

# SHAMIR RETURNS FROM U.S. 'SATISFIED' AND APPRECIATIVE OF JEWISH SUPPORT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir returned from his 10-day visit to the United States Tuesday evening "satisfied" with its outcome and "happy" that he made the trip, "despite those who sought to frighten me, saying the visit would be fraught with negative manifestations."

He said, on arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport, that he would "consult in the nearest future" with the Inner Cabinet and the full Cabinet "to decide how and what to decide" with respect to the American peace initiative advanced by Secretary of State George Shultz.

But he was vague about the scheduling and mechanics of the Israeli decision-making process. The Inner Cabinet, the government's top policy-making body consisting of five Labor Party and five Likud senior ministers, was deadlocked over the American peace plan in the three sessions it held in the weeks before Shamir's departure.

The premier refused to allow it to vote on the American plan nor did he permit a vote by the full Cabinet when it met on the eve of his departure March 13.

Shamir apparently has good reason to be pleased with his talks with Reagan administration officials in Washington last week. He did not waver from his opposition to an international conference or the accelerated timetable for negotiations proposed by Shultz.

If anything, the administration backed off. Shamir stressed on his return that the United States has set no deadline for a decision by Israel. When Shultz presented his plan to Shamir in Jerusalem on March 4 he had insisted on a "clear response" from Israel by March 15.

The premier said he had the impression the U.S. administration recognized that the peace process could succeed only "if Israel and the United States go forward hand-in-hand."

Efforts "by various quarters" to "bring about American pressure on Israel have not succeeded. They were rejected by the U.S. administration and I think the same will be the case in the future," Shamir said, in what observers here saw as a calculated swipe at the Labor Party headed by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

## Shultz May Return To Region

Shamir said there was a possibility that Shultz would return to the Middle East for another visit, "but it is not definite." Shultz spent two long weekends in the region, between Feb. 26 and March 6, presenting his peace package to Arab as well as Israeli leaders.

Reports Tuesday from Washington indicated that the secretary of state will decide whether to make another stab at shuttle diplomacy after his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, now going on in Moscow. The reports said Shultz was seeking Soviet approval of an international peace conference along the lines of the American format.

Moscow has strongly backed an activist international conference with the participation of all parties, including the Palestine Liberation

Organization and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The American idea is for a ceremonial conference to serve as an umbrella for direct Arab-Israeli negotiations, with no power to impose a solution or veto one. The Soviets so far have balked at this concept.

Shamir, for his part, is opposed to any kind of international conference, though he has indicated willingness to consider peace negotiations under the aegis of the United States and the Soviet Union.

Shamir said on his return home that the priority task now is the "return of order and normalcy" in the administered territories, meaning putting an end to the Palestinian uprising, now in its fourth month.

He expressed gratification for the "enthusiastic support" he said he received from "broad circles" of American Jewry for his position. He said it confounded the predictions of his opponents and detractors.

The "vast majority" of American Jewry "enthusiastically and faithfully supports Israel and stands by the government of Israel unreservedly," Shamir said. "This despite certain efforts to split U.S. Jewry and to elicit from within it critical voices against Israel" and attempts to persuade "the administration to pressure Israel," the premier said.

## U.S. OFFERING ISRAEL GUARANTEES TO WIN ACCEPTANCE OF PEACE PLAN

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, March 22 (JTA) -- The United States is offering Israel certain guarantees to prod it to accept the American peace initiative, Israeli and U.S. officials confirmed Tuesday.

The offer relates "directly to the fear that Israel feels damaged by going into the negotiating process" under the "umbrella" of an international conference, Asher Naim, the Israeli Embassy's information minister, told reporters at the National Press Club.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman also confirmed that the proposals were discussed during Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's visit to Washington last week, but he refused to describe them. Shamir reportedly asked for guarantees that would continue beyond the Reagan administration.

Secretary of State George Shultz has noted that "the kind of proposals we have put forward have very strong bipartisan support" in Congress, Redman added.

"We really have a sense that we can get this thing moving and that there really isn't difficulty having to go across the boundaries from one administration to another," he said.

Redman apparently was referring to a proposed new Memorandum of Understanding between Israel and the United States that contains additional guarantees for security and peace.

Naim also indicated that so long as the new U.S. peace process does not "deteriorate," Shultz will return to the Middle East within two weeks to press his Middle East peace initiative.

He said that except for the international conference, which Shamir vehemently opposes,

there are no other major obstacles preventing Israel from accepting the initiative.

The U.S. plan calls for an international conference to set the stage for negotiations on autonomy measures for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The negotiations, to start as early as May 1, would last no longer than six months and would be followed by talks on the final status of the territories.

"If this obstacle is being overcome, I don't see any other major obstacle in the way," Naim said, emphasizing that Israel wants direct negotiations.

The Israeli Cabinet is expected to officially consider the plan this week. But Naim said the coalition government will likely not say "yes" or "no," but will "authorize the prime minister or the foreign minister to continue negotiations on the Shultz initiative."

"I don't think we will reject the Shultz plan, because we want to see peace. We don't want to endanger ourselves, but we don't want to stop any initiative," Naim said.

#### NEW DEATHS, INJURIES REPORTED IN GAZA STRIP AS RIOTS CONTINUE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 22 (JTA) -- A 15-year-old Jewish youth and a 24-year-old Arab stabbed each other during an altercation in the Beit Yisrael quarter of Jerusalem Tuesday afternoon.

The Arab, apparently the attacker, fled but was captured in the Musrara quarter later. Both youths were hospitalized. Police are investigating the incident.

Rioting, stone-throwing and tire-burning were reported in various parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Tuesday.

The Israel Defense Force shot and wounded a resident of the Khan Yunis refugee camp who attacked a soldier when an IDF patrol ordered residents to remove burning tires that blocked the entrance to the camp. Khan Yunis, a large town in the southern portion of the Gaza Strip, was placed under curfew.

The IDF is investigating the shooting death Tuesday morning of another Khan Yunis resident. He is believed to have been killed by Arabs who suspected him of collaborating with the Israeli authorities.

The body of a Gaza Strip resident was found near Beit Hanun Tuesday morning. The circumstances of his death are unknown.

The IDF also is investigating the shooting Monday night of an Arab resident of Tubas village, in the Samaria region of the West Bank. He was apparently shot by soldiers.

A young East Jerusalem Arab was ordered held in custody for 10 days by a Jerusalem magistrate court Tuesday. He is suspected of conspiring with another youth, who also is in custody, to murder an Arab believed to be a collaborator.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday that permission given recently to IDF soldiers to open fire on individuals throwing Molotov cocktails has been granted to Jewish civilians.

Rabin briefed the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He stressed that firearms could be used only against the person actually throwing the gasoline bomb, not for firing into crowds.

Jewish settlers have been demanding the same permission. They can open fire only when

they believe their lives are threatened, Rabin said.

He reported to the committee that some 3,000 West Bank Palestinians are currently being held in military detention centers. Israel also has banned the transfer of money across the Jordan River bridges as a punitive measure against Arab rioting in the West Bank.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who favors the principle of trading territory for peace, warned Tuesday that the IDF cannot simply withdraw from the Gaza Strip.

Speaking during a visit there, Peres said it would be "scandalous and a mistake just to get up and leave Gaza," because such a move would lead to chaos such as exists in Lebanon.

Peres said he thought the best solution would be to grant autonomy in the territories or an arrangement with Jordan, which would prevent the presence of a foreign army in the Gaza Strip, but allow a non-Israeli authority to manage affairs there.

#### PALESTINIANS WINNING SUPPORT OF BETTER-EDUCATED AMERICANS

WASHINGTON, March 21 (JTA) -- Israel continues to enjoy solid support among Americans as a whole, but Palestinians appear to be winning greater sympathy among the better-educated and higher-income groups, according to an independent national survey released Monday by the Wirthlin Group.

The Wirthlin Group, headed by Richard Wirthlin, President Reagan's pollster, surveyed 1,000 adults between March 9 and 11.

The results showed that 42 percent of college-educated Americans said their sympathies lay more with the Palestinians compared to 38 percent who sympathized more with Israel. The margin for error was plus or minus 3 percent.

Americans as a whole favored Israel over the Palestinians by a margin of 43 to 26 percent. College graduates were evenly divided in their sympathies at 39 percent each. But among holders of post-graduate degrees, 50 percent felt more sympathy for the Palestinians, while 34 percent favored the Israelis.

Neil Newhouse, vice president of the Wirthlin Group, said the results were a disturbing sign for Israel, because better-educated, higher-income Americans "represent this nation's opinion leaders and potential financial support for Israel."

Broken down by yearly income, Americans earning \$30,000 to \$40,000 sympathized most with Israel by a margin of 46 percent to 30 percent for the Palestinians. But those earning over \$40,000 favored the Palestinians over Israel by 43 to 36 percent. Israel was favored 45 to 15 percent by Americans who earn less than \$15,000 a year and 44 to 28 percent by those earning between \$15,000 and \$30,000.

Sympathy for the Palestinians did not translate into sympathy for the Arab states in their conflict with Israel, according to the survey. Israel was favored over the Arab nations by 49 to 17 percent, while 26 percent favored neither and 8 percent had no opinion.

Newhouse observed that while the results of the survey "do not show a great deal of erosion of support for Israel in general terms in the Middle East, they do indicate that fewer Americans are willing to give Israel the benefit of the doubt in that country's dealing with the Palestinians."

## AJCONGRESS BODY URGES ISRAEL TO PURSUE U.S. PEACE PLAN

PHILADELPHIA, March 22 (JTA) -- Delegates to the national biennial convention of the American Jewish Congress voted overwhelmingly here Monday night for a resolution urging Israel to welcome and pursue energetically the new American peace initiative in the Middle East.

The resolution, adopted by a show of hands, supports the components of the peace plan advanced by Secretary of State George Shultz, which include an international conference and, implicitly, the principle of trading territory for peace.

It reaffirms the position taken by the AJCongress Governing Council in September 1987 -- considered unprecedented for a mainstream Jewish organization -- which warned that if no political adjustments are made with respect to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, "demographic imperatives will force Israel to choose between becoming a non-Jewish state or a non-democratic state," neither choice being acceptable.

The resolution adopted at the convention states that "the status quo in the Middle East cannot realistically be maintained and morally ought not to be maintained."

The convention, which is celebrating the 70th anniversary of the AJCongress and Israel's 40th anniversary, also adopted resolutions calling for welfare reform in the United States and the immediate withdrawal of American troops sent to Honduras by President Reagan last week.

It approved overwhelmingly Monday night a resolution urging Congress to override Reagan's veto of the Civil Rights Restoration Act, which was passed by large bipartisan majorities in the Senate and House a week ago.

Both chambers of Congress overrode the veto Tuesday -- the Senate by a vote of 73-24 and the House by a vote of 292-133.

### New President Elected

The convention also elected Robert Lifton as its new national president, succeeding Theodore Mann. Lifton was scheduled to deliver an acceptance speech Tuesday evening.

Other highlights of the four-day gathering, which began Sunday, include a keynote address by Stuart Eizenstat, a former adviser to President Jimmy Carter, and appearances by Egyptian Ambassador Abdel Raouf El-Reedy, Vermont Gov. Madeline Kunin and Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.).

The Middle East resolution was adopted late Monday night, following two hours of intense debate. All amendments proposed from the floor were rejected.

The resolution notes that many Israelis prefer bilateral negotiations with Jordan to an international conference. "If it were available as a political reality (it) would be a preferable course to follow," the document acknowledges.

But since bilateral negotiations are not presently possible, Israel is called on "to display the boldness and imagination required for the achievement of genuine progress toward peace."

The resolution observes that "the Palestinians have never missed a chance to miss an opportunity" and challenges them "to make those minimal commitments that Israelis have every right to expect of them -- recognition of Israel and renunciation of violence."

The resolution makes clear that "Israel's very existence is not a topic for discussion or

negotiations." It emphasizes that the Palestine Liberation Organization has not earned the right to participate in peace negotiations.

### No Role For PLO

"As long as the PLO persists in refusing to abolish its infamous Palestine National Covenant, which calls openly for Israel's destruction, the Israelis will have nothing to talk about with that organization," the resolution states. It notes that Secretary Shultz insists that "Palestinian representation will have to take place through participation in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation."

The resolution refers to safeguards for Israel agreed to last year between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and King Hussein of Jordan, which Shultz incorporated in his plan.

These bar the international conference from imposing solutions or vetoing agreements: They require all participants to renounce violence and terrorism and to accept U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which call for the return of land in exchange for peace.

In a convention address Sunday night, Eizenstat, who was Carter's domestic policy adviser, urged American Jews to participate actively in the debate in Israel about the future and direction of the Jewish state.

"It simply will not wash in this day and age for Israel to ask American Jews for support of their policies in the United States and not be willing to hear constructive suggestions and advice," he said.

### U.S. SUES TO CLOSE PLO MISSION AS U.N. DEBATE CONTINUES

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA) -- U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani filed a complaint in U.S. District Court in Manhattan Tuesday seeking to close the Palestine Liberation Organization's observer mission to the United Nations.

Notification of the civil suit comes one day after the PLO refused to comply with a U.S. Justice Department order to vacate the townhouse at 115 E. 65th St. that serves as its headquarters.

The suit cites the Anti-Terrorism Act passed by Congress in December and in effect since Monday. It labels the PLO a terrorist organization for its "numerous violent acts," including the murder of U.S. citizen Leon Klinghoffer during the 1985 attack on the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro*.

Debate continued Tuesday in the U.N. General Assembly on a resolution requesting Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to take "adequate legal action and further measures" to prevent the United States from closing the PLO mission.

According to a draft, the resolution "deplores" what it describes as the failure of the United States to honor the Headquarters Agreement of 1947, which established the legal relationship between United Nations and the United States, its host country.

Speeches by General Assembly delegates on the resolution continued until late Tuesday afternoon. A spokesperson for the United Nations expected the resolution would come to a vote Wednesday.

There were unconfirmed reports late Tuesday that the United Nations had hired a New York law firm to respond to the U.S. suit as a "friend of the court."

**SEATTLE RABBI CLAIMS INNOCENCE  
OF MONEY-LAUNDERING CHARGE**

By Craig Degginger  
The Jewish Transcript

SEATTLE, March 22 (JTA) -- The director of the Chabad House here says he is innocent of federal charges he took part in an operation to launder millions of U.S. dollars and illegally transport them to Panama.

Rabbi Sholom Ber Levitin, 47 and leader of Seattle's Hasidic community for 16 years, was arrested here last Friday along with three other suspected members of the reputed operation.

The rabbi spent three days in the Snohomish (Wash.) County Jail before being released on \$50,000 bail posted Monday. In a telephone interview from his northeast Seattle home, Levitin professed his innocence. "Everything will be okay," Levitin said. "I am definitely innocent."

He refused to comment on his alleged role. "It will all come out in court," he said.

Thirteen suspects including the rabbi were named in the federal complaint, following an investigation by the U.S. Customs Service, the Internal Revenue Service and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Baruch Zeltzer, 32, a resident of Chabad House in Seattle's University District and believed to be an Israeli citizen; Avi Hazan, 24, a Seattle businessman; and Sergio Dias, 26, also of Seattle, remained in jail here as of Monday afternoon.

U.S. Customs Service special agent John Hynes said in an affidavit that Levitin, Zeltzer, Hazan and Dias received the cash. It was sent by Adi Tal, 27, of Edison, N.J., who was arrested along with his wife, Jacqueline Tal, 26, and Nir Goldeshtein and his wife, Zoe Lawton, all of New Jersey.

According to the federal complaint, which originated in New Jersey, the Seattle suspects allegedly converted the cash to cashiers' checks by presenting to several banks amounts of less than \$10,000. Sums under \$10,000 do not require the filing of currency-transaction reports under federal law.

The checks were then collected and express-shipped to Panamanian bank accounts, avoiding federal currency-reporting requirements, according to federal court papers.

Three other suspected members of the operation, Moshe Begim, Guy Marom and Alon Redko, were arrested in Los Angeles.

**Charged With Two Violations**

Each suspect was charged in U.S. District Court with violating federal currency-transaction and transportation-reporting laws. If found guilty, each suspect could receive up to five years in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

Adi Tal, described in the court papers as the central figure in the operation, is a former employee of El Al Israel Airlines. The court papers say that he was supervised by two men in Colombia, Enrique Korc and a suspect known only as Kimaro.

The affidavit, filed in New Jersey, describes two intercepted phone conversations between Levitin and Tal in January and March regarding the alleged money-laundering operation.

Federal officials refused to comment on the source of the money or its intended use. Indictments of Levitin and the others are expected to be forthcoming from a federal grand jury in New Jersey, according to Ron Friedman of the U.S.

Attorney's Office in Seattle.

If indicted, Levitin would then be arraigned in federal court in New Jersey, Friedman said.

Levitin's arrest was greeted with amazement from throughout the Seattle Jewish community.

The Chabad House community issued a statement, read by Rabbi Yechezkel Kornfeld, saying that it believes Levitin to be "totally innocent" and will be proven so in court.

Chabad members and Levitin's attorney, Murray Guterson, were bitter that U.S. Magistrate John Weinberg would not release the rabbi on his personal recognizance Friday in time for Shabbat.

Efforts to reach a spokesman at Lubavitch world headquarters in Brooklyn, N.Y., were unsuccessful.

The rabbi himself thanked the community for "its overwhelming response" of support and concern.

**AUTHOR BIRNBAUM DEAD AT 83**

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here Monday for renowned Jewish author and editor Dr. Philip Birnbaum of New York. Birnbaum died here Saturday of natural causes at age 83.

Responsible for about 75 works in Hebrew and English, Birnbaum is probably best known for his version of the Hebrew prayerbook "Ha Siddur Hashalem," also known as the Birnbaum siddur. Originally published in 1949 by the Hebrew Publishing Co. of Brooklyn, N.Y., it was the first to include prayers for daily as well as holiday use in one volume.

Three major Birnbaum siddurs are in use worldwide: the "Daily Prayer Book (Hashalem)," the "High Holiday Prayerbook" and the "Prayer Book for Sabbaths and Festivals." The siddurs were published independently of any religious affiliation.

Although Birnbaum was Orthodox, his works have been used by the Conservative movement as well as Orthodox.

Birnbaum wrote, edited and translated in Hebrew and English. He was considered to be profoundly interested in education and in opening Jewish learning to the Jewish masses.

Among his works were "The Arabic Commentary of Yefet ben Ali the Karaite on Book of Hosea," "Maimonides' Mishneh Torah," "Ethics of the Fathers" and "The Passover Haggadah."

Born in Kielce, Poland, Birnbaum came to the United States in 1923. He was an active member of the Association for the Advancement of Hebrew Language and Culture in North America, Hahistadruth Haivrith B'America, and belonged to the Zionist Organization of America and the National Council of Jewish Education.

In 1986, Birnbaum received Yeshiva University's Mordechai Ben-David Award for literature and the Body of Works Citation from the Jewish Book Council.

**JEWISH BULLETIN LAUNCHED IN FRANCE**

PARIS, March 22 (JTA) -- A French-language daily news bulletin based on the worldwide services of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was launched here Monday.

The four-page publication, titled "Jour J." (The Jewish Day) and subtitled "Jewish Telegraphic Letter," will appear five days a week. It is owned by a private company and edited by veteran journalist Samuel Minsk.