

**LABOR VOTES TO RESUME TALKS  
WITH LIKUD ON UNITY COALITION**

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- The Labor Party's Central Committee voted decisively Thursday night to resume negotiations with Likud for a broad-based coalition government.

Likud, still bogged down in talks with the ultra-Orthodox and far right-wing parties, was unable to present Labor with the fait accompli of a narrow governing majority, as Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had hoped to do before the Central Committee voted.

Israel Radio announced the secret vote was 690-390 in favor of an alliance with Likud, as urged by party leader Shimon Peres and almost all other Laborites of ministerial rank.

Israel Television shortly afterward said the vote was 638-349. By either count, it was evident that many of the Central Committee's 1,300-plus members did not cast ballots.

But simmering discontent with the party's leadership, widely blamed for its weaker-than-anticipated showing in the Nov. 1 Knesset elections, did not surface at the Central Committee session, contrary to the predictions of some observers.

The committee was convened in response to a dramatic plea Monday by President Chaim Herzog for the two major parties to get together and form a broad, stable government for the good of the country.

Its decision reversed that of the party's 120-member leadership bureau, which defied Peres by rejecting a new approach to Likud in an upset vote here Nov. 30.

On Thursday night, there were three speakers for and three against seeking a new partnership with Likud.

**Promise To Build Settlements**

In favor were Peres, who is foreign minister in the outgoing Labor-Likud unity government, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Education Minister Yitzhak Navon, a former president of Israel. Opposing it were Labor Party Secretary-General Uzi Baram; Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, the 83-year-old former secretary-general of Histadrut; and Michael Bar-Zohar, a Knesset member and longtime critic of the present party leadership.

Peres put his position as chairman on the line in an impassioned plea. "My head is in your hands," he said. "Anyone who wants to cut it off can do so."

He took issue with Baram for saying that Labor "demeaned itself" by its efforts to woo the Orthodox parties away from Likud with lavish promises of religious concessions.

According to Peres, Labor pursued the religious extremists "in order to hoist our flag of peace . . . to find a majority for peace . . . What is demeaning in that?"

In Jerusalem, meanwhile, Likud signed a coalition accord with the far right-wing Tehiya party. It pledged, among other things, to build 40 new Jewish settlements in the administered territories over the next four years.

Asked what would happen if Labor decided to hold coalition talks with Likud, Tehiya leader

Yuval Ne'eman replied, "That's Labor's problem."

But Peres and other Laborites made clear that their decision to negotiate with Likud is contingent on its reopening the agreements it reached with the religious parties and keeping the three secular right-wing parties -- Tehiya, Tsomet and Moledet -- out of the projected government.

"We will go with the Orthodox, because we courted them," Rabin declared. But Labor would not be part of any government committed to a massive settlement plan.

**THORNBURGH TAKES STEPS TO ALLOW  
MORE SOVIET JEWS TO COME TO U.S.**

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- Attorney General Richard Thornburgh took steps Thursday to allow up to 2,000 Soviet emigres per month to enter the United States on the attorney general's parole authority, including all Jewish emigrants now in Rome.

In addition, the Justice Department will allow "immigrant class" entry to a "limited number of applicants who face special circumstances."

Thornburgh announced this interim measure in response to a request from Secretary of State George Shultz that something be done to help Soviet citizens who are unable to get visas to the United States because of the U.S. budget crunch.

Since September, about 179 Soviet Jews have been stranded in Rome, because they have been denied refugee status, which would automatically allow them entry to the United States. Another 345 have been waiting a ruling on their status.

But Sheppy Abramowitz, a State Department spokeswoman on refugee affairs, said all the Soviet Jews stranded in Rome could come on parole status. She also noted that 93 percent of Jews who left Soviet Union in the last three months have come on the normal refugee status.

Also since July, a lack of funds has left the U.S. Embassy in Moscow unable to process applicants for visas, mostly Armenians, but some Jews as well. The embassy had decided not to process additional Soviet applicants until January.

But Thornburgh also ordered Alan Nelson, the commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, to take immediate steps to place a Russian-speaker at the Moscow Embassy to help adjudicate some of the backlog of emigration cases.

As a long-term measure, the Justice Department's Office of Legislative Affairs will work with the State Department to develop a legislative strategy to address the problem, Thornburgh added.

The attorney general's order was announced two days after Shultz met with a delegation of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. The secretary promised at that meeting that the government would work with the Jewish community to resolve the problem.

Jews entering the United States as refugees receive government aid for traveling and resettlement. But when Jews come to the United States under the parole authority, these expenses are picked up by the Jewish community in which they settle.

## U.S. STILL WAITING FOR UNAMBIGUOUS STATEMENT ON ISRAEL FROM THE PLO

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- The Reagan administration is looking for a clear, unambiguous statement from Yasir Arafat that the Palestine Liberation Organization recognizes Israel's right to exist when he addresses the United Nations General Assembly in Geneva on Tuesday.

The PLO chairman is scheduled to address a debate on the Palestinian issue in which he will describe the positions taken at the Palestine National Council's meeting in Algiers last month, including the declaration of an independent Palestinian state.

The General Assembly moved the Palestinian debate to Geneva from the U.N. headquarters in New York, after U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz denied Arafat a visa to enter the United States.

At a news conference in New York on Wednesday, Shultz again reiterated the U.S. conditions for a dialogue with the PLO. They are: explicit recognition of Israel's right to exist, acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and "renunciation of terrorism in all its forms and a pledge not to engage in it."

Shultz said there seemed to be "some further clarification" of the PLO position in a statement issued Wednesday by Arafat and five American Jews who met in Stockholm.

### 'Prepared For Substantive Dialogue'

"I welcome that," Shultz said of the clarification. But he said the Stockholm statement has still not met the U.S. conditions.

"If they meet these conditions, then we're prepared for a substantive dialogue," he stressed.

At a news conference in Stockholm after Arafat met with the five Jews, the PLO leader said that the PNC declarations "said clearly there are two states in Palestine, a Palestinian state and a Jewish state."

The statement issued by Arafat and the five American Jews, all affiliated with the American arm of the Tel Aviv-based International Center for Peace in the Middle East, concluded with the assertion that the Americans felt the U.S. conditions had been met and "there were no further impediments to a direct dialogue between the United States government and the PLO."

Shultz's position was reaffirmed Thursday by Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, in a speech to the Center for Strategic and International Studies here.

"In Stockholm, Arafat took the process another step forward," Murphy said. "Still, he fell short of the mark. But the progress is in the right direction and again is welcome."

Murphy also said the PLO's position on terrorism has been vague and ambiguous. "In this context, we particularly welcome the relative clarity of the language" in the Stockholm statement, which rejected terrorism "in all its forms," Murphy said. "Let's hope that performance matches that promise."

At the State Department Thursday, spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said that the department knew of the Stockholm meeting in advance, both from the American group and the Swedish government. But she stressed that the State Department was not in any way involved in organizing the conference.

## JEWS REACT WITH SYMPATHY FOR ARMENIAN QUAKE VICTIMS

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- In response to the devastating earthquake that rocked Soviet Armenia Wednesday, B'nai B'rith International has pledged to donate \$2,500 in emergency relief funds for the victims.

A check was to be presented Friday morning to Minister-Counselor Oleg Derkofsky of the Soviet Embassy in Washington.

The quake, which is estimated to have killed tens of thousands of people, curtailed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to New York. He returned to Moscow on Thursday to assess the "serious destruction" to the mountainous section of western Armenia, where the republic's second-largest city, Leninakan, is situated.

Refuseniks in Moscow and Leningrad have also reacted with sympathy to the victims of the disaster by calling off a hunger strike planned for Human Rights Day, according to the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry.

The refuseniks issued a joint statement saying, "In memory of the Armenian victims of the earthquake, we have decided to cancel our planned hunger strike on Dec. 10, and, in deep sorrow and regret, we offer our assistance."

## U.S. TO INSPECT GENEVA BANK ACCOUNT OF ISRAELI LINKED TO IRAN ARMS SALE

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- The Swiss bank account of an Israeli arms dealer involved in the Iran-Contra scandal will be opened for inspection by U.S. investigators, a federal court in the Swiss city of Lausanne ruled Tuesday.

The court rejected the claim by attorneys for Yaakov Nimrodi that he had been operating officially for the Israeli government and was not involved in the Iran affair.

Nimrodi, a retired colonel in the Israel Defense Force, admitted having an account in the Swiss Credit Bank in Geneva.

It was used to transfer \$1 million originating in Israel to the account of Lt. Col. Oliver North, a former aide on President Reagan's National Security Council.

Those funds are alleged to have been used to finance a clandestine American arms shipment to Iran in 1985, when the United States officially maintained an arms embargo against Iran.

Nimrodi is suspected of having been a key figure in the illicit transaction.

## ORTHODOX MARCH OVER EXEMPTIONS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- Hundreds of Orthodox Jews who have served in the armed forces demonstrated here Thursday against widespread criticism of the exemptions from compulsory military service given to yeshiva students.

The reserve officers and soldiers conducted a march to the Prime Minister's Office to show that the Orthodox are an integral part of the security forces.

Yeshiva students and other religious Jews, meanwhile, have decided to volunteer for armed patrols to secure the old Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives after dark.

There has been a rash of vandalism at the cemetery. About 100 tombstones have been desecrated this year, apparently by Arabs.

## ITALY, ISRAEL, U.S. UNITE IN REBUKE OF GREEK ACTION

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Dec. 8 (JTA) — The Greek government's decision to free a Palestinian terrorist whose extradition to Italy had been upheld by the Greek Supreme Court is having international repercussions.

The Foreign Ministry here expressed shock and is demanding explanations.

There were also expressions of outrage from Israel and from leaders of the Italian, Greek and American Jewish communities.

Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff of Rome indicated he would urge Jewish tourists from all over the world to boycott Greece.

Abdel Osama al-Zomar, the principal suspect in the Oct. 9, 1982, machine gun and grenade attack on the main synagogue in Rome that killed 2-year-old Stefano Tache and wounded 40 people, was "deported" by Greece Wednesday to a country of his choice, believed to be Libya.

In Athens, the Greek minister of justice, Vassilis Rotis, explained that the longstanding Italian request for extradition was denied because he considered Zomar's alleged crime in Italy politically motivated, in the context of the Palestinian struggle for liberation.

The Central Jewish Board of Greece, the umbrella organization representing Greek Jewry, sent an angry letter to the prime minister Wednesday.

The letter charged that from now on, "Every Greek Jew's life will be at the disposal of any terrorist who can kill them, individually or in groups — having the legal warrant of the justice minister."

In Rome, the Italian Foreign Ministry asked Wednesday for "exhaustive clarification" from Greece when it summoned the Greek ambassador, Nicolais Athanassiou.

### 'Cynicism Bordering On Depravity'

In Washington, the U.S. State Department said it was "profoundly disturbed" by the Greek decision and "supports the Italian government's call for full clarification from Greece."

Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley also said that Greece's "explanation that an armed attack on a synagogue and the murder of a 2-year-old child was 'all in the domain of the struggle to regain a homeland'" was "deplorable."

Oakley said the U.S. request for clarification was made both to the Greek Embassy here and in Athens.

The United States plans no further action in this case.

In Jerusalem, a Foreign Ministry spokesman denounced the Greek decision, expressing confidence that the international community, likewise, would express its condemnation.

In Los Angeles, the Simon Wiesenthal Center called on Secretary of State George Shultz to "order an immediate review as to the impact of this move on the safety of Americans traveling to Greece, at a time when that government has apparently given carte blanche to terrorists."

Seymour Reich, international president of B'nai B'rith, and Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in New York, also condemned the Greek justice minister's decision.

Reich said Rotis' "new definition of 'freedom

fighting' establishes new depths of cynicism bordering on depravity. Is the cold-blooded murder of an innocent child anywhere in the world, and far removed from the arena of conflict, now to be classified a heroic deed in the name of liberation?" he asked.

(JTA correspondents Jean Cohen in Athens, Gil Sedan in Jerusalem and David Friedman in Washington contributed to this report.)

## SHIN BET EXPOSES 93 TERRORIST CELLS IN ISRAEL AND TERRITORIES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 8 (JTA) — Israel's internal security service, known as Shin Bet, has exposed 93 Palestinian terrorist cells responsible for killing and maiming civilians in Israel and the administered territories, as well as attacks on military targets.

The top secret agency accomplished this in just two months — from Oct. 1 to Nov. 30 this year — according to a letter of congratulations from Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin to the head of Shin Bet, whose identity is classified.

The roundup resulted in the arrests of 610 suspects, 17 of them in Israel proper.

"I thank you and express my heartfelt esteem for your efforts, and wish you success in your future activities for the sake of the security of the people of Israel," Rabin said in his letter, made public Tuesday.

Two of the worst outrages attributed to the gangs were the firebombing of an Egged bus near Jericho on Oct. 28, in which an Israeli woman and her three small children were burned to death, and a grenade attack on the Nordau Street pedestrian mall in Haifa last July.

The 13 suspects in that attack, ranging in age from 18 to 27, were arrested only recently.

Ten lived in Ibtin village east of Haifa, two in the neighboring village of Kabiya and one in Umm el-Fahm.

A breakdown of the arrests showed that 62 cells were in the West Bank, 27 in the Gaza Strip and four in Israel.

Twenty-nine of them were associated with Al Fatah, five with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and three with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Eight cells were run by Moslem fundamentalist groups. Five of them belonged to Hamas, the Islamic resistance organization, and three belonged to Islamic Jihad. One was affiliated with Abu Nidal's terrorist organization.

## ARAB YOUTH KILLED IN WEST BANK

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA) — Two Palestinian youths were wounded, one of them fatally, in a clash Thursday with Israeli troops who staged a pre-emptive raid on Kafr Rai village, southwest of the West Bank city of Jenin.

The clash took place on the eve of the first anniversary of the start of the intifada, the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

An Israel Defense Force unit met fierce resistance when it entered the village in a show of force.

Troops opened fire, wounding two youths. They were rushed to a hospital in Jenin, where one of them, identified as Yussuf es-Sbeh, 17, died.

## NEWS ANALYSIS: AFTER A YEAR OF ARAB UNREST, ISRAEL CAN'T SHAKE OFF INTIFADA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- On Tuesday evening, Dec. 8, 1987, an Israeli truck driver, driving down a narrow road between Ashkelon and Gaza, plowed into two vans carrying Arab laborers home to the Gaza Strip from their jobs in Israel.

Four of them were killed. At their funeral the next day, tempers flared. Speakers claimed the truck driver deliberately rammed the vans. They said he was avenging the fatal stabbing in Gaza earlier that week of an Israeli salesman, Shlomo Sakal.

Angry youths staged demonstrations against Israel. By the weekend, rioting spread throughout the Gaza Strip and into the even more populous West Bank.

The riots have not ended yet. They were given a name: "intifada," an Arabic term that means "shaking off" -- the way an animal shakes off dirt or parasites.

The purpose of the intifada is to shake off the Israeli administration of the territories.

A year after the unrest began, Israeli policymakers remain divided over how best to deal with it. They agree, however, on one thing: It is not over and the end is not in sight.

It may have weakened. It may have changed direction. It is wounded, but still alive; hurting, but still inflicting a heavy burden on Israel.

The Palestinians have paid a heavy price. The Israelis have tried to crush the intifada with an iron fist, with soldiers of the Israel Defense Force using live ammunition and at times brutal force to disperse demonstrators.

### Casualties 26 Times Higher

To date, at least 301 Palestinians have been killed, according to IDF body counts, and at least 3,640 have been wounded.

At present, there are some 5,500 Palestinians in jail, 1,500 of them under administrative detention, which means they are held without charges and without trial.

The Israeli authorities have deported 32 Palestinians, and another 27 are in jail fighting deportation orders by legal means.

Their prospects are not good. Israel's judicial system has yet to overrule a deportation order.

The IDF has demolished 140 houses belonging to Arabs allegedly involved in terrorist acts, and it has sealed off the homes of 47 others.

As with the administrative detentions, the deportations, demolitions and sealing off of houses are done without direction from the civilian courts. The military alone decides.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin has asserted repeatedly that the IDF would use all possible measures to crush the uprising "as long as they are within the realm of the law."

But the price of the intifada cannot be calculated only in terms of dead, wounded and imprisoned.

The economy of the territories, which flourished during the first 20 years of the Israeli administration, is now in ruins. The frequent strikes, Israeli economic sanctions, the dry-up of investments, have caused a precipitous drop in living standards.

Palestinian society also has undergone a

socio-political revolution. A new generation of local youthful militants has taken control.

The generation that grew up under Israeli administration pushed the Palestine Liberation Organization aside and took over the local leadership.

Young activists led the population into confrontation with the Israelis.

The IDF does more than control the highways and main streets of the large towns. Almost daily it conducts pre-emptive raids against remote villages. They are the cause of the most recent Palestinian casualties. They have driven nationalist activity underground.

### Strikes And Firebombings

But if mass rioting is over, other expressions of unrest persist.

Hardly a week passes without a general strike. An Israeli car traveling anywhere between Hebron, in the South, and Nablus, in the North, has a good chance of being stoned -- at least once.

Recently, local activists have resorted to firebombs. Two days before the Knesset elections, they attacked an Egged bus, burning to death a mother and her three small children.

The 70,000 Jewish settlers living in the territories now must think twice before leaving their homes. They accuse the security forces of impotence.

The IDF also pays a price. Soldiers who should be training for "the next war" devote more time policing the territories. That has had a bad effect on army morale.

So have frequent stories in the press about military brutality toward the local population.

Despite strict orders against the unwarranted use of excessive force, commanding officers find it difficult to control all deviant behavior.

Israel also pays an economic price. Gad Yacobi, the minister of economic coordination, estimated recently that the intifada would cost Israel almost \$1 billion.

There is general agreement between Labor and Likud that whatever the political solution, the intifada must be curbed.

While Premier Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, has given Laborite Rabin his full confidence, critics like Ariel Sharon and other right-wingers, strengthened by the recent elections, have proposed even tougher measures, including the death penalty for terrorists.

### West Bank Annexation

The far right demands annexation of the West Bank, while Labor still clings to the idea of an international peace conference and territorial compromise.

Meanwhile, increasing frustration with the intifada has produced a discernible shift to the right among the Israeli public.

There had been great hope in the territories that the PLO's proclamation of an independent Palestinian state, and its limited steps toward recognizing Israel and renouncing terrorism, would produce some tangible diplomatic rewards for a year of merchant strikes and demonstrations.

But the Palestinians today have little to cheer about. A year after the intifada, they are confined to their homes, under curfew and subject to punitive measures.

It now appears that positions are hardening on both sides. A year after the intifada began, a political solution seems more remote than ever.