSING THAT THE NATION DESIRES UNITY GOVERNMENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5 (JTA) — President Chaim Herzog today gave Labor Party leader Shimon Peres the task of forming a government, stressing repeatedly as he did so that the nation desired a government of national unity.

Peres, in his brief acceptance speech, pledged to try and form a unity government. But he made it clear that he would try to form a Labor-led government even if Likud refused in the end to join in a unity government.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, responded favorably to Peres' call for continued unity talks. But at the same time, Shamir is going ahead with negotiations with the small parties with the objective of eventually creating a Likud-led coalition.

By the same token, Peres and his Labor lieutenants are also continuing their consultations with various small parties aimed at keeping open the option of a Labor-led narrow-based coalition, if the unity effort fails.

### Week-Long Series Of Consultations

Herzog asked Peres to form a government following a week-long series of consultations and meetings with Likud and Labor leaders, as well as with leaders of the other Knesset parties, with the exception of the Kach Party headed by Rabbi Meir Kahane. On Friday, 60 Knesset members asked Herzog to choose Peres to form a government while 54 asked the President to give Shamir the first chance. Five MKs called for a national unity government but without indicating who should head it.

The surprise last Friday was Yigael Hurwitz, a former member of Likud who was elected to the previous Knesset on Moshe Dayan's Telem ticket. Hurwitz, who ran in last month's elections on the one-member ticket, Courage to Cure the Economy, joined the Alignment, Shinui, Citizens Rights Movement (CRM) and Yahad in asking Herzog to name Peres to form the government. Other parties joining in this move were the Progressive List for Peace and the Communists.

The Likud, Tehiya, Shas, Aguda Israel and Morasha asked Herzog to give Shamir the first chance to form a government. The National Religious Party (NRP) and Tami asked merely that a national unity government be formed.

By law, Peres now has 21 days to pursue his efforts to form a government. After that time he must report back to the President. If he has not been successful in forming a government he can ask for another 21 days. In the past, Presidents have generally agreed to the additional time. If Peres, after 42 days, still cannot put together a majority of 61 Knesset members in the 120-member parliament, Herzog will presumably turn to Shamir — although he could conceivably ask another MK to form the government. That candidate is also given two 21-day periods.

### Stresses Need For a Quick Decision

Herzog, however, stressed to Peres today, in his public statement nominating the Labor leader, that "the country needs a quick decision." Three times

the President reiterated his firm belief that the nation desperately desired a unity government. He said his consultations with the parties had shown him that "all agree we have deteriorated into what is perhaps our gravest-ever economic crisis ... the situation is dangerous ... the crunch could come quicker than people think or imagine ... then arguments over whether or not to put up settlements will be hypothetical...."

Herzog spoke, too, of the "danger to our democracy" and the need for a "strong, democratic government" to take action to protect democracy in Israel.

These twin dangers, and "countless appeals" to him had prompted him, Herzog said, to launch his initiative last week for a unity government — an initiative which has resulted in Likud-Labor summit talks in Jerusalem.

But, implicitly rejecting Likud's pressure on him to delay the nomination while these talks proceed, Herzog said he felt the talks would get nowhere unless there was a nomination of a Prime Ministerial designate.

Obliquely touching on another Likud argument — that there was a tie between MKs supporting a Peres-led government and those favoring Shamir — Herzog said that even if this were the case he would choose Peres as leader of the largest faction. This was the established convention in Israel. It had been departed from just once: last September, when Shamir, though not leader of the largest faction, could show he had a coalition of 61 MKs behind him.

### Historical Lessons Cf Tisha B'Av Cited

Herzog pointedly spoke of the historical lesson of Tisha B'Av which falls this week. The Jewish State was destroyed 1900-odd years ago, according to rabbinical teachings, because of polarization within its society and "needless hatred" between the various parties. Herzog called on the parties today to overcome their divisions and strive for unity.

Peres, in his reply, also touched on the Tisha B'Av moral, expressing the hope that he could lead modern Israel through this memorial period of the ancient destruction towards unity. He pledged to try and form a unity government but also — deliberately — implied that other possibilities existed for a Labor-led government that would reflect the election results.

Signalling to the religious parties, which are pivotal still in the narrow-based options, Peres said a Labor-led government would "respect the Orthodox citizens" and preserve the "status quo" in religious affairs. But at the same time, he said — in a signal to Shinui and the CRM — Labor would oppose religious coercion.

The Labor leader agreed that the national needs required the speedy formation of a government. The immediate issues to be tackled, Peres said, were the economy, Lebanon, strengthening the IDF, continuing and expanding the peace process. Before leaving the Presidential residence, he called Shamir to propose immediate talks, and also called Yahad's Ezer Weizman.

### Role Of Yahad And The NRP

Weizman, who effectively holds the balance between the two big blocs (both would find it almost impossible to form a government without Yahad's three seats), has been consistent since election night in demanding a unity government.

Another key pivotal party, the NRP, with four seats, has also urged unity -- and it did so again this morning at a meeting with Shamir and Likud leaders. The NRP leadership is to meet with Peres tomorrow.

In the Likud there is bitter anger at NRP for failing to line up, with the other religious parties, behind a Shamir Premiership-preference. Likud leaders feel that if NRP had told the President it favors Shamir, giving the Likud leader the support of 58 MKs, then Herzog might well have given the nomination to Likud rather than Labor.

Thus, despite Herzog's decision, Labor and Likud are both still holding their various options open -- both for a unity government under one or other of them or for a narrow-based government led by one or other of them.

Likud sources believe Labor's efforts at unity will eventually come unglued because of opposition by Mapam, Labor's partner in the Alignment. Mapam's opposition has been muted, although veteran Mapam leader Yaacov Hazan spoke out strongly against a unity government with Likud, in a radio interview last week. Today, Mapam leaders wrote Peres urging him to form a narrow-based government as a first stage and seek to expand the base later. Mapam's position regarding a unity government remains unclear.

If there is dissent from Mapam to form a unity government, Likud would then go back to Herzog and argue that it (Likud) and not Labor is the largest faction desiring unity and therefore Shamir should be nominated to form the government.

#### Issue Of Who Is A Jew Law Amendment

Likud sources also believe that Peres' efforts to set up a narrow-based coalition will fail because the religious parties, and ultimately Weizman, will not back him. Regarding the religious parties, Likud sources say that Likud can pledge to support an Orthodox-sponsored amendment to the Who is a Jew law with greater credibility than in the past because such Liberal Party recalcitrants as Yitzhak Berman and Dror Zeigerman are no longer in the Likud-Liberal Knesset list.

Labor sources counter, however, by hinting that as a last resort, Labor will be prepared to allow their MKs to vote their conscience on the Who is a Jew amendment. In that case, political observers believe, the amendment would stand a good chance of getting through the Knesset. The amendment would recognize exclusively Orthodox conversions to Judaism.

Meanwhile, Radio Israel reported tonight that Shamir has agreed to a suggestion by Peres that the two meet alone tomorrow afternoon for what could be a crucial session that will determine the prospects of a unity government. Peres wrote Shamir a letter today pledging that the division of Cabinet portfolios would reflect the Knesset lineup. (Likud sources have argued that if there is to be a Labor Premier, there should be a Likud Foreign Minister and a Likud Defense Minister.)

#### THOUSANDS STAGE ANTI-KAHANE RALLY IN AN ARAB VILLAGE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Thousands of people, mostly Arabs but also Jews, gathered yesterday in the Arab village of Umm Al Fahem near Hadera to protest recent statements by newly elected Knesset member Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the Kach Party, and to demand that the Knesset enact anti-racist legislation. It was reportedly the

largest joint Arab and Jewish rally to take place in Israel. The rally was held in Umm Al Fahem, the largest Arab town in the country, with a population of some 20,000, because Kahane stated, immediately after his election, that he would open an "emigration office" in the town to "encourage" Arabs to leave Israel, including by forcible means if necessary.

#### Dozens Of Religious Jews At The Rally

The rally was attended by members of various political parties and included dozens of religious Jews, mostly of the Conservative movement, who spent the Sabbath in the Arab village holding services and being hosted by the villagers. Among the honorary guests were 10 Knesset members representing the Labor Alignment, the Citizens Rights Movement, Shinui, Progressive List for Peace, and the Communist (Hadash) Party. Many of the Jewish participants were members of nearby kibbutzim.

Protesters carried signs in Arabic, English and Hebrew denouncing Kahane's views as fascist and racist and chanted in Arabic, "Kahane, get out, get out." One sign in Hebrew stated, "There is no place for Nazism in Israel." A sign in English said, "Kahane belongs in the Ramat Gan zoo."

Speakers at the rally, which was held in the local soccer field, and people milling around, indicated that they were more concerned about the trend among Israel's Jews that enabled Kahane to win a seat in the Knesset than about Kahane the person.

Meanwhile, Kahane yesterday visited the Jewish settlement of Efrat south of Bethlehem. He came there with a busload of supporters, hoping to lecture to the villagers, but he was met at the entrance to the village by 100 residents who protested his visit. It was the first anti-Kahane demonstration in one of the settlements.

#### FUNERAL RITES TO BE HELD FOR VANDALIZED RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Jewish residents of Hebron and Kiryat Arba in the West Bank will hold funeral services Tuesday, Tisha B'Av, for religious articles found vandalized in the Hebron flea market. Tisha B'Av is the annual day of mourning for the destruction of the First and Second Temples in ancient Israel.

Thousands of pages torn from prayerbooks, the Jewish Scriptures and other Jewish holy books were found by Jews last Friday, causing an uproar among Jews residing in the heavily-Arab section. Police said there was no clear evidence about the source of the books or the defamers of the holy writings.

When the discovery was made, Jews began assembling the remnants, filling six sacks before the Sabbath began. The army closed off the area in which the remnants were found, hoping the Jews would find more. No arrests were made.

The Kiryat Arba committee, representing the all-Jewish town near Hebron, met last night in an extraordinary session, protesting the desecration and asking for punishment for the perpetrators. The committee also warned against the "deterioration of the security situation in the territories."

The remnants will be buried in the Jewish cemetery in Hebron.

#### ISRAELI SOLDIER KILLED, TWO WOUNDED IN SOUTH LEBANON

TEL AVIV, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was killed and two others were wounded when their armored personnel carrier hit a mine in eastern

Lebanon, an army spokesman said. The incident occurred near the village of Amiq, not far from the no-man's-land that separates Israeli and Syrian forces in Lebanon.

An investigation was launched to determine whether the mine was laid by Syrian or terrorist infiltrators who, the Israelis say, have bases in the Syrian-held territories. The mining incident was the fourth attack on Israeli forces today and the seventh in the past 24 hours.

In three other incidents today, the IDF came under attack in south Lebanon. There were no casualties or injuries reported. In the first incident, a Katyusha rocket was fired at an Israeli army position some two miles northeast of Tyre. In another, in Tyre, a rocket-propelled grenade and automatic fire were directed at an army outpost. In the third incident, automatic fire was directed at an IDF roadblock from a nearby ambush on the outskirts of Nabatiya.

## TWO SOLDIERS KILLED, FOUR CIVILIANS INJURED IN DRAG RACE BETWEEN TWO CARS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Two soldiers were killed and four of their civilian friends were injured in a road accident last night arising out of a drag race between two cars along a Galilee panhandle road. The names of the victims have not been released.

The accident occurred as the young men and women members of Galilee kibbutzim were returning in the early morning hours from a party celebrating the 19th birthday of one of the victims.

According to the driver of one of the two cars, which had four youths in it, they had all left the party at Kfar Hanassi in high spirits, "and forgot, unfortunately, the laws of sensible driving."

The driver, who was injured, told Israeli reporters that the two cars raced each other along a straight stretch of road, passing one another at high speeds.

"But as we passed, we side-swiped each other," the driver said. "My car careened off the road and overturned. The other car, with the two young soldiers in it, hit a tree."

## NASSAU COUNTRY'S D.A. WON'T PROSECUTE STONY BROOK U.; CITES TOO MANY 'GAPS' IN EXISTING LAWS

NEW YORK, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- The State University of New York at Stony Brook is not criminally liable for providing false information to the Long Island Jewish World in response to a Freedom of Information Act request because the law itself contains no penalties and there are too many "gaps" in existing laws to make them applicable, Nassau District Attorney Denis Dillon ruled last week, it was reported by Stewart Ain in the latest issue of the Jewish World.

"The issue presented by this situation is novel," according to a legal opinion sent to Dillon by his staff after a month of research. "No authoritative answer is possible and reasonable men could certainly disagree, but my guess is that a potential defendant has slipped through the gaps in several pre-existing statutes which were never intended to apply to the Freedom of Information Act."

The Jewish World had sought documents from Stony Brook last February detailing the university's attempts to solicit foreign governments or businesses in the Middle East for the purpose of establishing

endowments or chairs of learning. It formally asked for all such communications under the Freedom of Information Act. A week later, the university replied that no such documents existed. Five months later, the Village Voice newspaper published the documents and the Jewish weekly also obtained them.

## Hung Up On Definition

The Jewish World then turned the documents over to Dillon. Last week Dillon said that as a result of his office's findings, there was "only an outside chance that we could have made a case. There were many legal hurdles and the chances for successful prosecution were slight."

"There are no penal sanctions in the Freedom of Information Act and when we tried to apply the Penal Law, we got hung up as to the definition of an official document," Dillon explained. He said that as a result of this research, he will "probably" recommend some changes in the law when he puts forth his legislative recommendations this fall. "We are now seriously considering trying to close some of the loopholes by an amendment to the Penal Law or by adding sanctions to the Freedom of Information Act," Dillon said.

New York State Assemblyman Saul Weprin (D. Fresh Meadows), chairman of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, said he was "considering introducing legislation to give teeth to the law. What is the sense of a law if it can't be enforced?" he asked.

## TERROR DEFENDANTS RELEASED ON BAIL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- Two defendants in the trials on the Jewish terrorist underground were released by the Supreme Court on one million Shekel bail each last Friday and ordered to surrender their passports to the police. The two were identified as Maj. Ronni Gilla and Capt. Shlomo Livyatan, both linked to the attacks against West Bank Arab mayors four years ago.

The Supreme Court rejected an appeal by the State, which wanted to keep the two in custody until the end of the legal proceedings against all the 27 Jews on trial in connection with the terrorist underground.

Last month, the Jerusalem district court decided to release Gilla and Livyatan on bail, accepting the argument of their defense attorney that, since the trial had to continue into the fall when the testimonies of the other defendants would be heard, there was no point in keeping the two in prison until then. The State appealed the district court's ruling, but lost in the Supreme Court on Friday.

## JEWS IN THE OLYMPICS

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 5 (JTA) -- During the early 20th century one could fence one's way to social prominence, an opportunity taken up by many talented European Jewish swordsmen, according to "Jews in the Olympics" exhibition running through September in the Jewish Community Building, 6505 Wilshire Blvd.

In 1908, Jews from three nations captured great respect and several Olympic medals, including France's Alexandre Lippman, Jean Stern and Henri-George Berger; Hungary's Oszkar Gerde, Dr. Jeno Fuchs and Lajos Warkner; and Great Britain's Edgar Seligman. To date, Jewish fencers from more than half a dozen nations have won nearly 60 Olympic medals, more than 25 of them gold.

The international exhibition documenting the achievements of Jews in sports is a project of the Southern California Jewish Historical Society. A commemorative poster and medal are available. Call (213) 852-1234.

## SPECIAL TO THE JTA ARGENTINA'S HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER TO BE HONORED BY B'NAI B'RITH

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5 (JTA) — A U.S.-born rabbi who became Argentina's leading fighter for human rights, who created one of that country's largest and most active synagogues and who founded Latin America's only rabbinical seminary will be honored by B'nai B'rith International during its biennial convention September 4 at the Sheraton Washington Hotel here.

He is Rabbi Marshall Meyer and he will receive B'nai B'rith's Dor L' Dor (Generation to Generation) Award for "outstanding achievements in the service of humanity, which uplift and enable us and generations to come."

Meyer stood out from the pack even as a boy. A native of Norwich, Conn., he was an Eagle Scout who not only lettered in three sports but was an editor of his high school newspaper, active in his school and summer stock theater, winner of a state oratorical contest, and radio commentator on classical music.

Meyer attended Dartmouth College and Jewish Theological Seminary of America (where he was also the private secretary of Prof. Abraham Heschel) and studied for his doctorate — he completed all but his thesis — at both Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary. In 1959, he went to Argentina as rabbi for a large German synagogue in Buenos Aires. He intended to stay only two years but remained for 25; recently he became vice president of the University of Judaism in Los Angeles.

### Multi-Variied Activities In Argentina

In his first three years in Buenos Aires, Meyer built up youth involvement in the synagogue, established South America's first religious education summer camp and founded Seminario Rabinico Latino-Americano.

Stating that he was unable to establish the kind of movement he wanted, Meyer resigned from the synagogue at the end of 1962 and founded Bet-el, a synagogue affiliated with the Conservative movement. During his 22-year stay there, Bet-el grew from the original 30 members to 1,000 families and has its own school system and large summer camp. A typical Friday night service attracts more than 1,000 persons, including hundreds of youths.

Meyer became involved in politics in 1966 when the military overthrew the government of President Arturo Illia. The involvement grew steadily and by the mid-1970's he was one of the most outspoken critics of human rights abuse. When the government of Maria Estela Peron collapsed into violence and virtual anarchy, the criticism intensified.

### Critic Of Human Rights Abuse

Meyer condemned the violence and tried to learn what happened to the disappeared. He counseled victims' families. He visited prisons to help the jailed, many of whom had not even been charged with any crime. One of the prisoners was Jacobo Timerman, the Jewish newspaper editor who later dedicated his book, "Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number," to Meyer.

He attacked the military, which had taken over the government, and assailed the widespread abuse of human rights. At the same time he helped to establish the nation's largest human rights organization as well as the Argentine Jewish Movement for Human Rights.

Throughout those years of turmoil, his life — and the lives of his wife and three children — were threatened. Although many Jews in Argentina stood

by him, others assailed him for his involvement in human rights issues, charging that he was needlessly making them targets of Jew haters. Some accused him of being a Communist; other claimed that he was a CIA agent. Meyer, of course, denied these accusations.

Today, 25 years after going to Argentina, Meyer, who maintained his U.S. citizenship, is back "home." Life is likely to be much quieter and orderly but no one who knows Rabbi Marshall Meyer will bet that it won't be lively or interesting.

## TWO SOCIOLOGISTS SAY BIAS EXISTS AGAINST WOMEN IN THE U.S., ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 5 (JTA) — Two sociologists — one an American, the other an Israeli — compared notes at a conference on women's issues here and concluded that employment discrimination against women continues to exist in both countries, but sometimes takes different forms in each. The comparison took place at a session of a four-day "dialogue" between American and Israeli women sponsored by the American Jewish Congress. The meeting is being held at the Van Leer Jerusalem Foundation.

Cynthia Fuchs Epstein, a professor at the City University of New York and a fellow at the Russell Sage Foundation, said that in the United States, "Jewish women, like Jewish men, have suffered from discriminatory practices which have limited their participation in the work force in certain industries and spheres of work."

But she also noted that prejudice against women was also characteristic of the Jewish community as a whole — "as characteristic of the Jewish community itself as of any Gentile community," so that Jewish women, like non-Jewish women, historically found limited opportunity.

Thus, Epstein said, "Jewish women suffered from discrimination in the society at large, but they also suffered discrimination in the newly-developing parallel work communities that Jewish men were creating" in the United States. She was particularly critical of the limitations on services — such as child care — available from the government in the U.S. for women attempting to combine work and child-raising.

### Pessimistic About Status Of Woman In Israel

Dafna Nundi-Izraeli, professor of sociology at Israel's Bar-Ilan University, said that Jewish women in Israel are excluded from the mainstream in both military and civilian life. She complained that, as in the United States, the assistance provided by the social welfare system in Israel was seriously inadequate to enable women to attend to the needs of their families while participating fully in the work force.

As a result, she noted, women in Israel are forced to miss an average of one day of work per month if they have a child in kindergarten. Nundi-Izraeli added that while 63 percent of Israeli women are members of the labor force, over a third of those employed are part-time workers, working 25 hours a week or less, because family responsibilities keep many out of full-time employment.

But Nundi-Izraeli was pessimistic about the prospect for change in the status of working women in Israeli society. She said general apathy about the need for change, as well as the fact that Israeli women are not sufficiently dissatisfied with their lot to demand reforms, are obstacles to change.