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## LIKUD BODY AGREES TO INCORPORATE PRINCIPLES BACKED BY HARD-LINERS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- The expected showdown between Yitzhak Shamir and critics within his Likud bloc turned into a show of unity Wednesday evening, when the party Central Committee overwhelmingly adopted a toughly worded resolution on the prime minister's peace initiative.

The resolution includes a set of "principles" that make the peace plan palatable to hard-liner Ariel Sharon and his allies, but may alienate Likud's Labor Party coalition partners and the United States.

After weeks of rancorous wrangling that threatened to split the party, Shamir agreed at the last minute to incorporate the principles into the resolution, which the 2,600 Central Committee delegates adopted by a virtually unanimous show of hands at their meeting in Tel Aviv.

Those principles dramatically limit the circumstances under which Palestinian elections could be held in the administered territories and, in large measure, predetermine the outcome of any negotiations Israel could have with those elected.

Specifically, the principles:

- Exclude Arab residents of East Jerusalem from participating in the proposed elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip;
- Require total suppression of the nearly 19-month-old Palestinian uprising before the elections are held;
- Rule out, under all circumstances, negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization;
- Rule out the creation of a Palestinian state between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean;
- Call for the continuation, at an accelerated pace, of Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

### Labor May Leave Coalition

The Labor Party's reaction to the Central Committee move was swift and severe. The party's Executive immediately scheduled a meeting Thursday to consider breaking the coalition agreement with Likud. (See separate story.)

The peace plan itself is a collaborative effort between Likud and Labor. It was drafted jointly by Shamir and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Labor.

The plan calls for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to choose delegates with whom Israel would negotiate a self-rule plan for the territories and, eventually, an agreement on their final status.

Sharon, who is minister of industry and trade, denounced the plan on grounds that it would lead to the creation of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

His views were shared by two other powerful Likud figures, Deputy Premier David Levy, who is minister of construction and housing, and Yitzhak Moda'i, the economics and planning minister who is leader of Likud's Liberal Party wing.

These ministers had vowed to amend Sha-

mir's plan at the Central Committee meeting, acknowledging they could not defeat it, since it already had been approved by the Cabinet and Knesset.

Shamir had no quarrel with the substance of Sharon's ideas. But he resolutely insisted, for strategic and tactical reasons, that they not be incorporated in writing.

### Political Setback For Shamir?

He explained, in a television interview, that he wanted to maintain a certain degree of vagueness about his plan "out of consideration for our coalition partners."

He emphasized that the plan was a joint Likud-Labor enterprise. He stressed, however, that everyone knows where Likud and he personally stand.

Prior to the Central Committee meeting, Shamir served notice that he wanted the delegates to vote either to back or reject the plan, as approved by the Cabinet and Knesset.

But in a fire-eating speech to the Central Committee Wednesday evening, Shamir spoke passionately in favor of every one of Sharon's proposals.

Political observers discerned a personal setback for the prime minister's leadership.

They said that while he will continue to head the party and the government, neither he nor his supporters can claim any longer that the Shamir camp can prevail against the forces of his rivals within Likud.

Shamir, in a television interview after the Central Committee adjourned, flatly dismissed the notion that he had "folded" before his party rivals. "I don't know the meaning of the word," he said.

"The Likud hasn't changed," he added. "That was how we always were. Nor has the (peace initiative) changed."

### LABOR SLATES MEETING TO CONSIDER BREAKING ITS COALITION WITH LIKUD

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- The Labor Party's Executive scheduled a meeting Thursday to consider breaking its coalition with Likud.

The step is being urged by many Laborites in view of what they consider onerous conditions imposed on the government's peace initiative by the Likud Central Committee at its meeting Wednesday night in Tel Aviv.

Vice Premier Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, said the resolution adopted by Likud "very seriously handicaps the chances of progress" toward peace with the Palestinians.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir insisted that nothing has changed. "The Likud's positions were no secret to anybody," he said.

But Peres, who also serves as finance minister, told a television interviewer that the Labor Party would have to "consider its course."

"I know there are some of our members who feel we should leave" the coalition with Likud, he said.

Peres said he would divulge his own position on that matter at the Executive meeting Thursday.

The Likud resolution flatly rules out participation by East Jerusalem Arabs in the Palestinian elections. Shamir is proposing to choose delegates from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to negotiate with Israel.

The resolution insists, moreover, that the Palestinian uprising be totally crushed before the election process can begin.

#### An Eye Toward U.S. Reaction

Those and other key points of the Likud resolution invest the ideologically neutral peace initiative, drafted by Shamir and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin of the Labor Party, with a strong Likud ideological flavor.

Peres said a majority of the Labor Party favors allowing East Jerusalem Arabs to participate in the elections, "without thereby damaging Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem or the unity of the city."

Similarly, he said, Labor does not favor making the start of talks conditional upon the cessation of the uprising.

"The intifada must be put down" and independently "talks must begin at once, without any more delay," Peres said.

But political observers do not believe Labor will act precipitously to dissolve the coalition, just because the Likud resolution is politically unacceptable to it.

The Laborites will watch closely the reaction of the American administration and the Congress to the Likud moves, before the party makes a decision, observers said.

In their view, if Likud's resolution results in total derailment of the peace initiative, Labor will have no option but to quit the coalition.

#### **POLL FINDS 60 PERCENT OF ISRAELIS FAVOR SHAMIR'S ELECTIONS PROPOSAL** By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA) -- Sixty percent of Israelis and 83 percent of Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip support the idea of Palestinian elections in the administered territories, according to public opinion polls published in the past week.

But whereas the Israelis were questioned specifically on Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's election proposal, the Palestinians expressed support for elections under certain conditions not included in the Shamir plan.

The survey of Israeli attitudes was conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi organization during the first and second weeks of June and published Tuesday in Ma'ariv. The 1,186 adults questioned were selected on the basis of their political affiliations.

Overall, 60 percent favored the Shamir plan and 40 percent opposed it. The same ratio was found among respondents identifying as members of Shamir's Likud bloc.

Among members of the Labor Party, the plan was favored by an even wider margin of 66 to 34 percent.

An overwhelming 85 percent of Israelis identifying with the left wing supported the plan, while 55 percent of those affiliated with right-wing parties opposed it. Likewise, 54 percent of those belonging to religious parties opposed the election scenario.

The poll of Palestinians was conducted by the East Jerusalem weekly Al-Bayadir a-Siyassi among 104 residents of the territories. The results were published by the paper Saturday.

Ha'aretz, which published the results Sunday, said the survey was not made according to established norms of scientific poll-taking.

Those questioned, including public figures, were selected as a group supposed to represent the mood in the administered territories, Ha'aretz said.

The results showed that 17 percent oppose elections under any circumstances. Most of those respondents explained that the Palestine Liberation Organization is recognized by the Palestinian people as their authorized representative, so there is no need to elect others.

But 83 percent of those questioned expressed support for elections, though with many qualifications.

The support of 14 percent was conditional on the withdrawal of the Israel Defense Force from population centers in the territories. But 86 percent insisted on the IDF's total withdrawal.

Other conditions stipulated by the respondents were international supervision of the elections, PLO consent to them and a guarantee that Israel will take no punitive action against those elected.

#### **SECURITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER CENSURING ISRAEL FOR EXPULSIONS** By Allison Kaplan

UNITED NATIONS, July 5 (JTA) -- The Security Council will meet here Thursday to consider a resolution condemning Israel for the June 29 deportation of eight Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Johanan Bein, Israel's acting ambassador to the United Nations, is expected to defend Israel's actions at the Security Council meeting, which was requested by Syria.

A draft of the resolution calls for the Security Council to "deplore" the deportations. It asks Israel to ensure the deportees' "safe and immediate return" and to cease any other deportations of civilians.

There appears to be a chance that the United States, which has recently vetoed anti-Israel resolutions in the Security Council, may either support this resolution or abstain.

The U.S. government has made no secret of its opposition to deportations of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and its stand was reflected in two Security Council votes last year.

In January 1988, the United States supported a Security Council resolution demanding that Israel refrain from such deportations.

Several days later, Israel deported four Palestinian activists from the West Bank. The Security Council condemned Israel for the move, and the United States abstained from that vote, rather than using its veto to block the resolution.

The draft of the resolution now under consideration reaffirms both of these Security Council resolutions, in what appears to be a tactic to win U.S. support.

The U.S. vote this time will "depend on the language of the resolution," said a spokesman for the U.S. mission to the United Nations.

The spokesman said that the fact that the meeting was postponed from Wednesday to Thursday indicates that the resolution's language was undergoing some fine-tuning.

The resolution's sponsors are Algeria, Colombia, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Nepal, Senegal and Yugoslavia.

# **SOUTH AFRICAN ATHLETES BARRED FROM COMPETING IN MACCABIAH**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA) -- Jewish soccer players from South Africa vented their wrath Wednesday on the organizing committee of the 13th Maccabiah, the Jewish Olympic-style games that opened Monday night at Ramat Gan Stadium.

The eight-member committee decided "reluctantly" Tuesday morning to bar the South Africans from team competition.

They feared penalties against the Maccabiah by the International Football Federation, which has ostracized South Africa because of its apartheid policies.

The soccer players said, "We feel as though we have been turned away as Jews."

South African athletes who entered other events as individuals will be allowed to compete. But they may decide to walk out of the games in solidarity with the soccer team.

Team members buttonholed Knesset members and complained bitterly of their treatment. They said they had bowed to rules created by international pressure to enter the Maccabiah individually, instead of as a national team.

On opening night, the South Africans marched around the stadium without flags as part of the "rest of the world" delegation.

"Now we cannot appear even under that make-believe category," the players said.

## **EX-REFUSENIK RETURNS TO CHICAGO, 58 YEARS AFTER LEAVING BIRTHPLACE**

By Todd Winer

CHICAGO, July 5 (JTA) -- Abe Stolar finally had his dream fulfilled. On the Fourth of July, after 58 years, he returned to his birthplace, Chicago.

It was 1931 when Depression-era unemployment led his father, a Communist, to leave Chicago with his family and return to the Soviet Union, which he had fled in 1909 to escape Czarist persecution.

But his father's dream of a worker's paradise turned into a nightmare. He was arrested in 1937, during Stalin's purges, as an enemy of the people. He later died in a Siberian labor camp.

Abe Stolar later fought in the Soviet Army in World War II and lost sight in one eye from a German hand grenade. He went on to work as a translator for Radio Moscow for 20 years.

But in 1971, he joined thousands of other Soviet Jews and applied for an exit visa to Israel, which was approved four years later.

Yet "on" the day of departure, after the family had sold what belongings they could and shipped the rest to Israel, they were informed at the airport that because Stolar's wife, a chemist, had access to state secrets, she could not leave.

Their luggage has sat in an Israeli warehouse for 15 years, and to this day remains unopened.

"We decided to come here first," Stolar said.

Stolar was met Tuesday evening at O'Hare Airport by Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.), who had taken up the former Chicagoan's case in Congress, and members of the Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry.

"I'm confident no one appreciates freedom more than Abe Stolar. After years of frustration and red tape, Abe Stolar is finally home," the senator said.

Now back on his home turf, Stolar, 77, plans to reacquaint himself with the city streets and attractions of his youth.

Although downtown trolley cars have disappeared, Wrigley Field has lights and his Humboldt Park community is no longer a Jewish area, Stolar plans to make up for his 58-year absence.

### **'This Is My Hometown'**

A Wednesday night baseball game between the Chicago Cubs and the San Diego Padres, visits to Chicago museums and strolls through his old neighborhood are planned.

Stolar and his wife, Gita, are staying as guests of the Chicago Hilton and Towers, known in his day as the Stevens Hotel.

Stolar will crisscross the United States, visiting several other Jewish communities, but his seven-day visit to Chicago is sure to be the highlight of his journey. "This is my hometown. I love Chicago," he said.

Although he settled with his family in Israel, Stolar hinted the allure of his hometown may be too much for him to ignore.

Asked by reporters Tuesday if he would rather live in Chicago, Stolar said, "I wouldn't be surprised if I decided to move back here."

## **NEO-NAZIS GATHER IN ONTARIO AS SCORES OF JEWS PROTEST**

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, July 5 (JTA) -- Neo-Nazis burned a cross Ku Klux Klan-style in an Ontario vacation area Saturday, while scores of Jews and non-Jews protested nearby. Watchful police kept the two groups apart.

A 30-foot-high cross was set aflame in a Canada Day "celebration" convened by John Beattie, 48, on his rented property near Minden, a summer cottage area 150 miles north of Toronto.

About 70 Skinheads and white supremacists chanted, "Sieg Heil" and "White Power."

They came by bus from Quebec and in cars bearing license plates from New York, New Jersey and Ontario.

The outing on Canada's national holiday was dubbed the "Save Our Canada Festival." It was supposed to last for two days.

About 10 young thugs, many armed with billy clubs and knives, kept reporters and other outsiders from entering Beattie's "holiday camp."

Members of B'nai Brith Canada lodges and chapters, including Holocaust survivors, arrived by bus from Toronto to stage counterdemonstrations. About 60 marched through Minden, bearing placards that read "Never Again."

They were joined by members of the local chapter of the Canadian Legion, the war veterans organization. Beattie is a member of the legion, but he may be ousted.

The mayor and citizens of Minden, the local newspaper and the minister of the United Church repudiated the neo-Nazis. Most townspeople said they were not aware that Beattie lived nearby.

He led a neo-Nazi gang in Toronto in the mid-1960s and was a weekly soap-box orator in Allen Gardens, a downtown park. He was convicted of conspiracy and served a six-month jail sentence.

Beattie laid low for more than a decade before resurfacing in Minden, where his wife is employed as a nurse.

He calls his new organization the "British People's Progressive League."

## HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT THE WALL CONTINUES, DESPITE COURT ORDER

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- A group of women fighting for the right to conduct organized prayers at the Western Wall got help from a Knesset member this week as their seven-month-old struggle encountered new difficulties.

Avrum Burg, a Labor member of Knesset and Orthodox Jew, wrote Monday to Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer on behalf of the group, which calls itself Women of the Wall.

He urged the minister to curb the ultra-Orthodox Jews who have harassed and physically assaulted women trying to pray collectively at the holy site.

Burg is the son of Yosef Burg, the retired leader of the National Religious Party who served in virtually every Israeli Cabinet since the state was founded, frequently as interior minister.

His letter was prompted by complaints from Women of the Wall that women security guards hired to protect them were hostile and had ordered them on Monday to "stop praying and get out of here."

Rabbi Meir Yehuda Getz, the rabbi in charge of the Wall, hired a private security company, Hashmira, which provided the women guards.

They were necessary, apparently because the regular guards and ushers, themselves ultra-Orthodox, shunned the women worshipers.

Charges are pending against Getz himself for alleged failure to abide by a protective order, issued by the High Court of Justice in May, to allow the women to pray as a group without harassment.

### Wearing Kippot And Tallitot

According to Barbara Gingold, a well-known Jerusalem photographer and one of the Women of the Wall, the Hashmira guards, wearing immodestly tight jeans, sought to remove the women worshipers, who were discreetly attired.

The battle for the right of women to hold regular prayer services at the Western Wall, just as men do, began in December 1988.

Women of the Wall was organized following the First International Jewish Feminist Conference in Jerusalem the previous month.

A group of women, mostly tourists who had attended the conference, took a Torah scroll to the Wall for early morning prayers. Some wore kippot and tallitot (skullcaps and prayer shawls traditionally worn only by men).

They were reviled by ultra-Orthodox men and women at the Wall, which has partitions separating male and female worshipers.

Women are allowed to pray at the site. But they must do so individually and alone. Men, on the other hand, organize minyanim for prayer as they would in a synagogue, wear prayer shawls and carry the Torah.

Women at the Wall contend there is no halachic ban on their doing the same.

They say their prayer sessions, usually on Friday morning and Rosh Hodesh (the beginning of a new month), are conducted according to halachic guidelines and have "been authorized" in writing, on a Chief Rabbinate letterhead, by the former Ashkenazic chief rabbi of Israel, Shlomo Goren.

They are not satisfied with "the option of being alone," as opposed to the male "option of joining with others in prayer and song, in a

community of worship and celebration at virtually every hour."

Women of the Wall describe themselves as a "new generation of Jewish women," well-educated and professional. They include academics, doctors, lawyers, judges, scientists, politicians, artists and innovators. Many of them are religious.

### Ruling Expected In December

The Israeli women who worship together at the Wall are supported by an international network of women who pray with them in sympathy abroad and join them in Israel when they visit.

Some Orthodox Jews may not like the demonstrative nature of the women praying collectively. But neither the Chief Rabbinate nor the Religious Affairs Ministry has acted to enjoin them.

The High Court of Justice decided on May 25 that it would hear the cases of women who have been attacked several times at the Wall by ultra-Orthodox men and by women allegedly incited by the men.

It issued an interim order allowing the women to continue to pray at the Wall as a group, but for the time being without wearing tallitot or reading from the Torah. However, they may do so at nearby sites, the court order said.

The order will expire on Dec. 27, when the High Court is to decide whether the women may pray with the Torah and wearing tallitot.

The women brought charges against Rabbi Getz last month for failing to implement the High Court's order, when 35 women gathered for Rosh Hodesh morning prayers. They said their prayers were interrupted as soon as they began and that they showed the court order to Getz.

(JTA staff writer Susan Birnbaum in New York contributed to this report.)

## BANKRUPT TEL AVIV MUSEUM IS RAIDED, BUT THE 'THIEVES' ARE TAX COLLECTORS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA) -- Bailiffs raided the Tel Aviv Museum on Sunday, seizing property as security against nearly \$1 million in unpaid taxes.

The institution is bankrupt, with a deficit of \$2.5 million. Its bank account was frozen by the tax authorities last week and a lien was placed on the building.

Treasury sources said that museum officials may be investigated for criminal liability. Taxes deducted from workers' paychecks apparently were not turned over to the tax authorities.

For that reason, five bailiffs from the Tel Aviv court descended on the museum early Sunday morning, accompanied by police.

They intended to confiscate 100 paintings to be held as collateral against back taxes. But lacking a specific court order to seize works of arts, they carted away instead a video, televisions, typewriters and other office equipment.

A recovery plan worked out by the museum's directors would close several departments and dismiss about 30 percent of the staff.

The workers committee has countered with a proposal to fire the museum director, Mark Scheps, and to have employees take over duties currently performed by outside contractors.

Mayor Shlomo Lehat has assured Tel Aviv's City Council he will not allow the museum to close. But local officials say the municipality will not make funds available for a rescue operation.