

# **AIDES SAY SHAMIR MAY FIRE SHARON IF HE FAILS TO SUBMIT RESIGNATION**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will simply fire Ariel Sharon if he fails to formalize his resignation from the Cabinet, aides to the prime minister indicated Wednesday.

They said there was no chance of a reconciliation between the two Likud ministers after Sharon's harsh personal criticism of Shamir on Monday night, before 2,600 members of the Likud Central Committee.

Sharon, who is minister of industry and trade, used that occasion to announce his resignation in protest of Shamir's policies, which he claims are too soft on the Palestinians.

But Attorney General Yosef Harish ruled Wednesday that the resignation is invalid, according to law, until Sharon submits it in writing to the prime minister at a Cabinet meeting.

The next Cabinet meeting is scheduled for Sunday. Sharon's resignation would become effective 48 hours later, if he goes through with it.

Shamir, meanwhile, seems to be courting Deputy Premier David Levy, who has been allied with Sharon in opposition to Shamir's peace initiative toward the Palestinians.

He met privately with Levy on Wednesday afternoon, their second get-together since the Central Committee meeting ended in pandemonium Monday night.

Shamir was said to be trying to drive a wedge between Sharon and Levy, who is also minister of construction and housing. He would like to break up the powerful hard-line bloc at the top echelons of Likud, which includes Sharon, Levy and Yitzhak Moda'i, the minister of economics and planning.

## **Levy May Strike Deal With Shamir**

Levy said Wednesday that the dissident bloc is alive and well. The three ministers were scheduled to meet Thursday morning.

They have bedeviled Shamir's plan for Palestinian elections in the territories since he announced it last spring. At the moment, they are trying to impose constraints on a proposed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, hosted by Egypt, which is to set ground rules for the elections.

The hard-liners insist that Palestinians deported from Israel be excluded from the Egyptian-hosted talks. They also want to prevent Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem from voting or running in the proposed elections.

Shamir agrees in principle, but has been more equivocal in his public statements, explaining that the government needs room to maneuver.

The Labor component of the unity government is prepared to make concessions to the Palestinians under certain conditions.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Labor's No. 2 leader, has proposed that a forum of the top four ministers take the immediate tactical decisions needed to keep the peace process on track.

The four are Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, representing Likud, and Vice Premier Shimon Peres and Rabin of Labor.

The so-called "Forum of Four" supersedes

the 12-member Inner Cabinet of six Likud and six Labor ministers, which is officially the government's top policy-making body, but rarely achieves a consensus.

Levy said Wednesday there was "no urgency" for the Inner Cabinet to make any decisions on the peace process. He said he hoped that when the time came, all of the Likud ministers, including the prime minister, would support the hard-line position.

Levy is rumored to be seeking certain favors from Shamir, in return for which he might ease pressure on the prime minister.

According to one report, he would like the Cabinet portfolio vacated by Sharon to go to his close supporter, Eliahu Ben-Elissar, who is chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Levy also reportedly would like the "Forum of Four" expanded to six, to accommodate himself and another Labor minister.

In Tel Aviv, Sharon supporters demonstrated Wednesday outside the Industry and Trade Ministry offices, urging their man to reconsider.

Sharon invited several of them to his office and reportedly told them he intended to go through with his resignation and continue the fight from the Knesset back-benches.

## **SOVIETS WON'T CUT JEWISH EMIGRATION TO PREVENT SETTLEMENT OF TERRITORIES**

By Allison Kaplan

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union, while strongly opposing Israeli settlement of immigrants in the West Bank, has firmly rejected the notion of curtailing Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

It is "said that the Soviet Union must take resolute measures to prevent Soviet Jews from settling in Israel. That is impossible," Yuli Vorontsov, the Soviet first vice minister of foreign affairs, said in a statement from Moscow released here Wednesday.

Vorontsov explained that any action to restrict the emigration of Soviet Jews would interfere with pending Soviet emigration reform legislation, whose adoption by the Supreme Soviet is anticipated "in the near future."

The emigration reforms, Vorontsov said, will normalize procedures so that all Soviet citizens, not only Jews, can enter and exit the country in conformity with "international practice."

"There is nothing that would justify a revision of this bill," Vorontsov said.

The statement, a text of which was conveyed to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar by the Soviet representative to the United Nations, is essentially a justification of the Soviet Union's decision Monday to request a Security Council meeting on the issue of settling Soviet Jewish emigres in Israel's administered territories.

That Security Council meeting is expected to take place late this week or early next week.

Vorontsov charged that Israel's stated policy of allowing the Soviet immigrants to choose where they want to live, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip, violates the Geneva Conventions, as well as past U.N. resolutions that have called on Israel to stop building settlements.

"Appeals are sometimes made to the Soviet Union not to allow persons of Jewish nationality who leave the Soviet Union to settle in the occupied territories," Vorontsov said in the statement.

"Such requests ought naturally to be directed to the Israeli government, and that is why we are bringing the question before the Security Council for consideration," he added.

#### Hints Of U.S.-Israeli Collusion

Such a resolution should contain "an appeal" to the Israelis "not to allow anything to occur which might modify the demographic structure of the West Bank," the official added.

Vorontsov claimed in the statement that Secretary of State James Baker was informed, during his recent visit to Moscow, of the Soviets' intent to convene a Security Council meeting.

"The U.S. secretary of state promised to consider our views on the question," said Vorontsov. "We are counting on the support of the United States in the Security Council."

His statement also appeared to imply that a possible conspiracy exists between the United States and Israel to guide Soviet Jews to the administered territories.

Vorontsov pointed out that the United States has reduced the number of Soviet Jews being granted entry visas.

"There are long lines forming -- perhaps with Israel's approval -- of persons who thought they would be able to enter the United States," he said.

But his statement also pointed out that "the United States categorically denies the existence of any collusion with Israel and maintains that only technicalities are holding up the review of applications from Soviet emigrants wishing to enter the United States."

#### **BAKER DISCUSSED ANTI-SEMITISM WITH SOVIET LEADERS IN MOSCOW** By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- In his talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow last week, Secretary of State James Baker expressed concern about increasing anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, a senior administration official said Wednesday.

"Glasnost has unleashed a lot of forces in the Soviet Union, and one of them is anti-Semitism," the official said. "Glasnost should not be something that provokes intolerance, quite the contrary."

The official, who was briefing reporters on Baker's meetings last week with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, said the secretary raised the issue with the two Kremlin leaders, at the request of President Bush.

"We turned over a good deal of material that we had seen," the official added.

A delegation of American Jewish leaders who met with Bush on Feb. 4 reported that the president had voiced concern about the growing visibility of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, including physical threats against Jews.

There was no indication Wednesday of what, if any, replies were made by the Soviet leaders. But the administration official stressed that there was no suggestion "that, in any way, either Gorbachev or Shevardnadze sanctioned this kind of behavior."

#### **ABSORPTION MINISTER UNDER FIRE FOR REMARK ABOUT SOVIET ALIYAH** By Gil Sedan and David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- Absorption Minister Yitzhak Peretz was rebuked by Simcha Dinitz for telling the Knesset on Wednesday that getting Jews out of the Soviet Union as quickly as possible is more important than where they wind up.

Peretz, who represents the ultra-Orthodox Shas party, insisted that Soviet Jews are sitting atop a volcano and that the important thing is to get them out, "irrespective of whether they go to the United States, Uganda or anywhere else."

According to Peretz, about 15,000 Soviet Jews are waiting to immigrate to Israel, but their departure is delayed because there is no transportation to Israel.

He said about 10,000 Jews a month receive permission to emigrate and could leave immediately if the transportation to Israel was available.

Dinitz, who is chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, said Peretz's comments were unfortunate insofar as they gave legitimacy to Jews who choose to go elsewhere than Israel.

He also contended that the absorption minister had incorrect information. Jews are leaving the Soviet Union in increasing numbers each month, and the avenues of bringing them out "are steadily increasing," Dinitz maintained.

"The quota of Jewish emigrants to the United States is filled, and most Jews come to Israel," he told Israel Radio. It would be perverse to start sending them to other parts of the world, he said.

#### Jewish Agency Meeting Set

The large-scale immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel will be the major item on the agenda of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, which opens a week of meetings here Thursday, with an address by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

He will discuss "Priorities in the 1990s" and is expected to focus on Israel's efforts to absorb the growing influx of immigrants.

The Board of Governors, which represents Jewish philanthropic leadership overseas, will examine the progress of "Operation Exodus," United Jewish Appeal's massive fund-raising effort for the absorption of Soviet Jews in Israel, which has not formally been launched yet.

According to a Jewish Agency spokesman, the Board of Governors will be asked to approve a \$1.2 billion budget for the next two years.

Board of Governors members are scheduled to tour absorption centers in Beersheba and Carmiel. They will also visit Rishon le-Zion, one of the towns where Israel is experimenting with "direct absorption."

They are also expected to be at Ben-Gurion airport to greet a flight of Soviet immigrants arriving via Bucharest on the night of Feb. 20.

#### **TOURISM TO ISRAEL REBOUNDS**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- Tourism to Israel was up 5 percent last month over January 1989, but still short of the pre-intifada high.

A total of 90,000 tourists visited Israel in January 1990, 4 percent fewer than in January 1987, the start of a record year for tourism.

There were 1.5 million visitors in 1987. The Palestinian uprising began on Dec. 9 of that year.

**ISLAMIC GROUP IN TERRITORIES  
TAKES CREDIT FOR BUS AMBUSH**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- An Islamic fundamentalist group active in the intifada has condoned the Feb. 4 terrorist attack on Israeli tourists in Egypt as a possible way to deter Soviet Jews from immigrating to Israel.

A new leaflet circulated by the organization, known as Hamas, says the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union poses "the gravest danger to the Palestinians."

It is not Hamas, but the smaller and even more fanatical Islamic Jihad that has belatedly claimed credit for the attack on the tour bus, in which nine Israelis and two Egyptians were killed. Eighteen Israelis were injured.

A leaflet issued Wednesday, 10 days after the attack, said a strike force of the Islamic Jihad, called the Force of the Hero Misbah a-Suri, was responsible.

Misbah a-Suri was a Moslem fundamentalist killed in a clash with Israeli security forces in the Gaza Strip before the intifada began.

The leaflet justified the attack, saying the bus was filled with Israeli reserve officers, soldiers and "Zionist spies."

It also criticized Soviet immigration to Israel and the ostensible readiness of the Palestine Liberation Organization to reach a settlement with Israel.

Unlike the Islamic Jihad, which has been active in Lebanon, the much larger Hamas is relatively new and indigenous to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It originated in Gaza, shortly after the Palestinian uprising started on Dec. 9, 1987, and spread to the West Bank to contest the PLO's control of the intifada.

In another leaflet distributed Wednesday, Hamas said it is ready to cooperate with the intifada's unified command, headed by the PLO.

As a condition, it wants the PLO to see to it that Hamas inmates of Israeli detention camps get the same treatment as PLO inmates.

**THATCHER AMBIVALENT ABOUT DRIVE  
TO REPEAL ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION**  
London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has left uncertain whether she will support an American initiative to repeal the U.N. General Assembly's 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism.

The prime minister has "dodged" the issue, according to Greville Janner, a Labor Party member of Parliament who is actively involved in the British Jewish community.

He was referring to Thatcher's reply to a letter he sent asking her to support U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle's recently announced drive to get the resolution rescinded.

She wrote to Janner that although the resolution is "repugnant," repealing it would "not be a simple matter."

"I suspect that the necessary voting majority will be forthcoming only if the repeal offers some substantial quid pro quo to the Arab side," she wrote.

"That, sadly, is the way international relations are," the prime minister added. "But there is no doubt about our total abhorrence of the resolution."

Thatcher recalled in her letter to Janner that Britain had voted against the resolution and always dissociated itself from it.

"The fact that the General Assembly itself has not referred to it in any subsequent resolution is a fair indication that many others share our distaste for it," she wrote.

Foreign Office sources said the resolution was "a monstrous slur" on Zionism, but rescinding it would be a "non-runner."

An attempt to do that would raise difficult side issues at a time when all efforts should be concentrated on the Middle East peace process, the sources said.

**PROPOSED NEW RULES ON SHECHITAH  
CONCERN SOME ORTHODOX JEWS IN U.K.**  
London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- The British Agriculture Ministry's new regulations on shechitah (ritual slaughter) are viewed with apprehension by some Jewish officials here who have been negotiating with the ministry.

But a spokesman for Kedassia, the kashrut supervising arm of the strictly Orthodox Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations, said he understood the final arrangements would be satisfactory.

The ministry's new rules, to go into effect in 1992, will be presented to Parliament at the end of this month for automatic incorporation as law, unless challenged in the House of Commons.

The main change is from a rotary pen that turns the animal on its back to an upright pen. It is viewed with alarm in some ultra-Orthodox circles.

Neville Kasselmann, who initiated the 4-year-old Campaign for the Protection of Shechitah, said the ministry accepted several suggested amendments to the draft regulations of July 1989.

"We are grateful, to the ministry for having respected major requirements of Jewish law," he said.

The push for changes in the legislation appear to have been spurred by a growing movement in Europe that opposes kosher slaughter, claiming it is inhumane. Attempts to change laws governing shechitah have also been made in Sweden and Holland.

**GERMANS EXPECT FEW NAZI CONVICTIONS**  
By David Kantor

WEST BERLIN, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- West German State Prosecutor Adalbert Ruckerl now believes it is almost impossible to get a Nazi war criminal convicted for crimes committed nearly a half century ago.

The federal investigation offices in Ludwigsburg continue to amass evidence and prepare charges against individuals, he said.

But very few Nazis are expected to be charged this year, and it is highly improbable that war crimes charges will be filed in future years, the prosecutor said.

He spoke Tuesday after the screening here of a Paramount newsreel on Nazi war criminals and death camps, first released to theaters on May 5, 1945, at the end of World War II.

The documentary appeared in a section of the Berlin Film Festival devoted to conditions in Europe immediately after the war, with emphasis on war crimes and the fate of millions of Jews who perished.

# **MOVIES WITH JEWISH THEMES RACK UP OSCAR NOMINATIONS**

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 14 -- Two films and a documentary on Holocaust themes, and two other Hollywood movies keyed to Jewish characters have received Academy Award nominations in the top categories. Oscar nominees, announced Wednesday, include:

"Driving Miss Daisy," for best film, and Jessica Tandy for best actress. Tandy portrays a somewhat cranky Jewish lady, whose relationship to her black chauffeur in a changing South is chronicled over the post-World War II decades.

"Crimes and Misdemeanors" earned Woody Allen best director and best screenplay nods, with Martin Landau in the running for best supporting actor. In the dark comedy, set in a contemporary American Jewish milieu, Landau plays a wealthy ophthalmologist who has his troublesome mistress killed.

"Enemies, A Love Story," based on the novel by Isaac Bashevis Singer, follows the love-hate relationships among four Holocaust survivors in New York during the late 1940s. Among the three women vying for the same man are characters played by Anjelica Huston and Swedish actress Lena Olin, both nominated for best supporting actress.

Jessica Lange, nominated for best actress for her role in "Music Box," plays a Chicago lawyer who must defend her immigrant father, who is charged with wartime atrocities against Hungarian Jews. The film is partially based on the case of John Demjanjuk, a Ukrainian-American who was convicted in Israel as being the sadistic concentration camp guard "Ivan the Terrible."

In the category for best short subject documentary, Ray Errol Fox's "Yad Vashem: Preserving the Past to Ensure the Future," is one of three nominees. The 15-minute documentary focuses on the Children's Memorial at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial museum in Jerusalem.

Winners of the Academy Awards will be announced on March 26.

## **JDC INAUGURATES ACADEMY OF JEWISH MUSIC IN MOSCOW**

NEW YORK, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- The Moscow Academy of Jewish Music, a school for cantorial studies sponsored by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, was formally inaugurated in the Soviet capital Wednesday, JDC announced here.

The inaugural event was a concert by the Moscow Jewish Male Choral Ensemble, conducted by the dean of the academy, Cantor Joseph Malovany of New York, at Moscow's Choral Synagogue.

The program included cantorial, Hebrew, Yiddish and Hasidic music.

Malovany, who is cantor of Manhattan's Fifth Avenue Synagogue and professor of liturgical music at Yeshiva University, was assisted by Cantor Vladimir Pliss, director of the new academy, and by Benjamin Glickman, a distinguished musicologist from Jerusalem.

According to Sylvia Hassenfeld, JDC president, the Moscow Academy of Jewish Music is the outcome of a visit by Cantor Malovany to the Soviet Union last May, organized as part of JDC's efforts to meet the cultural, religious and communal needs of the Jewish community.

He conducted a two-week program of master

classes for young cantorial students and gave five sellout concerts of classical chazzanut (cantorial music), Hassenfeld said.

The enthusiastic reception given Malovany prompted JDC to establish a cantorial seminary on a permanent basis in the Soviet Union, Hassenfeld said, with Malovany as dean and Pliss as director.

Students from all over the Soviet Union will meet for two-week sessions four times a year.

## **THREE SEPARATE CEREMONIES MARK 41st KNESSET ANNIVERSARY** By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- The Knesset celebrated its 41st birthday Wednesday with ceremonial tree-plantings at three different locations. The ceremony reflected deep ideological differences not present when Israel's first parliament convened in 1949.

Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky of Likud had called for one ceremony on Mount Scopus, but left-wing and right-wing Knesset members balked for their own diverse reasons.

Two ceremonies were then scheduled, the main one on Mount Scopus and another near Ir Ganim in southern Jerusalem, considered "neutral" ground. Mount Scopus was outside of Israel's borders until Jerusalem's unification in 1967.

The Ir Ganim ceremony was organized by members of the Labor Party, the leftist Mapam and other dovish parties, and the Peace Now movement.

A third, much smaller ceremony was held at Ma'aleh Adumim, a town in the West Bank.

Only six Knesset members attended, representing Likud, the extreme right-wing Moledet party and the ultra-Orthodox Agudat Yisrael. They were joined by members of the Labor Party's right-wing Ben-Gurion group.

## **DEAN OF MIR YESHIVA IS DEAD** By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14 (JTA) -- Rabbi Binyamin Beinisch Finkel, dean of the famous Mir Yeshiva, died here Tuesday at the age of 78.

He was buried the same day at a funeral attended by thousands of students and members of the ultra-Orthodox community.

The Mir Yeshiva, in the heart of Jerusalem's ultra-Orthodox Mea Shearim quarter, carries on the religious learning traditions of Eastern European Jewry.

Rabbi Eliezer Schach, leader of the Lithuanian religious community in Bnei Brak, delivered the eulogy at the funeral.

Finkel was the son and heir of the previous dean, Rabbi Eliezer Yehuda Finkel. He was the scion of a famous family whose rabbinic members were among the founders of the Slobodka Yeshiva in Lithuania and other major seats of Jewish learning in Europe before the Holocaust.

The Mir faculty and student body were in large measure saved from the Holocaust by fleeing across the Soviet Union and spending the war years in Shanghai.

The Mir Yeshiva in Jerusalem is one of the largest and most highly regarded in Israel.

The JTA Daily News Bulletin will not be published on Monday, Feb. 19, because of the Presidents Day holiday in the United States.