

**SHAMIR SAYS ISRAEL HAS YET TO DECIDE WHETHER TO ASK THE U.S. TO ACT AS MEDIATOR BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir said today that the government has yet to decide whether to ask the United States to act as a mediator between Israel and Syria for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon. He ruled out entirely United Nations mediation, contending that the UN lacks the capacity to fill such a role.

Shamir, who is also Foreign Minister, made his remarks before leaving for New York today to head the Israeli delegation at the 39th session of the UN General Assembly which opened last week. (Shamir arrived in New York this afternoon. See separate story.)

Media reports published abroad today claimed that Shamir had said in an interview in Jerusalem last Friday that the government intends to ask for U.S. mediation between Israel and Syria and that Israel will no longer insist that the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon must be simultaneous with the departure of the Israel Defense Force.

He was quoted as saying that Israel wants all foreign forces out of Lebanon but is prepared to negotiate the timing and method of withdrawal. Shamir said before his departure today that he was confident Arab attempts to oust Israel from the UN will fail once again.

"I think their efforts will fail again, as they have in the past," he told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport. "I hope there will be a big majority in the UN to reject any such moves."

**SHAMIR TO MEET EGYPT'S FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEW YORK MONDAY**  
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Israel's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir arrived here this afternoon for a two-week stay during which he will head the Israeli delegation to the 39th session of the United Nations General Assembly and meet with Foreign Ministers of more than a score of nations and with top U.S. officials.

Shamir will meet tomorrow with the Foreign Minister of Egypt, Abdel Ismat Meguid. It will be the first Israeli-Egyptian contact on the foreign ministerial level since the Egyptians recalled their Ambassador from Tel Aviv in September, 1982, during the war in Lebanon.

**Shamir Meets With Zaire's President**

Shamir met shortly after his arrival here today with President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire at the latter's Waldorf Astoria Hotel suite. Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner, said their 45-minute session was "friendly" and that Shamir invited Mobutu to visit Israel. The Zaire leader indicated he would come during the latter part of November.

Zaire restored diplomatic relations with Israel two years ago, the first Black African nation to do so since the 1973 Yom Kippur War. According to Pazner, Shamir's talk with Mobutu centered on military assistance Israel has been providing Zaire since the two countries resumed relations.

Zaire's President asked for increased aid in the civilian sector, especially agricultural assistance. They decided to discuss this further when Mobutu visits Israel, but meanwhile both countries will explore the subject, Pazner said.

Mobutu also referred to what he said were Zaire's "problems" with the U.S. Congress and asked Israel to use its influence in the matter. (Congress has balked against military and economic assistance to Zaire on grounds that the Mobutu regime is not democratic). Pazner said Shamir promised that Israel would help if it can but stressed that the matter was not in Israel's hands.

**Busy Schedule For Shamir**

Shamir is scheduled to attend a reception given by President Reagan at the Waldorf Astoria tonight and he will be at the General Assembly tomorrow when Reagan addresses the world body. Shamir is also scheduled to meet tomorrow with the Foreign Ministers of Britain and Canada. The Deputy Premier is also scheduled to meet with Secretary of State George Shultz this week. He is to address the General Assembly October 3.

**NINE ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN INCIDENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Nine Israeli soldiers were wounded in a series of incidents in south Lebanon today. Israel Defense Force patrols killed six terrorists and captured two.

Five of the casualties occurred when an IDF patrol was ambushed by small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades near Rehan village on the central front. An IDF spokesman said another patrol tracked down the assailants and killed three of them.

A sixth Israeli soldier was wounded when five terrorists attempted to land from a rubber dingy at the mouth of the Awali River just north of Sidon. The dingy had come under fire from an Israeli missile boat. The terrorists attacked an IDF post on a nearby bridge, wounding one soldier. Three of the attackers were killed in the ensuing exchange of fire, one of them a woman. Two were captured.

Three IDF soldiers were wounded this evening when an explosive charge detonated on a main traffic artery as their convoy passed by. The IDF reported earlier than an explosive charge was detonated by remote control on a road near Joya village but caused no casualties.

**IDF On Special Alert**

The IDF has been on special alert since the car-bomb attack on the U.S. Embassy annex in east Beirut last Thursday and the massacre of 13 Shiite Muslims by Druze members of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) in Sohmer village in south Lebanon on Thursday.

Two Americans were killed and a number were wounded in the attack for which a little known group calling itself the Islamic Jihad (holy war) claimed responsibility. Four wounded Americans were flown to Tel Hashomer Hospital in Israel for treatment today. According to hospital sources, they are being examined to determine whether their injuries require surgery.

The episode at Sohmer was described as a revenge slaying for four SLA soldiers killed in ambush by village

ers several hours earlier. Israeli and SLA sources insisted over the weekend that it was an "aberration" and would not affect Israel's relationship with the SLA which is being groomed to take over responsibility for security in regions of south Lebanon bordering Israel.

Brig. Gen. Shlomo Ilya, the IDF's chief liaison officer in south Lebanon, and SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad agreed that no conclusions could be drawn that would alter Israel's trust in the SLA. Lahad said that those responsible for the "private act of revenge" are in detention and would be tried under Lebanese military law.

Ilya said he has appointed a committee to investigate the incident and warned against drawing "hasty conclusions." He stressed that the behavior of a few men does not compromise the SLA's ability to carry out defensive and security operations. Israeli soldiers who occupied Sahmer directly after the massacre have been withdrawn to reduce tensions. Reporters have not been allowed to enter the village.

#### BOMB BLAST IN OLD CITY INJURES FOUR

JERUSALEM, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Four people were wounded, one seriously, when a bomb exploded in a narrow alley outside a Palestinian coffee shop in the old city of Jerusalem yesterday, police officials said. The bomb, in a plastic bag, was at first thrown into the coffee shop where several Palestinian men were playing cards, according to eye-witness accounts. They said people in the shop were able to get the bag out of the shop and into the alley where it exploded. The shop is located just off the Street of Chains, which leads to the Temple Mount, site of shrines sacred to both Jews and Moslems.

#### GRAVE CONCERN EXPRESSED ABOUT THE DETERIORATING PLIGHT OF THE 2.5 MILLION JEWS OF THE USSR

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Representatives of Jewish communities throughout the free world expressed grave concern about the deteriorating plight of the 2.5 million Jews in the Soviet Union and appealed to world leaders to intercede on their behalf with the Kremlin.

A lengthy proclamation, issued last Thursday by the presidium of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry, referred to what it called "a profound crisis" for Jewish life within the Soviet Union.

The statement, issued after three days of discussions by 50 representatives from 20 countries, said that in addition to denying Soviet Jewry's cultural rights and trying to "hermetically seal" it off from the rest of the Jewish world, Moscow was increasingly using anti-Semitism "as an instrument of domestic and foreign policy."

With fewer than 1,000 Soviet Jewish emigrants expected this year, compared with 50,000 five years ago, the conference expressed concern about the plight of some 300,000 who had unsuccessfully applied to emigrate despite the official claims of the Soviet Union that nearly all the Jews who wished to leave had already done so.

#### Statement By The Presidium

Pointing out that the Soviet Union contained about a fifth of the Jewish people, the presidium said: "Our generation, which witnessed the physical extinction of a third of our number, cannot acquiesce in and will withstand with all its vigor a process that can lead to the loss of another two million."

Their statement continued: "Our task is to urgently mobilize all possible means to gain the release of Soviet Jews who wish to leave and to protect the community rights of those who would remain." The conference called on all governments to make "the tragedy of Soviet Jewry" a principal item in renewal of East-West discussions "beginning with President Reagan's meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko" this week in Washington.

Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, presided.

#### CABINET TO DISCUSS SOVIET JEWRY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- The Cabinet is scheduled to devote a special session soon to the plight of Soviet Jewry. Premier Shimon Peres agreed to hold such a meeting at the request of Tehiya MK Geula Cohen. He said he would give top priority to the subject. Yaakov Tsur, Absorption Minister, also said that the government should devote greater efforts to save Soviet Jewry, especially the aliya activists, whose situation has worsened recently. Tsur complained that there was considerable apathy in the public toward the plight of Soviet Jewry. He said that only continuous pressure by world public opinion could prevent the Soviet authorities from suppressing Soviet Jews.

#### ACTION ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT

JERUSALEM, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- There will be no freeze of prices and wages in the immediate future but levies on personal income will go up substantially from now until the beginning of 1985.

A freeze package painstakingly worked out between the government, labor and management was postponed indefinitely. The government became convinced over the weekend that it was impossible to impose a price freeze at present. Instead, it will attempt to restrain runaway inflation by absorbing some \$80 million from the public over the next four months.

With the agreement of Histadrut, the government announced Thursday night that it would impose a combined tax and compulsory loan on all incomes. The higher brackets will be hit by a 10 percent levy and lower incomes by eight percent.

An additional step will be to slash government expenditures. The Cabinet has already agreed in principle to reduce the fiscal budget by \$1 billion. The problem now is where to cut. A number of ministers have taken exception to the size of the cuts for their ministries and the way it is proposed to divide the burden between the various ministries.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai is discussing these matters with individual ministers and promises to have a plan ready before the Rosh Hashanah holiday which starts Wednesday night.

#### ISRAEL REPORTS 25% DROP IN ITS TRADE DEFICIT FROM FIRST 8 MONTHS IN 1984

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- "Strong economic medicine" has enabled Israel to reduce its trade deficit for the first eight months of the year by 25 percent, or \$560 million, it was reported by the Economic Offices of the Government of Israel in New York.

The pace of the improvement quickened last month, when the trade gap was narrowed by 40 percent compared to August 1983, according to Uri Oren, an Israeli consul and government spokesman. If the decline in the trade deficit continues at the rate for the first eight months of the year, he said, the 1983 deficit of \$3.47 billion would be reduced to \$2.65 billion.

Oren, Israel's economic information director in the U.S., attributed the development to government policies that encouraged exports and led to cuts in wages and purchasing power among the Israeli public, lowering the standard of living and discouraging the purchase of imported goods. Among the steps taken, he said, were a decline in government spending and an acceleration of the devaluation of Israel's currency.

From January through August, Oren reported, Israeli exports (excluding diamonds) rose by 12.5 percent compared to the same period in 1983. Industrial exports were up by 16 percent and agricultural exports climbed 6.5 percent. Last month, he said, exports of industrial products were up 30 percent over August, 1983, with "a particularly impressive increase" in exports of electronics and metal products.

Imports declined during the first eight months of 1984 by 4.3 percent, the spokesman noted. Consumer goods plummeted 33 percent, while imports of raw materials, petroleum and equipment used by industry rose 4.5 percent from January through August.

#### EBAN URGES U.S. TO PLAY AN 'ACTIVE CONCILIATION ROLE' IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23 (JTA) — Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, called on the United States to play an "active conciliation role" in the Middle East peace process.

He also told reporters at a breakfast meeting at the National Press Club on Friday that President Reagan's September 1982 peace initiative had been unsuccessful not because Israel and others had rejected it but because it lacked "perseverance" on the part of the U.S. He said rejection of a proposal is only the beginning of Mideast negotiations, not the end.

Eban faulted both Israel and the U.S. for believing that they could create a government in Lebanon. He said Syria cannot be excluded from having a role in Lebanon no matter how much the U.S. and Israel disliked its government and urged the U.S. to create a relationship with Syria that gives it influence in Damascus.

The former Labor Foreign Minister, quipping that by its new coalition government of Labor and Likud "no one can claim we lack originality," stressed that there is a consensus in the new government for a withdrawal from Lebanon that guarantees the security of northern Israel and for dealing with the economic situation.

#### Urges U.S. 'To Try It and See'

He said that the economic situation "requires restraint that probably only a united coalition can accomplish. We have to do things for which nobody will be able to blame the other party." But he did not know how this government, with its widely divergent views could deal with the peace process. But he urged the U.S. to "try it and see."

On the peace process, Eban stressed that if King Hussein of Jordan and the other Arab leaders want concessions from Israel, they should come to the negotiating table. "Nobody knows what Israel is capable of doing in the context of peace until you put to the test," he said.

"Why should Israelis tear themselves to bits arguing about negotiations that are not taking place," Eban asked. He noted that Hussein complains constantly about what Israel is not doing or that the U.S.

is not pressing Israel, yet he refuses to negotiate, which is the only way to bring about change. Eban said it was a "great mystery" to him why the Arab leaders did not follow the example of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat who did negotiate with Israel. He said before those negotiations no one believed Israel would give up the Sinai with its oil wells, bases and settlements. However, he cautioned that while he supports territorial compromise Israel will not withdraw from all of the West Bank.

#### Urges U.S. To Beef Up Its Security

In the wake of Thursday's terrorist bombing of the U.S. Embassy annex in east Beirut, Eban urged the U.S. to beef up its security and stressed that for the U.S. to move out would be giving in to terrorism.

Eban rejected a role for the Soviet Union in the Mideast process until the Kremlin established relations with Israel. He said the USSR cannot play a conciliatory role as long as it does not have relations with one of the parties.

#### Says Kahane's Election Was An 'Aberration'

Eban rejected a suggestion that Rabbi Meir Kahane says publicly what many Israelis believe privately when he calls for the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel. He said Kahane's election was an "aberration" and that the American-born rabbi's philosophy reminds many in Israel of the Nazis or of the Arab threats to expel the Jews from Israel.

Kahane's claim that there cannot be both Zionism and democracy is "nonsense," Eban said, because democracy is "fundamental" to Zionism. "You cannot say that a Jew cannot be a citizen of a country," Eban said. "If you cannot say that because it's anti-Semitism, you cannot say that a Jewish State cannot exist within the international community. That's why anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism are related to each other."

Eban said that Kahane's election by only 1.4 percent of the vote is a defect of Israeli democracy. He said the new government may be able to change the election law to require a higher percentage since both major parties were hurt by the votes for small marginal parties.

Eban is in the U.S. for the premier of the nine-hour Public Broadcasting Service series, "Heritage: Civilization and the Jews," October 1. He is the host and narrator for the series which he helped develop.

#### VENEZUELA'S PRESIDENT TELLS ITS DELEGATION TO OPPOSE ANTI-ZIONIST MEASURE AT CONCLAVE IN GENEVA

CARACAS, Sept. 23 (JTA) — President Jaime Lusinchi, at a meeting here with World Jewish Congress president Edgar Bronfman, said he was issuing instructions to the Venezuelan delegation at this week's meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva to vote against a Kuwait draft resolution which equates Zionism with racism.

Bronfman, on the final leg of a Latin American tour, met with the Venezuelan leader during an hour-and-a-half session at the Presidential palace here. Bronfman was accompanied by Walter Czenstochowski, president of the Venezuelan Jewish community, and Elan Steinberg, executive director of the WJC-American Section.

According to Steinberg, Lusinchi was extremely forthcoming on a host of issues of Jewish concern declaring his great affection for the Jewish community and proudly displaying the menorah he had previously received as a gift from the government of Israel.

## SPECIAL INTERVIEW FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- The newly elected president of the largest women's Zionist organization in America, Hadassah, believes it can and should be even larger.

"One of the major challenges for me as president of Hadassah in the next four years is to increase our membership from the present 370,000 to 500,000," Ruth Popkin, who was elected the 18th president of Hadassah last month at its national convention in San Francisco, said in an interview here with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

"I believe that this goal is attainable. It is only a question of telling our story to more and more American women," she asserted. The "story" of Hadassah, which was established in 1912 by Henrietta Szold, embraces two countries: Israel and the United States.

### Major Activity Of Hadassah

"Our major activity and most of our money is devoted to the support of the Hadassah Medical Center (HMC) in Jerusalem," Popkin explained. "Hadassah is the sole and full supporter of the HMC, with facilities at Kiryat Hadassah and Mt. Scopus. Hadassah is, no doubt the greatest medical center in the Mideast. It has some 4,000 doctors, nurses and other employes, and the most advanced and sophisticated equipment. We are committed to maintain these high standards for which Hadassah has always been recognized."

In addition to maintaining and supporting the HMC, Hadassah also operates various educational projects in Jerusalem. They include the Hadassah Seligsberg-Brandeis Comprehensive High School; Hadassah Community College, and the Hadassah Vocational Guidance Institute.

"All these activities require a great deal of resources," Popkin observed. Last year alone, Hadassah poured about \$25 million into the HMC and spent more than \$2 million for the college and high school. Where is the money coming from?

"From fund-raising by Hadassah members," Popkin replied, noting that Hadassah women can be found in every state, including Hawaii and Alaska. She said that Hadassah members, each of whom pays an annual membership fee of \$15, are active in more than 1,600 chapters across the United States.

### Hopes To Create An International Support Network

To meet the growing expenses of the HMC and to maintain its high standards of medical care, Popkin said that another goal she hopes to reach in the next four years is the creation of an international network of members to support Hadassah. "We need other Jews around the world, men and women, to be friends of the Hadassah Medical Organization, to help us support and maintain its excellence," she said.

Popkin pointed out that Hadassah is involved with various other projects, in addition to its medical and educational institutions. "We are the largest contributor to youth aliya and the largest contributor to the Jewish National Fund," she said. She noted that Hadassah contributed \$3 million to youth aliya and \$1 million to the JNF last year.

Asked about the activities of Hadassah in the United States, Popkin said they are mostly "educational."

"As the president of Hadassah, I would like to affirm our role in education in America. We began as an educational organization with a commitment to provide American Jewish women with Zionist and Jewish backgrounds and we have continued to play that role throughout the years." She said she would like to reinforce efforts to bring Jewish and Zionist values and education to Hadassah members in America.

### 'We Were The First Feminists'

Popkin said that members of Hadassah come from all walks of life: professional women and housewives, young and old, single and married. Turning to the issue of Jewish feminism in the U.S. Popkin said, in reply to a question:

"I believe we were the first feminists. Hadassah was started by women and will always remain a women's organization. We never went on a feminist campaign per-se, but we always were proud of the role we played as women and the role we played in the Zionist and Jewish world."

Popkin contended that Hadassah is basically not a political organization. "We don't advocate one party or a candidate to our members. Our thrust has always been to provide information so they can vote for the candidate of their choice. We disseminate information, however, on a wide range of issues to the attention of Hadassah's members."

Hadassah, however, is a constituent member of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and shares the consensus of the Conference on foreign affairs and Mideast issues. Popkin added that Hadassah is the only Zionist organization in America that is not affiliated with any political party in Israel. "We support the elected government there. We support the people of Israel and not a particular point of view," she stated.

### Daughter Of Immigrant Parents

Popkin, the daughter of immigrant parents who ran a mom and pop stationery store in Brooklyn, rose to the presidency of Hadassah after serving in the organization in various capacities. She joined the organization in 1943, while living in Brooklyn, as a member of the Flatbush chapter. After two years, she was elected chapter president. Her most recent position, before she was elected president, was coordinator of the fund-raising division.

How does she feel about being president of the organization she has known from within for so many years? "Well," she said, smiling, "I feel great. I am thoroughly enjoying it. I must admit, I am tremendously excited by being able to serve in this role."

### ISRAEL'S ONLY SKI LIFT UP FOR SALE

TEL AVIV, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Israel's one and only ski resort and site on Mount Hermon has been put up for sale, for \$15 million. Golan Heights Regional Council chairman Eitan Liss and ski site manager Eli Sagron said the Mount Hermon company which operates the site together with Moshav Neveh Ativ had a \$2 million deficit and no chance of recovering it.

Expensive ski lifts and facilities have been built on the Mount Hermon slopes in recent years, under pressure from the Ministry of Tourism, which the spokesmen charged had not come through with the promised funds to help development.

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REMINDER: There will be no Bulletins date Sept. 27 and 28, Rosh Hashanah.