

**SHINUI PARTY MIGHT LEAVE THE
LABOR-LIKUD COALITION GOVERNMENT
Move Would Weaken Labor's Position**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 17 (JTA) -- Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein announced Sunday that he would advise his Shinui Party to leave the Labor-Likud unity coalition government in which it has been a strong ally of Labor.

A decision is expected Wednesday when the Shinui Council meets. Although the party holds only three Knesset seats, its defection would seriously weaken Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in his bitter deadlock with Premier Yitzhak Shamir over an international conference for Middle East peace.

But Rubinstein, who supports Peres on that issue, indicated his move was intended to spur Labor to break its three-year coalition with Likud and press for early elections. He told a press conference that the stalemate has paralyzed the government and it is no longer viable.

The 'Last Straw'

But the "last straw," he said, was Likud's negotiations with the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party which has four Knesset mandates that could enable Likud to form a narrowly based coalition without Labor. Likud reportedly promised Shas it would push through the controversial "Who Is a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return which would outlaw conversions by non-Orthodox rabbis.

Shas politicians were conferring Sunday with the party's Council of Sages over whether former Interior Minister Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz should rejoin the Cabinet in return for Likud's promises. Peretz resigned several months ago rather than comply with a Supreme Court order to register as Jewish an immigrant, Shoshana Miller, converted by a Reform rabbi in the U.S.

Rubinstein said he expected his party to accept his recommendation to leave the government. One of his two Knesset colleagues, Mordechai Virshubsky, has long been urging this course. But the other Shinui MK, Druze leader Zaidan Atashi said he would not support secession. Media reports said Sunday he has cut a deal with Likud which promised him a safe seat on their ticket in the next Knesset elections.

Cites Violation Of Coalition Agreement

Rubinstein charged that Shamir and others who were blocking Peres' conference initiative violated Article 7 of the Coalition Agreement "which pledges us to act toward peace and in the interest of peace."

He said that regardless of whether Peres' plans would or could ultimately succeed, "I know one thing: If we reject it, there is no chance at all of advancing the peace process . . . and there will be very serious repercussions for Israel."

Rubinstein, a former law professor at Tel Aviv University, lashed out at what he saw as the increasing clericalization of Israel's legal system. He castigated former Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef's role in the Shas deliberations. As a dayan (judge) in the Supreme Rabbinical Court,

Yosef was ordered by the Supreme Court six months ago to desist from political activism.

**A PLAQUE IN THE VILLAGE OF
IZIEU IS DEFAECED BY SWASTIKAS**
By Edwin Eytan

LYON, May 17 (JTA) -- A plaque in the village of Izieu, in memory of 44 Jewish children arrested there and deported to their deaths in Auschwitz in April 1944 on the orders of then Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie currently on trial here for crimes against humanity, was defaced by swastikas.

The desecration, last Thursday night or early Friday, is the most serious manifestation of anti-Semitism in the region since Barbie's trial opened a week ago. It followed a rambling statement by Barbie to the court last Wednesday in which he extolled National Socialism, insisted he was being tried illegally and demanded to be returned to his prison cell for the duration of the trial. The three-judge panel complied.

Rolland Rapport, a lawyer for one of the many civil plaintiffs in the trial, asked Friday that Barbie be brought back to court "by force if necessary to face the survivors of his crimes." Rapport said "Barbie may be absent but his nostalgia for Nazism is very much present."

Magistrate Andre Cerdini, President of the court, said Barbie could stay away "for the time being," a formulation that had legal experts guessing that he might reconsider the issue at a later stage of the trial. Both Prosecutor Andre Truche and several lawyers for plaintiffs backed Cerdini's stand on grounds that to force Barbie to appear in court would be resorting to the methods used by the Nazis.

Most attorneys here agreed that his absence would not diminish the gravity of the charges against him but would "reduce the public impact of the trial." One of its avowed purposes is to inform France's younger generation of the realities of the Holocaust.

With Barbie back in St. Joseph Prison, the trial continued Friday but more than 90 percent of the journalists covering it were gone.

**The Topic Is A Mideast Peace Conference
PERES, ON FOUR-DAY U.S. VISIT,
MEETS SHULTZ AND JEWISH LEADERS**
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Secretary of State George Shultz met for 90 minutes here Saturday night, apparently to discuss an international conference for Middle East peace.

But neither man commented on that issue when they emerged from their talk, nor did they refer to it later in their remarks at a dinner given in their honor by the Ben Gurion Centennial Committee, the culminating event in the year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion, held at the Parker Meridian Hotel.

Peres and Shultz were scheduled to meet again Sunday in Washington where both will attend a meeting of the American Israel Public

Affairs Committee (AIPAC) before Peres returns to Israel Monday.

Peres arrived here Friday for a four-day visit, leaving behind a government hopelessly deadlocked over his proposals for an international conference "opening" to be followed by direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan and other parties to the Mideast conflict.

Peres told a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations Friday that he had not come to the U.S. to mobilize support for his proposals, which are bitterly opposed by Premier Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, splitting the Labor-Likud unity coalition government.

'Historic Opportunity' Must Not Be Missed

Peres told the Jewish leaders, "Even if you do not support my proposal for an international conference, I would not change my mind." He said he would continue to work "with all my strength" not to miss this "historic opportunity."

Peres maintained that the Arab world has reached a point where it must choose between peace and religious fundamentalism and cope with enormous economic problems. "Only peace can help them solve these problems," Peres said.

He said an international conference was necessary to provide King Hussein of Jordan with "a legitimate entry into negotiations with Israel." He denied vehemently accusations by Likud that he offered Hussein territory in return for peace. "All the rumors... are smear campaigns and nonsense. We agreed to negotiate without preconditions," Peres said.

He also reiterated that Israel would never agree to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization and said that four Arab countries oppose PLO participation in a peace conference -- Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Morocco.

The Test Of Great Leadership

At the Ben Gurion Centennial Dinner, Peres recalled that Ben Gurion had been his mentor and had often spoken to him on the issues of leadership and peace. The test of great leadership is when a leader is not afraid to take unpopular decisions and "swim against the stream," he quoted the late Premier as saying.

Peres said Ben Gurion told him that a leader has to choose between war and peace, and if he chooses war "he has to take the risk, and if he chooses peace he has to pay the price."

Shultz, in his remarks, described Ben Gurion as an example of a leader who worked for peace and justice. He said the strongest bond between the U.S. and Israel is "the search for peace."

Shultz was presented with a limited edition sterling silver sculpture by the Israeli artist Aharon Bezalel. It is called "Unity" and represents the Twelve Tribes of Israel. He was also given the Ben Gurion Peace Award.

PERES: ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DIVIDED 50-50 ON INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONCLAVE By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the American Jewish Committee here Sunday that the current Israeli government is divided 50-50 on the issue of an international peace conference and should go to the people for new elections to decide the issue. Peres made the remarks during the AJCommittee's annual conference. He said Israel needs a re-

sponsible government and a responsible opposition. It is better to have two views in one democracy than one view in no democracy, Peres quipped.

Peres postponed his current visit to the U.S. by one day in the face of a government crisis resulting from his and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's differing policies on an international peace conference.

Agreement On Two Elements

All the parties -- Shamir, Peres and the U.S. government -- agree on two things: the Soviet Union must reestablish relations with Israel and change its policy on Jewish emigration before it can participate in an international conference, Peres said.

The international conference is necessary to legitimize the entry of Arab countries into negotiations, Peres said, but it cannot replace direct negotiations.

Palestinian representation is one of the major stumbling blocks in the hypothetical conference. Peres said the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) newly reaffirmed hard-line stand makes it impossible to negotiate with them. Rather, Peres told the AJCommittee that key Palestinian leaders in the West Bank are disenchanting with the PLO and are looking to a Jordanian option.

AJC Supports Conference, Territorial Compromise

The AJCommittee Sunday passed a resolution in support of an international peace conference and territorial compromise. The statement noted recent developments that have given new momentum to the peace process.

"Of particular significance is the breakthrough reportedly achieved in secret negotiations between King Hussein of Jordan and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel," the statement said.

"The procedural agreement, which was achieved with the help of American officials, meets Jordan's need for an international umbrella by having the United Nations Secretary-General invite the five permanent members of the Security Council to convene a conference based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. To meet Israel's requirement that negotiations be direct and bilateral, the procedural agreement states that the conference will invite 'geographical bilateral' committees to conduct the actual negotiations."

The statement called on the U.S. to provide guarantees that outside parties will not impose a solution on the parties to the conflict. The AJCommittee also opposed including the PLO in the talks and supported Peres' position on participation of the Soviet Union.

TOP U.S. OFFICIAL SAYS THE U.S. WILL NOT TAKE SIDES IN SHAMIR-PERES DEBATE By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA) -- A top Administration official said Thursday night that the United States does not intend to "take sides" in the debate between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir over the issue of an international peace conference for the Middle East.

"We want to see peace for Israel but we will not take sides in internal politics," Frank Carlucci, U.S. National Security Adviser, stated in a speech to the 81st annual meeting of the American Jewish Committee at the Grand Hyatt Hotel

here. "It is not for the United States to decide Israel's course and Israel's future," Carlucci told some 1,500 guests. "That is for Israelis to decide. For our part, we are prepared to continue our efforts with both Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres."

The U.S., however, will continue to promote peace, Carlucci said, adding: "The President stands ready to help and I can tell you that there are few achievements more important to President Reagan than that of contributing to genuine peace between Israel and her neighbors."

Carlucci's statement came on the eve of Peres' four-day visit to the U.S. to discuss the issue of an international conference with Secretary of State George Shultz.

Basis For Soviet Participation

On the issue of an international conference on Mideast peace, Carlucci said that if the U.S. were convinced that the Soviets were committed to peace in the region, "there would be no interest in excluding them ... They must show that they understand that Middle East peace will not come by strengthening the forces of radicalism or vague protestations about being committed to Middle East peace."

The National Security Adviser said that the U.S. does not look for rapid, spectacular achievements in the Mideast. "We are being guided by a sober, realistic sense of the possible -- recognizing the dangers but also the opportunities, and the consequences of inaction," he said.

Continuing, Carlucci stated: "Our approach is designed to promote the quiet but real progress that is being made to build Arab-Israeli cooperation in the West Bank and Gaza. It is also designed to explore actively and creatively the possibility of getting a broader negotiating process started."

The U.S. knows that peace cannot be imposed, Carlucci said, or be achieved at once in a single meeting. He said the U.S. explored the possibility of an international conference. But despite a significant progress in recent weeks, "much remains to be done, and at this point there is no certainty of the outcome."

The U.S., Carlucci said, will continue its efforts because "an opportunity to move closer to the reality of peace might be lost otherwise."

A RECORD 250,000 PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL SALUTE TO ISRAEL PARADE By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA) -- A record 250,000 spectators waving American and Israeli flags watched 75,000 costumed marchers, brass bands and scores of floats move along Fifth Avenue Sunday in the annual Salute to Israel Parade marking the 39th anniversary of the independence of the Jewish State.

The skies were cloudless, the temperature warm and a festive spirit prevailed along the route of march from 57th to 86th streets, bracketed by high-rise buildings and a verdant Central Park. The reviewing stand on 68th Street was packed with American and Israeli dignitaries, including this year's special guest of honor, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel. In brief remarks he declared, "As we achieved our independence in Israel, so we will

achieve peace." The Salute to Israel Parade is an annual event organized and sponsored by the American Zionist Youth Foundation. This year it marked not only Israel's 39th anniversary but the 20th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem; the 100th anniversary of the birth of David Ben Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister; and the holiday of Lag B'Omer.

'Pray For Peace In Our Time'

Peace and freedom was the theme. Peres, speaking from the reviewing stand, said, "Let us pray together that freedom will prevail in the world. Let us pray for peace in our time. Let us pray for freedom for Soviet Jews."

Mayor Edward Koch of New York, who headed the delegation of local civic leaders, noted that as mayor he attends the parades of every ethnic group in the city. But this one, he said, he attends not only as mayor but also "as a proud son of Israel."

Prominent Israelis on the stand included Minister of Religious Affairs Zevulun Hammer; Mayor Shlomo Lehat of Tel Aviv; Meir Rosenne, Israel's Ambassador to the U.S.; Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations; and Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives. The master of ceremonies who introduced speakers was Eli Zborowski, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Zionist Youth Foundation.

Security was tight, particularly at the reviewing stand. Uniformed police were everywhere but the salute to Israel was unmarred by any incident.

U.S. ASSURES ISRAEL ON VOA TRANSMITTERS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 17 (JTA) -- Morton Smith, deputy director of Voice of America Radio (VOA), assured Israelis Sunday that the giant relay transmitters to be built in the Negev will not interfere with local military or air traffic communications.

But the American official, who is here to finalize an agreement on the construction and operation of the VOA station in the Arava region north of Eilat, did not address two other concerns often expressed with respect to the location of VOA transmitters in Israel. One is ecological, the other political.

Many Israelis fear the relay of anti-Soviet broadcasts by the VOA, Radio Liberty and Voice of Free Europe, beamed to Eastern bloc countries, could have repercussions in Moscow at a time Israel is seeking a further easing of emigration restrictions on Soviet Jews and possibly direct flights to Israel for Jews leaving the USSR.

The other concern has to do with the biological navigating system of migrating birds which may be interfered with by powerful radio transmissions. Israel's geographical position makes it a converging point for flocks migrating between Europe, Africa and Asia.

But Smith spoke only of electronic interference problems which he insisted were no cause for concern. However, he said the U.S. has conducted one study and will conduct another to make sure no problems exist. He said the VOA will invest \$285 million in the Negev relay station, which will take five years to build.

ISRAELIS AND U.S. JEWS URGED TO STOP 'NAME-CALLING' AND HELP UNITE JEWRY

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA) -- An expert on Jewish life called for Israeli and American Jews to stop "name-calling" and to help bring the Jewish people, despite their difference, closer together.

Dr. David Hartman, founder and director of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, made his remarks at a program forum of the American Jewish Committee's Jewish Communal Affairs Department. The session, titled "Jewish Religious Unity and Polarization: America and Israel," was part of the agency's 81st annual meeting, which concluded Sunday at the Grand Hyatt Hotel here.

Hartman noted that issues such as conversion, how to handle children of mixed marriages, and divorce centered on the larger controversy over pluralism in Jewish religious life. He said that these disagreements should not pose a threat to Jewish unity:

"I do not believe that the unity of the Jewish people entails total agreement on subjects of values or on how Jewish history should proceed. A healthy people needs to have, and will have, healthy disagreements."

Arguments Becoming More Destructive

He stressed, however, that arguments among Jews are rapidly becoming more destructive than constructive. "There is extreme polarization in Israeli society today, and it is accentuating a climate of nasty dialogue and an atmosphere of nastiness," said Hartman. "It is this sentiment over all others that is becoming pervasive in the Jewish world."

He added: "We are also seeing arguments that are critical of institutions, not positions. Power blocks have surfaced, rather than ideological clarity. Delegitimization has taken on greater significance than intelligent conversation."

Hartman suggested that Jews, both within Israel and in the United States, stop listening to "hysterical predictions of assimilation" and "seek a framework of shared values in order to make current debates more intelligent and constructive."

He continued, "The urgent need now is to understand the arguments, not just to listen to each other's abuse. No clarity of the issues can ever come from this confusion, and we will find ourselves going around in circles."

Alfred Moses, former AJC vice president and member of its Board of Governors, and chair of the National Jewish Religious Dialogue, commented: "Over the past two years, a select group of lay leaders of the differing Jewish religious denominations have been meeting, under the auspices of the AJC, to share common ground, promote areas of agreement, air differences, and prevent legitimate differences from spilling over into religious bigotry."

Currently, he said, "they are working on the thorny problem of conversion. The procedure has been, and will continue to be, careful deliberation, open dialogue, and advocacy for a conversion procedure that will be acceptable to various sectors of American Jewry."

TWO LONG-TERM REFUSENIKS ARE GRANTED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE

By Haviya Krasner

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA) -- Two long-term refuseniks and former Prisoners of Conscience

have been granted permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union, according to Soviet Jewry activist groups here. Mark Nepomniashchy, a 56-year-old electrical engineer from Odessa, and his son-in-law, Yakov Levin, a 28-year old Hebrew teacher from Moscow, will immigrate to Israel.

Both men were refused exit visas to Israel in 1979 -- Nepomniashchy on the grounds of "insufficient kinship" and Levin on the grounds of "lack of parental consent." The next five years of their lives were fraught with KGB interrogations and invasions of their homes.

In 1984, Levin was arrested on charges of "circulating false materials which defame the Soviet state and social system." Two months later, Nepomniashchy was arrested in connection with the ongoing investigation of Levin, then his daughter Yehudit's fiancé. The two men were sentenced to three years in a labor camp on identical charges.

Levin and Yehudit Nepomniashchy were permitted to marry in 1985 at the Donetsk labor camp. Following the ceremony, which was attended by many Muscovite Jews, the newlyweds spent three days together at the camp.

In March 1987, Levin and his father-in-law were released early from imprisonment and they rejoined their wives in Odessa, where they waited, until now, to receive permission to be repatriated in Israel.

"We are delighted that Nepomniashchy and Levin have been allowed to finally live their lives as Jews in Israel," said Alan Pesky, chairman of the Coalition to Free Soviet Jews. "However, we must not be lulled into a false sense of security and made to believe that the Soviet Jewry issue has been resolved. . . . We must demand that there be a normalized and speedy emigration process for all Soviet Jews who wish to leave."

Jerry Strober of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry said that these cases could be anomalies and not necessarily a portent of any change for the better in Soviet emigration policy. He added that this policy has been so arbitrary in the past, that "we will just have to wait and see if this is an indication of anything greater."

NEW ENCYCLOPEDIA HAS HALF THE VOLUMES
By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, May 17 (JTA) -- A new, more manageable edition of the Encyclopedia Hebraica has been released with the same number of references, but half the number of volumes.

The new edition is the work of Lakiva Starostinetski, a self-professed farmer from Kibbutz Dahlia outside Haifa, who presented the Library of Congress with a complimentary set of the encyclopedia Friday. The encyclopedia is published by Sifriat Poalim, a publishing company of the Kibbutz Artzi movement.

Starostinetski was able to shorten the set from 34 to 18 volumes by using a thinner, higher quality paper he found in a 19th-century British medical encyclopedia.

He also compiled the encyclopedia's 2,600 references into a separate book instead of adding them to the bottom of each page.

The Encyclopedia Hebraica contains 7,500 entries written by a wide range of Israeli authors, including former Premier David Ben Gurion and Professor Yeshayahu Leibowitz of Hebrew University.

The set can be purchased for about \$750 in the U.S. and \$900 in Israel.