

**SHAMIR BRIEFS TOP MINISTERS,  
BUT NOT CABINET, ON PEACE PLAN**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir briefed the three most senior government ministers Sunday on his forthcoming trip to Washington, in lieu of a full-scale debate in the Cabinet.

One of the participants, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Labor, later said he was still unclear about what the premier intended to tell his American interlocutors.

Vice Premier Shimon Peres, the Labor Party chairman, would only say that the meeting had been "an exchange of views." And Foreign Minister Moshe Arens of Likud said nothing at all to reporters.

Several ministers, including Yitzhak Moda'i of Shamir's own Likud bloc, publicly criticized the premier Sunday for refusing to hold a policy debate in the full Cabinet, or at least in the Inner Cabinet, before his departure.

Shamir's aides have explained this reluctance by saying the premier wanted to avoid premature leaks of the ideas he proposes to submit to President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker.

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who is to accompany Shamir to Washington, expressed confidence Sunday that Israel could persuade Americans of the contradictions and insincerity in the Palestine Liberation Organization's position.

Netanyahu acknowledged in a radio interview that the PLO had won a public relations victory "during the period of Israel's elections and the subsequent coalition negotiations."

He said the task confronting Shamir is difficult, but "the Americans are people who are prepared to listen and be persuaded."

The premier himself met Sunday night with a group of settlement leaders from the West Bank who sought to "strengthen his hand" in advance of his trip.

**Rabin Outlines His Plan**

In public statements these past few days, the premier repeatedly has asserted that he is not weakening in any way in his refusal to negotiate with the PLO and his rejection of a Palestinian state as a possible solution to the conflict.

In the Labor Party, meanwhile, the more hawkish elements have rallied around Rabin and let it be known that they will not support a bid by Peres to break up the unity coalition after Shamir's return -- unless a real rupture occurs between Jerusalem and Washington.

There have been persistent reports that Peres, supported by dovish forces in the party, is planning such a move on the assumption that the Bush-Shamir talks will end in effective deadlock.

Peres has said he will publicly present his own peace plan once Shamir comes home.

Rabin addressed a meeting of the newly formed "central stream" within Labor Sunday, and reiterated the details of his two-phase peace plan. It involves a broad Palestinian autonomy arrangement for five years, with talks on the final status of the territories beginning toward the close of

that period, as envisaged under Camp David.

Rabin has previously indicated he would support elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to evolve an indigenous leadership that would negotiate with Israel. Apparently he envisages such elections as an initial step, leading to autonomy.

Rabin told the Labor hawks that if this plan were realized, there could be Israeli elections after the Palestinian autonomy arrangement had been established. At those elections, the voter would be called upon to confront directly the issue of the final status of the territories, prior to negotiations with the Palestinians.

Among those attending Rabin's presentation were Knesset member Shlomo Hillel and Micha Harish, the Labor Party secretary-general.

Rabin made it explicitly clear that he supports the continued existence of the unity government. According to political observers, he is backed in this by the various would-be contenders for the Labor leadership crown: Cabinet Ministers Mordechai Gur, Gad Ya'acobi and Moshe Shahal.

None of them relishes the prospect of a coalition crisis with the Likud at this time, since that would automatically strengthen the waning Peres.

**NEWS ANALYSIS:****SHAMIR VISIT TO U.S. PRESENTS  
MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 2 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has an opportunity to seize the initiative in the Middle East peace process when he comes to Washington on Wednesday for two days of talks with the Bush administration.

But his visit also has the potential to ignite new strains between the United States and Israel because of the high expectations that have been created by both countries about the "new ideas" Shamir is bringing with him.

Shamir's opportunity to influence the course of the peace process is heightened by the fact that the Bush administration has not formulated a policy on the Middle East in the more than two months it has been in office.

U.S. policy may become clear after Bush meets with Shamir and two Arabs leaders: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Monday and King Hussein of Jordan on April 19, the eve of Passover. The Hussein meeting was pushed up from the original date of May 2, because of scheduling technicalities.

Bush met briefly with Hussein and Mubarak in February, when all three attended the funeral of Japanese Emperor Hirohito in Tokyo. Bush also met with Israeli President Chaim Herzog in Tokyo and with Moshe Arens when the Israeli foreign minister visited Washington last month to lay the groundwork for the Shamir visit.

He is scheduled to meet the Israeli premier on Thursday, after Shamir holds talks with Secretary of State James Baker on Wednesday.

"I think what you will see is a very good give-and-take with all the visitors about how they look at the peace process, how we look at the peace process," a senior administration official said Friday, in briefing reporters.

He said the three visits will "help define perhaps the evolution of our thinking on what we do next."

The official said that there is a realization by all the parties "that the status quo is not a tenable position."

#### Elections In The Territories

Mubarak, who arrived in Washington on Saturday night, is expected to discuss his recent talks with Hussein and Yasir Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization. He also is expected to report on Saudi Arabian King Fahd's recent visit to Cairo -- the first since the signing of the Camp David accords in September 1978.

As for the Shamir visit, expectations are running high within the Bush administration that the premier will offer concrete proposals to advance peace.

Secretary of State Baker said, in an interview with The New York Times last week, that the administration is "very anxious that the prime minister bring some new ideas for the peace process."

Shamir said in Jerusalem last week that was exactly what he plans to do.

But in an interview published in the Times on Friday, the premier said "the main focus is not on new ideas," but on "ideas that are realistic and reasonable."

He confirmed that he will propose elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in which the Palestinians would choose their own leaders for negotiations with Israel.

But the PLO has rejected elections while the territories are under Israeli control. The Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have so far showed no indication that they would defy the PLO on this or anything else.

The Bush administration in its talks with the PLO is apparently trying to persuade the PLO to allow the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to represent the Palestinians in negotiations with Israel. But there is no indication that it has made any headway in this effort.

#### Against Talks With PLO

Shamir is expected to voice once again Israel's opposition to the U.S. dialogue with the PLO, as well as to reiterate that Israel will never negotiate with the PLO.

At a recent meeting in his office with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Baker said he would not press Israel to talk with the PLO.

But he has said publicly that Israel may have to consider such talks someday, if this is the only way to get negotiations started.

Mubarak is expected to urge that Israel agree to talks with the PLO. When he met in Cairo recently with Science and Development Minister Ezer Weizman of Labor, who supports such talks, the Egyptian president offered to host Israeli-PLO talks in Cairo.

Mubarak and Hussein both are expected to urge the Bush administration to support an international conference for peace negotiations that would include the PLO. Shamir is adamantly opposed to such a conference.

The Bush administration also has appeared cool to such an international conference unless it is guaranteed to bring about direct negotiations.

The administration appears to favor the gradual approach sought by Israel in which there would be some sort of self-rule by the Palestini-

ans before negotiations would be held on the final status of the administered territories.

That is basically the formula for achieving a peace settlement outlined by the Camp David accords.

"We and the Egyptians have seen eye-to-eye on the main principles of the peace process," the administration official said Friday.

#### Violence Must End

He said this was based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and the principles of "territory for peace, security for all states in the region and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

Baker has urged Israel and the PLO to ease tensions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a way to create an environment that could lead to negotiations. Arafat has rejected ending the intifada.

In his interview with The New York Times, Shamir stressed that elections could not be held in the territories as long as the Palestinians continue their violence.

The administration official said that while the peace process will be the main item in the meetings with Mubarak, a major topic also will be U.S. assistance for the "serious economic challenges" faced by Egypt. He said Mubarak is committed to economic reforms.

Egypt receives \$1.3 billion in military aid and \$815 million in economic aid, all of it grants from the United States.

#### CANADA'S DIALOGUE WITH PLO DENOUNCED BY JEWISH LEADERS By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, April 2 (JTA) -- Canadian Jewish leaders have condemned their government's decision to open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Caught off-guard Thursday by reports of a meeting between Canadian and PLO officials at United Nations headquarters in New York, the leaders of Canada's main Jewish organizations held an emergency telephone conference call lasting nearly to dawn on Friday.

In a statement released after the call, they said the Canadian government's decision to lift its restrictions on official contacts with the PLO represents "a deeply disturbing departure from Canada's traditional constructive policy with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict."

The leaders also refuted denials by External Affairs Minister Joe Clark that the government had endorsed a Palestinian state.

The leaders said a reference by Clark supporting "Palestinian self-determination" was tantamount to support for such a state.

"It is a simple fact," they said, "that everyone in the Middle East -- Israel, the Palestinians, the PLO and the Arab countries -- interprets the words 'Palestinian self-determination' as meaning an independent Palestinian state."

Furthermore, they said, the government appears to have abandoned "the fundamental principle that peace in the Middle East can be achieved only through direct negotiations among the parties directly involved."

The leaders concluded by stressing that Canada should now at least exert its influence and demand that the PLO renounce all forms of terrorism and to retract sections of the Palestine National Covenant calling for Israel's destruction.

# ISRAELIS OPPOSE TALKS WITH PLO NOW, BUT POLLS SHOW FUTURE WILLINGNESS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA) -- There seems something for everybody in a recent spate of polls assessing Israeli attitudes toward negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has embraced one finding of a poll conducted last week for The New York Times by the Hanoch Smith polling concern.

It found that 82 percent of Israeli Jews oppose negotiations with the PLO at this time. This bolsters his own opposition to such talks as he prepares to meet in Washington with President Bush on Thursday.

In addition, 64 percent said they thought it "possible to conduct peace negotiations with Palestinians who are not connected with the PLO." Shamir has long insisted that non-PLO interlocutors could be found to conduct peace negotiations.

But Israelis to the left of Shamir's Likud bloc may be heartened by a poll finding that 58 percent of Israelis would favor talks if the PLO "officially recognizes Israel and ceases terrorist activities."

The Times poll also found that 62 percent of Israelis feel talks with the PLO are inevitable over the next five years.

The Labor Party, headed by Vice Premier Shimon Peres, officially backs Shamir's stand, but some key party members have advocated talking with the PLO. Parties to the left of Labor, including the Citizens Rights Movement and Mapam, also have urged such negotiations.

One unmistakable trend, however, is that the overwhelming majority of Israelis do not feel the PLO has done enough for negotiations to begin now, despite PLO leader Yasir Arafat's statements in December that he recognized Israel's right to exist.

## 18 Percent Favor Talks Now

Asked whether Arafat's recent declarations constitute a basis for negotiations with the Israeli government now, only 18 percent said yes, according to the Times survey. Even among those on the left, only 41 percent said they favored immediate talks with the PLO.

The Times and the Smith concern, which conducted the poll of 1,096 Israeli Jews between March 23 and 28, said the results had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Other recent polls also show that the majority of Israelis are unwilling to consider negotiations with the PLO now, but would favor talks if the PLO fulfilled certain conditions.

They indicate that a widely touted poll conducted in February was somewhat misleading in reporting that 54 percent of all Israelis unconditionally favor negotiations with the PLO.

According to a new poll, conducted by the Telesker concern for Peace Now, only 20.8 percent of Israeli Jews think talks should be started with the PLO now, while 66 percent of the public is willing to talk to the PLO if certain conditions are fulfilled.

Those results were published in Ha'aretz on Friday.

And in a poll by the Modi'in Ezrachi concern, published March 24, 56 percent of Israelis said they believe "there is no room for talks with the PLO."

# PROTEST CALLS FOR AN END TO U.S. DIALOGUE WITH PLO

By Yaffa Weiss

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA) -- About 200 members of right-wing Zionist organizations rallied outside the Palestine Liberation Organization's U.N. mission here Sunday, calling for an end to the U.S.-PLO dialogue begun in December.

"This rally is because there is an overflow of anger and impatience with the U.S. and PLO dialogue," said Dr. Kenneth Kelner, president of the Manhattan Region of the Zionist Organization of America and an organizer of the rally.

"America has mentioned a unilateral stand against terrorism, and now we see that commitment eroding, and we want that to stop."

Kelner added that the rally was also a welcome for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who arrives in the United States Tuesday for talks in Washington.

Among the groups represented at the rally were Americans for a Safe Israel, Emunah Women of America, the Jewish Political Caucus, Kach International and Tagar, a student organization.

There was no organized opposition to the rally.

# PALESTINIAN'S DEATH ON LAND DAY RENEWS TENSIONS IN HEBRON AREA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA) -- Incidents of violence coinciding with Land Day have renewed tensions between local Palestinians and Jewish settlers in the Hebron region.

Police in the area are investigating the circumstances in which an Arab was fatally wounded in downtown Hebron last Thursday during demonstrations marking the anniversary of the shooting of six Arabs in 1976.

Local residents blamed Jewish settlers, and police confirmed they had eyewitnesses who had seen settlers firing shots in the city.

Settlers were later seen driving in and around the heavily Arab city carrying Israeli flags. Some settlers put "press" signs on their cars, as they threatened to do last week after journalists complained that police were impersonating reporters.

In one incident, a car which carried a "press" sign entered the village of Bani Naim, south of Hebron. When villagers began throwing stones, the passengers, believed to be settlers, climbed out of the vehicle and began shooting in the air.

According to an unconfirmed Palestinian report, the passengers then entered the home of the local village head and beat him.

Police officials said they had no information of exceptional activities by the settlers. Photographers took a picture of a settler firing in the air, reportedly in the heart of the village.

The other Palestinian fatality occurred in Eizariya, east of Jerusalem, where soldiers tried to break up a demonstration on the road to the Jewish settlement of Ma'aleh Adumim. A soldier shot and killed a Palestinian who reportedly tried to attack him with a heavy construction block.

Meanwhile, the army announced it would press criminal charges against four soldiers, including a battalion commander and a company commander, for aggravated assault, following the death in February 1988 of a resident of el-Bureij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

## OSI BEGINS DENATURALIZATION CASE AGAINST WISCONSIN MAN

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA) -- As one former SS guard was arriving in Austria last week, the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations began proceedings against another elderly man similarly charged with serving during World War II as a Death's Head Battalion guard at two concentration camps.

OSI said last week it had begun action to revoke the citizenship of Anton Baumann, 77, of West Allis, Wis., who it alleges served the Nazis as an armed SS guard at the Stutthof and Buchenwald concentration camps.

Charges against Baumann were filed March 29 in U.S. district court in Milwaukee. The proceedings were announced Thursday, just as Josef Eckert, 75, was reported to have arrived in Salzburg, Austria.

Eckert, a former resident of La Puente, Calif., admitted last year of having served as an SS guard at Auschwitz.

Eckert voluntarily removed himself from the United States in compliance with U.S. government wishes to deport him, avoiding a trial in his case.

Both Eckert and Baumann are natives of Yugoslavia. Eckert, unlike Baumann, had never become a U.S. citizen. This spared the U.S. government of having to undertake lengthy denaturalization proceedings against him.

OSI is seeking to revoke Baumann's citizenship on the grounds that he allegedly concealed and misrepresented his wartime activities when applying for immigration to the United States in 1950 and again in 1956 when applying for U.S. citizenship.

### Shootings, Hangings, Torture

In violation of the Immigration Act of 1924, Baumann failed to report his membership in the SS Totenkopf-Sturmabteilung (Death's Head Battalion) and service as a guard at Stutthof, in Poland, and Buchenwald, in Germany.

At the two camps, "prisoners were subjected to shooting, hangings, starvation, torture, forced labor, disease and a variety of grotesque medical experiments conducted on unwilling inmates, including Jews, Poles, children, political prisoners and Soviet POWs," the OSI charged.

The complaint argues that because of his activities and failure to disclose them, "Baumann lacked the good moral character required of those seeking to obtain United States citizenship."

Baumann joined the Waffen SS on Nov. 18, 1942 and served at Buchenwald in 1943, according to the OSI complaint.

Individuals charged with concealing their Nazi past are located through an exhaustive procedure that OSI carries out by comparing names on wartime lists with immigration records. Each match is then researched in the archives of relevant European countries.

Neal Sher, director of OSI, said nearly 600 individuals are currently under OSI's investigation.

Lately, these cases have been proceeding more quickly, said Eli Rosenbaum, deputy director of the Nazi-hunting agency.

"Once we sent (Karl) Linnas to the Soviet Union and (Andrija) Artukovic to Yugoslavia, our other suspects realized how serious we were and how we were going to use the very limited legal framework in which we operate to advantage," he said.

## TWO GUNMEN KILLED IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA) -- Two unidentified gunmen were killed by Israeli troops Friday in a clash north of the Israeli-controlled security zone in southern Lebanon.

Israel Defense Force soldiers looking for terrorists encountered the fighters north of the Lebanese village of Shihin, which lies in the western sector of the zone, according to an IDF spokesperson.

Although it is not yet clear to which organization the men belonged, army sources said it was clear that they were armed and on their way southward toward the security zone.

During the past three months, units of the IDF and its allied South Lebanon Army have killed 31 armed fighters belonging to various terrorist organizations. In addition, two fighters have been captured alive during this period.

Most of those killed have been Palestinians attempting to infiltrate and carry out attacks in the security zone or northern Israel. IDF commanders say that Palestinians have recently been staging a major buildup of fighters north of the security zone.

## BONN'S BAN ON NAZI ART QUESTIONED

By David Kantor

BONN, April 2 (JTA) -- A brouhaha has erupted in the West German parliament over the question of Nazi art.

Several opposition members of the Bundestag on Friday criticized Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann for his failure to reply to an eight-month-old question in the legislative body about the government's ban on the display of Nazi art.

The opposition members said their intention was to stop the government's practice of "demonizing" art produced during the Third Reich.

Antje Vollmer, a member of the left-wing Green Party, complained that nearly all the paintings created during Nazi rule have been banned in West Germany, although practically no limitations exist on the screening of Nazi propaganda films.

According to observers, the government has been trying to avoid dealing with the embarrassing issue of so-called "degenerative Nazi art" for both political and moral reasons. But the ongoing public debate will make it more and more difficult to postpone an official response to the concerns voiced by various critics.

## 1,000 PHILADELPHIANS ARRIVE IN ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA) -- One thousand Jews from Philadelphia strode proudly and purposefully through the streets of downtown Jerusalem Sunday evening in a rousing demonstration of solidarity with the Jewish state and its capital city. They were greeted at City Hall by Mayor Teddy Kollek and other local leaders.

The mission, organized by the Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia, is designed to boost flagging U.S. Jewish tourism to Israel as well as to offer a moral and political shot-in-the-arm for Israelis.

"We've heard that Israelis are feeling alone," said Mimi Schneirov, president of the federation. She hopes her city's effort will be the forerunner of others from the United States.