

## SHAMIR THREATENS TO QUIT LIKUD IF PARTY BALKS AT HIS PEACE PLAN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 21 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, faced with a possible grass-roots revolt in the Likud bloc, threatened Sunday to resign if his party rejects his plan for Palestinian elections followed by self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I cannot continue in office if I do not feel I have the support of the movement I represent in the government," Shamir told Israel Radio.

He spoke shortly before embarking on a six-day visit to Britain and Spain, where he is expected to solicit international support for the new Israeli peace initiative.

The plan, drafted by Shamir and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin of the Labor Party, was approved in the Cabinet on May 14 by an overwhelming 20-6 majority.

But three of Likud's most powerful ministers are opposed: Ariel Sharon and David Levy, of Shamir's own Herut faction, and Yitzhak Moda'i, leader of Likud's Liberal Party wing.

Although the Knesset endorsed the government plan by a 43-15 vote margin last Wednesday, the 120-member chamber was nearly half empty.

Likud Knesset members opposed to it absented themselves, rather than vote against the government.

Sharon, who serves as minister of industry and trade, will convene the Herut Central Committee, which he also chairs, next month, precisely to obtain grass-roots opposition to the peace plan.

Shamir will face a showdown shortly after he returns from abroad.

### Sees Plan As 'A Danger'

Before leaving on his trip he tried, without success, to convert Levy, who holds the rank of deputy premier and serves as housing minister.

Levy emerged from a lengthy lunchtime meeting with Shamir on Sunday saying he had not changed his position. "I'm against the plan," he said. "I see it as a danger."

He said his talk with Shamir was "frank and candid" and that they had agreed to meet again privately after Shamir returns from abroad.

Aides to Shamir tried to put the best possible face on the meeting.

According to them, Levy promised not to "undermine" the prime minister while he is away and indicated that his present position was not necessarily his last word.

Political observers believe Shamir would find it very hard to beat the combined forces of Sharon, Levy and Moda'i in the Central Committee.

Nevertheless, some of Levy's own supporters in the Likud Knesset faction -- Eliahu Ben-Elissar and Reuven Rivlin -- voted for the plan in the Knesset last Wednesday, while many of their colleagues left the chamber.

Levy himself was abroad at the time.

He said Sunday that many rank-and-file Herut members outside of his "camp" have contacted him to say they agree with his criticism of Shamir's plan.

## ARENS CONCLUDES WASHINGTON VISIT WITH ANOTHER PLEA FOR U.S. BACKING

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 21 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens ended his visit to Washington on Sunday the same way he began it last Thursday: by asserting that Israel's peace initiative can only succeed if it has the wholehearted support of the United States.

Speaking to the opening session of the 30th annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Arens said Israel met the commitment he made to the Bush administration two months ago that "Israel would launch a peace initiative."

"The next move is up to Washington," Arens said. "This initiative can succeed if it will have the wholehearted, unqualified support of the United States. We need that support. We believe we deserve it and are entitled to it."

But the Bush administration appears to believe that the responsibility for moving the peace process forward lies with Israel, the Palestinians and the Arab countries.

"The emphasis right now should be on getting the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to show flexibility and creativity in getting a dialogue started and setting the stage for peace negotiations," State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said Friday.

"Both the United States and Israel are committed to doing what we can in this regard," he said during a news briefing on Arens' meeting Thursday afternoon with Secretary of State James Baker.

While in Washington, Arens also met with Vice President Dan Quayle, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, Defense Secretary Richard Cheney and Health and Human Services Secretary Jack Kemp.

### Can't Miss 'Opportunity For Peace'

Boucher said the secretary of state told Arens that the parties to the conflict "must bear the major responsibility to ensure movement forward in the process."

"We hope and expect that other parties will also explore the Israeli proposals seriously and constructively," the spokesman said. "None of us can afford to miss a potential opportunity for peace."

Boucher said the peace proposal adopted by the Israeli Cabinet last Sunday "had promising possibilities. It is a serious proposal."

The proposal would have the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip elect representatives for negotiations with Israel for a five-year period of self-rule. Within three years of the establishment of autonomy, negotiations would be held on the final status of the territories.

Boucher said that while a "lot of work needs to be done on this proposal, it certainly is a good start and in the right direction. Elections can provide the opportunity to launch a political negotiating process."

He noted that for the first time Palestinians will be involved "directly in every stage of the process. But elections cannot exist in a vacuum," he said. "They must be part of a process that

links transitional and final status" negotiations.

Departing the State Department Thursday, Arens told reporters he was not "pushed at all" by Baker on how the election would be held and who would be eligible to vote.

The Bush administration reportedly has been asking Israel whether Arabs in East Jerusalem would be allowed to vote and whether Israel would accept international supervision for elections.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has ruled out both proposals.

"I don't think we can be sidetracked at this time by this or that detail," Arens said.

"The main thrust of the peace initiative is clear," Arens told some 1,200 delegates and 400 college students attending the AIPAC conference.

"Some of its details will be defined as we go along, but we should not get bogged down over these details now. That can only serve those who would like to derail the initiative."

#### Aid For Refugees Proposed

Arens stressed Sunday, as he has throughout his visit to Washington, that the Israeli peace initiative does not just propose elections, but includes three other proposals.

They are the reaffirmation by the United States, Israel and Egypt of the 1978 Camp David Accords, peace negotiations with other Arab countries and a multinational effort to solve the problems of Palestinians in refugee camps.

He called for U.S. participation in a summit with Israel and Egypt to reaffirm their commitments under the Camp David accords. He indicated last week that the summit should be held before the final plans for the elections are worked out.

Boucher would not comment on this proposal or another by Israel that the United States take the lead in a \$2 billion program to aid Palestinians living in refugee camps. The proposal was contained in a letter Arens brought with him from Shamir to President Bush.

"The major obstacle to the peace initiative is the PLO," Arens said Sunday. He said the Palestine Liberation Organization seeks to frighten Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as Arab states, from negotiating with Israel.

"There is no other road to peace" than the Israeli proposal, Arens said. "International conferences and dialogues with terrorists are dead-end streets and prescriptions for an escalation in frustration, animosity and violence."

He urged the members of AIPAC to explain the Israeli initiative to American leaders and "mobilize support for it throughout America. You can help move it from an initiative to a real movement toward peace," he said.

#### **RABIN SAYS ISRAEL MUST CONVINCE PALESTINIANS VIOLENCE WON'T WORK**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 21 (JTA) -- The Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip must realize that they can achieve a solution to their problems only by accepting the Israel peace initiative, not through violence, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday.

Israel must "deliver a clear-cut message to the Palestinians that through the use of violence they are not going to achieve anything beyond what the government of Israel has proposed to them," Rabin said in an interview on CBS-TV's

"Face the Nation."

Rabin was interviewed in New York before going to Washington later in the day for talks with the Bush administration. He is scheduled to meet Monday with Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and Secretary of State James Baker.

Rabin said that, over the past two weeks, he has met with some 30 Palestinian leaders from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He told them that for the past 50 years they have chosen leaders who demand "everything or nothing."

"As a result of which they have remained with nothing," he said. "They have to start to think in terms of the reality of the region, to move gradually from nothing" toward an interim arrangement and a permanent solution.

"Let's start to achieve something, to build confidence, not by the use of force, but negotiations," he said.

Rabin denied that Israel's increasing use of harsh moves to put down the Palestinian uprising in the territories is aimed at forcing the Palestinians to accept the proposal for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He said Israel is offering peace, but at the same time, it has to react against the violence initiated against Israel.

"What do you want from us, to run away from stones and petrol bombs?" he asked.

"I believe that the problem today is not a question of violence, it is a question to what extent the Palestinians in the territories will not be threatened, intimidated by the PLO in Tunisia not to accept what Israel has offered," he said.

#### **SHAMIR NOT WORRIED HIS PAST WILL CATCH UP WITH HIM IN U.K.**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 21 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, bound for Britain on a diplomatic offensive to sell Israel's new peace plan, is not worried that his own underground past will catch up with him.

Speaking on Israel Radio hours before his departure for London, Shamir said he was "proud" to have been leader of the Lehi, the pre-state underground movement that fought the British in Palestine.

Also known as the Stern Gang, it was considered by many to be a terrorist organization.

Shamir noted that he had made official visits to Britain before, as foreign minister, and neither he nor his hosts had been troubled by his past record.

But the British news media and some public officials persist in raising the matter.

Most recently, the minister of state at the Foreign Office, William Waldegrave, compared the Israeli prime minister to Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat.

Waldegrave is the highest-ranking member of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government to have met with Arafat. There have been hints in London, however, that the foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, plans a meeting with the PLO chairman.

Shamir, meanwhile, hopes to convince the British to support his initiative.

British officials briefing Israeli reporters on the trip seemed moderately encouraged. They welcomed the initiative "as far as it goes."

From London, Shamir will fly to Madrid for the first-ever visit to Spain by an incumbent prime minister of Israel.

**GRENADE ATTACK ON SOLDIER  
NOT SEEN AS TACTICAL SHIFT**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 21 (JTA) -- A fierce gunfight in the West Bank last Thursday that left one Israeli soldier dead, and several others severely wounded, raised fears here that the Palestinian uprising has taken a more deadly turn with the use of firearms against the Israel Defense Force.

But Israeli civilian and military leaders pointed out over the weekend that the incident did not involve Palestinian villagers suddenly switching from rocks and bottles to rifles and grenades. Rather, the incident involved an organized gang of armed terrorists of a kind the IDF has been dealing with for years.

The gang's targets, in fact, were not Israeli soldiers, but Palestinians alleged to be collaborating with Israel.

Shimon Peres and Yasir Arafat seemed in agreement over the weekend that the Palestinians have not begun to resort to firearms in their uprising.

Peres, the vice premier and finance minister, who is acting defense minister while Yitzhak Rabin is abroad, said the terrorists used rifles and grenades, not because they planned to, but because they were cornered by the IDF after an automobile chase.

Maj. Gen. Amram Mitzna, commander of the central region, concurred. He said the clash, which took place near Beit Ulla, in the Hebron hills, was not a response to the IDF's tougher measures of the past week.

**Six Others Wounded**

Arafat, speaking from Baghdad, said the PLO leadership has not abandoned its decision to refrain from using firearms in the uprising. He added, however, that there is a "limit to patience."

Other PLO leaders praised the terrorists. They said that while the policy against using firearms in the uprising remained in force, Thursday's battle was legitimate and "they acted in self-defense."

Although the three terrorists involved in the incident were killed, the IDF paid a high price.

Sgt. Yitzhak Revah, 35, of Rishon le-Zion, died of wounds caused by a hand grenade. He was the seventh Israeli soldier killed since the uprising began more than 17 months ago.

Maj. David Elkad, a battalion commander, was seriously injured and five other soldiers were wounded in the clash.

The gang operated in the Hebron area for some time, harassing local Arabs who collaborated with the Israeli authorities.

One of its targets, a resident of Nuba village, asked the IDF for help Thursday night, after his home came under a shower of automatic gunfire.

Military vehicles rushed to the scene and then chased a car that ignored orders to halt. When the car was cornered, its occupants fired M-16 rifles and threw grenades at the soldiers.

The IDF later demolished the family homes of the three dead Arabs in Idna and Nuba villages, as well as the homes of two other terrorists.

For most Israelis, it was too early to tell whether the gunfight was an exceptional incident or the start of a deadlier phase of the uprising.

Clearly, soldiers raiding Arab villages from now on will have to be alert for bullets, as well as stones and bottles. On the other hand, Palestinians in the territories do not come by firearms easily.

The weapons of choice are rocks and stones, which can inflict serious injuries that are sometimes fatal. They can be found everywhere, in various sizes and shapes, and in almost unlimited quantities.

**Leaflet Contains Death Threat**

The latest directive issued by the underground leadership of the Palestinian uprising leaves no doubt that the killing of Israelis is a major goal.

Leaflet No. 40 urges that one Israeli soldier or civilian settler be killed for every Palestinian death at Israeli hands.

It suggests that such murders be carried out via ambush "from a position of self-defense, to make sure the enemy pays a heavy price for its crimes."

The worsening situation in the territories occupied much of Sunday's Cabinet meeting.

The IDF chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron, complained to the ministers that the army has to deploy large forces to protect Jewish settlers in the Hebron area, at the expense of doing its job of training soldiers and dealing with real security problems.

Avner Shaki, a minister of the National Religious Party who is closely allied with the settlers, urged that they be allowed to organize an armed civilian militia.

Transport Minister Moshe Katsav of Likud repeated his proposal that the West Bank and Gaza Strip be sealed off from Israel for three months as a form of economic punishment for the Palestinians.

He had support from some Laborites in the Knesset, but left-wing lawmakers called the idea "racist."

Meanwhile, the violence in the territories continued unabated.

Five Palestinians were killed Friday, including a 50-year-old woman, in a clash with the IDF in the Shabura neighborhood of Rafah, at the southern end of the Gaza Strip. Thirteen Arabs were seriously wounded.

**ISRAEL RELEASED FOUR TERRORISTS  
TO COMPLY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS RULES**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 21 (JTA) -- Israel had to release four most-wanted terrorists it held in custody because of a commitment to the United States, an Israel Defense Force officer has revealed.

Col. David Yahav, outgoing legal adviser to the IDF in the West Bank, made the disclosure last week at a study evening on human and civil rights in Jerusalem.

He said the four terrorists were freed because it was not possible to bring them before a judge within 96 hours of their arrest.

"Israel made a commitment to the United States to be meticulous on this issue," Yahav said.

"Every administrative detainee is brought before a judge within 96 hours after his detention, and every three months there are deliberations on the continuation of his detention," the colonel said.

## CALIFORNIA COURT ALLOWS CHABAD TO DISPLAY MENORAH AT CITY HALL

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, May 21 (JTA) -- California's Supreme Court has upheld the right of the Chabad Lubavitch movement to place a Chanukah menorah at the Los Angeles City Hall, rejecting claims that the display would violate the separation of church and state.

The case arose in December 1985, when Chabad obtained permission from municipal authorities to display a 19th-century Chanukiah, originally used in Polish synagogues, near a Christmas tree in the City Hall rotunda.

The American Civil Liberties Union sued to block the display, but both a Los Angeles Superior Court judge and the state Court of Appeal agreed with attorneys for the city that the exhibit did not promote religion and therefore was constitutional.

In its decision last January, the appellate court noted that the display had a valid secular purpose, did not advance or inhibit religion and did not represent "excessive entanglement of church and state."

Furthermore, display of the small, unlit menorah helped educate the public because it was saved from destruction during the Holocaust, according to the appeals court ruling.

The ACLU then took the case to the state Supreme Court, which, however, declined unanimously to hear the challenge, thereby letting the decision of the appellate court stand.

Carol Sobel, the ACLU attorney, said she might appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, which is expected to rule before it recesses next month on a similar case, involving display of a menorah at a government building in Pittsburgh.

In New York, Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky, a spokesman for the Lubavitch movement, said he was pleased at the California ruling but would withhold further comment until the Pittsburgh case is decided.

Chabad lost a different menorah case earlier this month, when a federal appeals court threw out the movement's appeal of a ruling forbidding it from leaving a menorah standing overnight on the grounds of the Iowa state Capitol.

## ISRAELI-PLO 'DIALOGUE FOR PEACE' SPLITS GLASGOW'S JEWISH COMMUNITY

By Ezra Golombok  
Jewish Echo

GLASGOW, May 21 (JTA) -- A public meeting between an Israeli Knesset member and an official of the Palestine Liberation Organization has split the Jewish community here.

The exchange took place last Thursday, when Dedi Zucker of the dovish Citizens Rights Movement spoke with Karma Nabulsi, introduced as second in charge at the PLO's London office.

The meeting, organized by the Glasgow Friends of Peace Now, was publicized as a "Dialogue for Peace." But most of the local Jewish community saw it as a propaganda platform for the PLO.

It was denounced by 28 community leaders, including two rabbis, who maintained that "to condone the meeting is to condemn Israel."

Jews were urged to stay away. The hall, in the Jewish communal center, was half empty. The audience of about 120 included some non-Jewish supporters of the PLO said to be from a group

called the West of Scotland Friends of Palestine.

Mark Goldberg, who chaired the meeting, said, "We as Jews have an obligation to try and help resolve the conflict."

Said the PLO representative, "I believe more than ever in resolving the conflict through talking, through negotiating, through peaceful means."

Nabulsi said the Palestine National Council, which the PLO regards as its parliament in exile, implicitly recognized Israel by accepting U.N. Security Council Resolution 181 of 1947, which called for the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, and Resolution 242 of 1967, which affirmed the right of all parties in the area to live in peace.

## Israel Must Now Decide

But neither the PNC nor the United States recognizes Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, she said.

Zucker, whose party holds five Knesset seats, said Israel was at a historic juncture. "It is up to us now to decide whether we should re-divide Israel -- or Palestine -- or try to live together with Palestinians side by side."

He said the uprising of the past 17 months "should have proved, even to those who do not want to believe it, that it is impossible to rule over another people for 20 years." He added, "Surprisingly enough, they don't learn to love you."

Zucker said he accepts the words of mainstream PLO leaders that they are prepared to negotiate with Israel. He said Israel is strong enough to take the risk.

In London, meanwhile, the Jewish Chronicle reported that a number of prominent British Jews had met with PLO officials. The paper quoted Dr. David Cesarani, a British-Jewish historian, as saying that dozens of well-known British Jews had met privately with PLO officials in London, but were "plain bloody cowards" about saying so publicly.

## LEADER ADVISES AMERICAN JEWS TO STAY ROOTED TO LIBERALISM

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 21 (JTA) -- American Jews should be more involved as Jews in public policy issues, and they should do it by maintaining their traditional roots in liberalism, a top official of the American Jewish Committee urged here.

"In the face of a strong rightward tide of American public opinion and governmental policies, American Jews should defy the undertow and stay rooted to the liberalism which will help ensure American pluralism and social fairness, good for us and for all Americans," said Ira Silverman, the group's executive vice president.

Silverman spoke last Wednesday night at a Capitol Hill reception opening AJCommittee's 83rd annual meeting, which ended Sunday. The organization presented its first Congressional Leadership Awards to Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Rep. Dante Fascell (D-Fla.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Silverman said Jews must continue to advocate a broad political and social program that starts with "securing of the needs of our people."

He said Jews must not allow themselves to "be bullied or cowed" by non-Jews who urge them not to be too aggressive in pursuing their aims. "We have a right to be heard," he said.