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# **Labor-Likud Talks Take A Step Forward: BOTH PARTIES MOVE TOWARDS ESTABLISHING JOINT WORKING GROUPS** By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA) — The week-long negotiations between Labor Alignment and Likud leaders on forming a new government took a step forward today. Both parties were scheduled to announce tonight the establishment of joint working groups, each on a specific topic, to try and hammer out agreed formulas as the policy planks of a unity government.

The announcement was expected after a meeting tonight — the fourth — between teams led by Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Labor Party leader Shimon Peres at the King David Hotel here. It was foreshadowed earlier today by Transport Minister Haim Corfu (Likud-Herut) when he told reporters that Likud would agree to working groups as a way of making concrete progress in the unity effort. His statement followed a consultation of Likud ministers at the Prime Minister's office.

Labor spokesmen had cited agreement on the creation of working groups as an acid test of whether Likud was serious about the unity effort, or whether it was merely playing for time until Peres' mandate expires. President Chaim Herzog chose Peres last Sunday to form a new government.

The Labor leader had 21 days from that time to do so, with an option of a 21-day extension if he needed it to complete his task. Should he fail to do so by then, Herzog will call on someone else to try to form a government. Shamir would in all likelihood be called upon to do so, as the leader of the second largest party in the Knesset, with 41 seats compared to Labor's 44.

## **A Stumbling Block Remains**

But a stumbling block to smoothe negotiations continued to dog the efforts today. Likud refuses to accede to Labor's demand that the issue of the Premiership itself is not negotiable by Herzog's choice of Peres as Premier-designate.

Likud ministers last week resolved unanimously to insist that the Premiership be a negotiating issue between the two parties, and one of the most senior among them told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today Likud still hoped and intended to maneuver so that the Premiership is eventually retained by Shamir.

Likud's hopes are based on the assessment that Peres cannot form a narrow-based Labor-led government — given the National Religious Party's and Yahad's still adamant refusal to join one. The NRP has four Knesset seats and Yahad has three.

Likud leaders believe that in the final analysis, Shamir's prospects of putting together a narrow-based coalition led by Likud are better than those of Labor. The logic is that the NRP and Yahad, although initially favoring a unity government, would ultimately support a narrow-based Likud-led government.

But the senior Likud minister cited this hypothetical advantage as a reason why Likud should keep the Premiership of a unity government, not as a reason to actually go ahead and form a narrow-based government. The minister acknowledged frankly that such

a narrow-based government would inevitably be short-lived and would be unable to tackle the economic problems facing the country.

"These are solvable," the minister said. "But their solution is political as much as economic .... They need a strong government."

The ministers felt that Labor itself shared the assessment that a Labor-led narrow government was unattainable and Likud-led one was also either unattainable or undesirable (or both) and thus, the senior minister added, both major blocs were sincere in their bid for unity.

## **Cooperation To Enable The Knesset To Function**

While the talks on the future shape of the government go ahead, the two major parties are cooperating in temporary arrangements enabling the 11th Knesset to function. The parliament will convene for its formal, festive opening session tomorrow afternoon, and Labor, at any rate, is anxious for further business sessions to take place in the days ahead — even though the political picture is still confused. (There have been suggestions that the Knesset recess after the formal opening session.)

Likud and Labor agreed at the end of last week on the composition, for the time being, of the two key committees: finance and foreign affairs and defense. The finance committee will have an equal number of Likud and Labor Alignment members — plus one extra member of the present coalition, giving the transition government an effective majority. Likud Knesset floor managers were expected to decide today that Agudat Israel's Avraham Shapiro be chairman of the committee. In the 10th Knesset, Aguda's Shlomo Lorincz was the finance committee chairman.

Likud and Labor also agreed last week that in the foreign affairs and defense committee, Labor should have a majority of one — in recognition of Labor's larger number of Knesset seats. The Labor Knesset caucus voted today to have Haim Barlev, the party's secretary-general, serve as chairman of the committee. Barlev is a former Chief of Staff and a former Minister of Commerce.

## **No Agreement On Knesset Speaker**

There has been no agreement, however, on the post of Knesset Speaker. Likud was toying with the idea of offering this to Prof. Avner Sciaki of the NRP, a new MK, but objections were voiced from within the Likud. Labor favors its own veteran MK Shlomo Hillel for the post, but cannot be sure of a majority for him.

At the opening session of the Knesset tomorrow, as prescribed by law, the oldest MK — Yosef Burg of the NRP — will wield the Speaker's gavel after brief opening remarks by Herzog. Likud and the NRP presume that Burg will continue in that role in subsequent sessions, until a Speaker is elected.

But at the Labor caucus today, objections were voiced by David Libai, a new MK, to Burg, as a minister in the transitional government serving as Speaker — even temporarily — of the legislative arm. (Burg cannot resign as Minister of the Interior since there can be no resignation from a transitional government.) Libai and Labor MK Haim Ramon suggested, therefore, the second eldest MK, Abba Eban.

Hadash (Communist) leader Meir Wilner has proposed his party colleague, Tawfik Toubi, an Arab MK serving the parliament since the 1950's, as Speaker — in demon-

stration of the Knesset's opposition to the racism espoused by Kach Party leader Rabbi Meir Kahane who won a seat in the Knesset. But there has been no support for Toubi outside of the Hadash ranks.

#### REPORT PLANS TO PULL BACK IDF TROOPS FROM LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Plans which would enable an Israel Defense Force pullback from Lebanon within six to eight weeks have been drawn up by senior officers serving in south Lebanon, it was reported yesterday by Israel Radio.

According to the report, the plans by unnamed officers had been submitted to the government, but no action was taken. The withdrawal plans would ensure the continued safety of Galilee after the IDF pulls back to the Israeli side of the border in four stages, but would retain a number of strategic positions on the hills overlooking the coastal road.

Nachman Shai, Defense Minister Moshe Aren's media adviser, the IDF spokesman, and other senior officers denied the existence of any withdrawal plans. The IDF spokesman also said that any plans for withdrawal would have to be drawn up by the army's general headquarters and not by officers in Lebanon.

But Likud spokesmen, ignoring the denials, demanded that those who leaked such secret information should be punished. This demand only complicated the situation since it evoked speculation that a withdrawal plan did in fact exist.

#### Soldiers Skeptical About Plans

Israeli soldiers in Lebanon, interviewed by Israel Radio, expressed skepticism about withdrawal plans. Some noted that the politicians were "too busy arguing in Jerusalem's King David Hotel to concern themselves with any Lebanon withdrawal." This was a reference to the meetings between Labor Party and Likud leaders to discuss the formation of a new government. Other soldiers said the main effort in Lebanon now was directed at self-defense, rather than in securing the defense of the Galilee.

Spokesmen for the smaller political parties to the left of the Labor Alignment have called for a "full airing" of the withdrawal plans and the government's failure to discuss or implement them until the negotiations for a new government are completed.

Meanwhile, two Israeli soldiers were wounded in south Lebanon today when an explosive charge was set off on the side of a road east of Sidon as their patrol passed by. The injured men were flown by helicopter to the Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

#### CABINET DEBATES WEST BANK SETTLEMENT MOVE AND ANTI-SETTLEMENT RALLY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- The surreptitious enlargement of the Jewish area in heavily-Arab populated Hebron in the West Bank and a rally of several dozen Israeli opponents of settlements, touched off some mild debate today at the weekly Cabinet session in which the incidents were related to the lumbering pace of negotiations for a new government.

Four caravans of Jews arrived without advance notice last Wednesday night at a hilltop inside Hebron overlooking the old Jewish cemetery, and four families of Jews arrived to occupy the caravans. The settlers said their action was made with the approval of Defense Minister Moshe Arens. They said the sudden and secret act was meant to bar the Supreme Court from acting to stop the move.

The caravans were parked on the Tel Rumeida Hill, on a half acre which belonged to the Jewish community of Hebron before the 1929 Arab massacre of Jews.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg, Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai and Trade and Industry Minister Gideon Patt said today they wanted more information about the timing of the action, coming as it did during talks for a national unity government. They said they also wanted to know more about whether the Ministerial Settlement Committee was planning more settlements.

#### Criticism Evokes Counter-Arguments

The implied criticism evoked speedy counter-arguments, led by Arens; Science and Development Minister Yuval Neeman, chairman of the Ministerial Settlement Committee; and Minister Without Portfolio Ariel Sharon.

Sharon complained that, in addition to the criticism against the settlements by the opposition, there was also "criticism from within." The hawkish minister said that publicity about the caravans was "exaggerated" because the caravans arrived in accordance with earlier decisions and placed on the site only after the Justice Ministry ruled that the hilltop site was owned by the State and not by local Arabs.

Several ministers asked why the army permitted an anti-settlement rally by members of the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM) at the Hebron settlement last night. Arens replied that the demonstrators moving along the Jerusalem-Hebron road concealed their rally posters until they were assembled.

The demonstration, which included several dozen CRM members, was held only a few yards from the four parked caravans. Rally speakers questioned the sincerity of leaders who spoke in support of a national unity government and at the same time promoted such a "controversial settlement." The rally ended without disturbances. The local Jewish settlers even offered the demonstrators cold drinks.

#### SOLDIER MURDERED IN SAMARIA

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Israeli security forces are conducting a widespread manhunt for the murderer or murderers of an Israeli soldier in northern Samaria. The soldier, Corp. Moshe Tamman, 19, of Moshav Havatzelet Hasharon, was found fatally shot by a gas station attendant near Mevo Dotan early Friday morning. By tonight it was still unclear whether the soldier was murdered by terrorists or by criminals.

Tamman apparently had no weapons or documents when his body was found. He served as an instructor in an army base in the center of the country. The police investigators were therefore puzzled about his presence near the Arab village of Yaabed. A pathological examination of the body showed that Tamman was murdered shortly before he was found, or not longer than 24 hours before that. (By Gil Sedan)

#### PHILHARMONIC SOUNDS SOUR NOTE BUT COMES THROUGH IN THE FINALE

NEW YORK, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- The New York Philharmonic Orchestra has dropped plans to perform in Malaysia after a storm of protest from American Jewish leaders and political figures here to the Philharmonic's bowing to the request of the Malaysian government to drop the work of a Jewish composer from its scheduled program.

The orchestra, under the baton of Zubin Mehta, who is also music director of the Israel Philharmonic, was to have performed in Malaysia early next month. Among the works to be performed included that of Ernest Bloch, a Jewish composer who was born in Switzerland in 1880

and who died an American citizen in the United States in 1959. The score he composed in 1916 and which was to have been performed was "Schelomo," subtitled "A Hebrew Rhapsody for Cello and Orchestra." But the Malaysian government protested the inclusion of the Bloch piece, noting government policy against the "screening, portrayal or musical presentation of works of Jewish origin."

Malaysia, a predominantly Moslem country, did not voice opposition to the inclusion of works of other Jewish composers in the program, such as Leonard Bernstein, George Gershwin, Aaron Copland. In cancelling the Bloch piece late last week, the Philharmonic acknowledged deferring to the wishes of the host country.

But after bowing to the Malaysian request, the Orchestra and Citibank, which is sponsoring the Philharmonic's Asian tour, were deluged with criticism and decided to cancel the scheduled stop-over in Malaysia. Outraged Jewish leaders and political figures blasted the Malaysian request as cultural black mail, reminiscent of Nazi book-burning, and cultural anti-Semitism. Some of the critics later praised the Philharmonic after it announced that it would not perform in Malaysia.

#### REAGAN SIGNS INTO LAW THE EQUAL ACCESS BILL

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12 (JTA) — President Reagan signed into law yesterday a bill prohibiting public high schools from banning gatherings of students for religious or political purpose outside of class hours but on school premises, a measure widely protested by Jewish organizations and one of dubious constitutionality.

The measure, popularly dubbed the "freedom of access" law, was one of a legislative package the President accused the Democrats of "bottling up" in Congress as he signed it as his Santa Barbara home.

In his regular weekly radio broadcast, paid for by his re-election campaign, he said the new law "will allow student religious groups to begin enjoying a right they have too long been denied, the freedom to meet in public high schools during non-school hours, just as other student groups are allowed to do."

The signing took place amidst reports that some Reagan Administration lawyers felt its language would permit schools to allow use of their buildings by religious cults and extremist groups, a warning issued repeatedly by major Jewish organizations during the measure's convoluted journey through the Republican-controlled Senate and then an initial defeat and subsequent approval by the Democratic-controlled House just before adjournment for the election campaign.

#### Another Problem Cited

Still another problem, because of assured constitutional challenges, experts said it was doubtful that the new law would meet its central purpose of allowing students groups to conduct prayer sessions on school premises, regardless of stated non-interference with regular school hours.

Four federal appeals courts and state appellate courts in New York and California have barred a variety of religious activities by student groups in public schools, declaring they were barred by the First Amendment on church-state separation.

The prospect, feared by Jewish organizations and pleasing to civil libertarians, that the bill would make room for cults and extremist political groups, reportedly was not precisely what the President and other supporters of school prayer had set out to achieve.

To get the proposal through Congress, conservative backers had to accept amendments bracketing religious observance with "political, philosophical or other" forms of speech and protecting all of them.

Rep. Barney Frank, a liberal Democrat from Massachusetts, lauded the new law for the same reasons Jewish leaders feared it. He called it "the best empowerment of teen-agers" imaginable. He said Americans should understand that the new law means that "15-year-olds have some decisions to make that adults cannot interfere with. It means that young Trotskyites can meet" in public schools, "it means that gay rights activists can meet."

He sardonically expressed surprise "at some of my allies."

#### HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR AND HIS GERMAN PROTECTOR REUNITED AT OLYMPIC GAMES

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 12 (JTA) — The 1984 Olympic Games have generated great moments of drama, emotion, and triumph. But for Israeli sports writer Sigmund Spiegler, the greatest thrill came far removed from the field of competition.

The Polish-born journalist, during an emotional meeting, arranged by the Simon Wiesenthal center, was reunited with International Olympic Committee vice president, Dr. Bertholt Beitz, the man who saved him, his wife and hundreds of other Jews from certain death during the Holocaust.

Beitz, as a German officer during World War II, directed oil refinery operations in Nazi-occupied Boroslov (Galicia region) where, through his continuous righteous conduct, he was responsible for saving many Jewish lives.

As the two came face-to-face for the first time in 40 years, Spiegler recounted the numerous times that he and his Jewish neighbors were saved through Beitz' direct intervention.

"At a time when man's inhumanity to his fellow man was most manifested, he did not lose his humanity," said Spiegler. He went on to tell of the occasion when his niece was standing naked at the execution pit awaiting impending death. Beitz rushed in with a document which enabled him to remove her from the scene. Today, Spiegler's niece lives in Tel Aviv.

Also present at the reunion was Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, who presented the Center's scroll of honor to Beitz. This certificate is given by the Los Angeles-based Holocaust center in recognition of righteous conduct. Beitz, a well-known West German industrialist, has already been recognized for his war-time actions at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem.

#### POLICE NON-INTERVENTION AGAINST NEO-NAZI RALLY EVOKES PROTESTS

BONN, Aug. 12 (JTA) — Several organizations of victims of the Nazi regime as well as newspapers protested against the failure of police to intervene against an unlawful demonstration of the neo-Nazi group, skinheads, in Hannover last weekend. During the demonstration, the 200 rightwing extremists carried banners calling for the expulsion of Jews and foreigners, and displayed Nazi symbols, which are banned in this country.

A spokesman for the Interior Ministry of Lower Saxony, Gerhard Roemheld, said in a press conference in Hannover that police were ordered not to move in "in order not to give the neo-Nazis the pleasure of being given yet more political weight."

He admitted that the demonstration definitely involved several offences, such as carrying unlawful signs and calling for racial discrimination. But Roemheld added that the authorities took into consideration the motives of the extremists, which were to provoke both the police and the public.

# FINAL ELECTION RESULTS FOR THE ELEVENTH KNESSET

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- The following are the final results for the 11th Knesset. The numbers in parentheses are those for the 1981 elections.

LIST	SEATS	VOTES	PERCENT
Labor Alignment	44 (47)	724,074 (708,107)	34.9
Likud	41 (48)	661,302 (718,299)	31.9
Tehiya	5 (3)	83,037 (44,677)	4.0
National Religious Party	4 (6)	73,530 (95,423)	3.5
Hadash (Communists)	4 (4)	69,815 (64,452)	3.4
Shas *	4 (0)	63,605	3.1
Shinui	3 (2)	54,747 (29,834)	2.6
Citizens Rights Movement	3 (1)	49,698 (27,875)	2.4
Yahad *	3 (0)	46,302	2.2
Progressive List for Peace *	2 (0)	38,012	1.8
Agudat Israel	2 (4)	36,079 (72,322)	1.7
Morasha *	2 (0)	33,287	1.6
Tami	1 (3)	31,103 (44,431)	1.5
Kach *	1 (0)	25,907	1.2
Courage To Cure the Economy*	1 (0)	23,845	1.2

(Parties marked \* were elected for the first time to the Knesset)

## THE MEMBERS OF THE ELEVENTH KNESSET

**LABOR ALIGNMENT:** Shimon Peres, Yitzhak Navon\*, Yitzhak Rabin, Haim Barlev, Abba Eban, Victor Shentov, Yisrael Kesser, \*, Gad Yaacobi, Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslino, Elazar Granot, Mordechai Gur, Moshe Shahal, Rafael Edri, Shlomo Hillel, Ora Namir, Eliyahu Speiser, Uzi Baram, Arieh Nahamkin, Yair Tsaban, Avraham Katz-Or, Yaacov Tsur, Yitzhak Peretz, Menachem Hacohen, Nava Arad, Yossi Sarid, Amira Sartani\*, Yaacov Jacques Amir, Michael Harish, Shevah Weiss, Amnon Linn, Adiel Amori, David Libai\*, Mahmoud Watad, Dov Ben-Meir, Haim Ramon, Efraim Shalom\*, Nahman Raz, Edna Solodar, Yitzhak Artzi\*, Chaika Grossman, Aharon Harel, Abd-el Wahab Darousha\*, Simcha Dinitz\*, Aharon Nahmias.

**LIKUD:** Yitzhak Shamir, David Levy, Yitzhak Modai, Moshe Arens, Ariel Sharon, Moshe Nissim, Yigal Cohen-Orgad, Yoram Aridor, Avraham Sharir, Eliezer Shostak, Eliahu Ben-Elissar, Moshe Katzav, Pesah Grupper, David Magan, Ronnie Milo, Gideon Patt, Meir Shitrit, Dov Shilansky, Yitzhak Zeiger, Michael Dekel, Michael Reiser, Gideon Gadot\*, Ariel Weinstein, Ehud Olmert, Haim Corfu, Sara Doron, Miriam Glaser-Tasa, Amal Nasser E-Din, Pinhas Goldstein, Meir Cohen-Avidov, Haim Kaufman, Yehoshua Matza\*, Dan Tichon, Eli Ovadia\*, Dan Meridor\*, Uriel Linn\*, Uzi Landau\*, Michael Eitan\*, Bennie Shalita, Yigael Cohen, Eliezer Kulas.

**TEHIYA:** Yuval Neeman, Rafael Eitan\*, Geula Cohen, Eliezer Waldman\*, Gershon Shafat\*.

**NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY:** Yosef Burg, Zevulun Hammer, Avner Sciaki\*, David Danino\*.

**SHAS:** Yitzhak Peretz\*, Rafael Pinhasi\*, Yaacov Yosef\*, Shimon Shlomo\*.

**HADASH:** Meir Wilner, Tawfik Toubi, Charlie Biton, Tawfik Ziad

**SHINUI:** Amnon Rubinstein, Mordechai Virshubski, Zaidan Atshe\*,

**CITIZENS RIGHTS MOVEMENT:** Shulamit Aloni, Mordechai Bar-On\*, Ran Cohen\*.

**YAHAD:** Ezer Weizman\*, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer\*, Shlomo Amar\*.

**MORASHA:** Haim Druckman, Avraham Verdiger\*.

**AGUDAT ISRAEL:** Avraham Shapira, Menachem Porush.

**PROGRESSIVE LIST FOR PEACE:** Muhammed Miari\*, Matityahu Peled\*.

**TAMI:** Aharon Abu Hatzeira.

**COURAGE TO CURE THE ECONOMY:** Yigael Hurvitz

**KACH:** Meir Kahane.

(Persons marked \* were not members of the 10th Knesset.)