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**HIGH COURT DEALS LABOR A SETBACK,
REFUSING TO ADVANCE KNESSET VOTE**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA) -- The Labor Party and its left-wing allies received a setback Wednesday, when the High Court of Justice refused to advance the date of a crucial Knesset referendum on Israel's political crisis.

The fate of the coalition government will therefore be decided Thursday, when the Knesset is scheduled to debate a series of no-confidence motions.

Labor is expected to support those motions, in an attempt to bring down the government. But it had hoped to have the vote take place before a series of resignations from Labor ministers officially take effect.

The resignations were tendered Tuesday morning, after Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir fired Vice Premier Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader. Under Israeli law, both the dismissal and the resignations take place after a 48-hour "cooling-off period."

Labor, joined by the Mapam party and the Citizens Rights Movement, had petitioned the High Court to require the Knesset vote to take place before the expiration of the "cooling-off period."

This would have allowed the Labor ministers to remain in the transitional administration that will be put into power if the government falls. But once the resignations go into effect, Shamir is expected to quickly replace the Laborites with Likud ministers before the government falls.

A three-judge panel of the High Court issued its decision against Labor's petition Wednesday, after three hours of hearings and another three hours of closed deliberations.

Likud Mending Internal Wounds

While the court rejected advancing the vote date, it passed critical comment on the Knesset speaker, Dov Shilansky, and his deputy, Ovadia Eli, who scheduled the debate for Thursday. Both are members of Shamir's Likud bloc, which is hoping to muster enough votes to defeat the no-confidence motions.

The court said that Deputy Speaker Eli had acted "wrongly," but decided that it would not interfere with the internal workings of the legislative body.

Responding on Israel Radio, Eli insisted that "what counts is the verdict, and the verdict endorsed my decision."

Ran Cohen of CRM said Wednesday afternoon that his party would attempt to appeal the speaker's decision in the Knesset House Committee -- and still try to have the confidence motion moved to later Wednesday. But as the day wore on, it appeared unlikely that he would succeed.

Within Likud, meanwhile, the government crisis appeared to draw the previously feuding factions closer together. In a lengthy speech to the party's Knesset faction Wednesday morning, Shamir urged unity inside both the Likud and the entire "nationalist camp."

Shamir met alone earlier with his deputy, David Levy, the minister of construction and housing, who has been a leading critic of the

premier's peace policies. Observers said Levy's decision to show up at the faction meeting signaled a significant change of direction.

Another leading rival of the premier's, Knesset member Ariel Sharon, spoke briefly at the faction caucus, urging party loyalty in the face of efforts to topple the government.

Possible Defections On The Right

Labor will need only one defection from Likud or any of the other parties to bring down the government if it succeeds in winning support from the Agudat Yisrael party, which has hinted it might throw its weight in that direction.

Shamir's immediate problem Wednesday was to try to ensure that he could rely on the support of five Knesset members who recently defected from Likud's Liberal Party faction and announced they were forming their own party.

The premier was trying to arrange a private meeting with the leader of the splinter group, Economics and Planning Minister Yitzhak Moda'i.

But the Moda'i group was in a state of enhanced resentment Wednesday morning, following another session of the Knesset House Committee in which their request to be recognized as a separate faction was once again foiled by a Likud filibuster.

The group blames Shamir confidant Haim Corfu, chairman of the House Committee, for engineering the procedural defeat of their plan to set up shop as an independent faction within Likud. Its members implied that their support for the Shamir government could not be guaranteed in view of the treatment they had received from Likud.

The political grapevine Wednesday speculated that Moda'i could be brought back into the fold if Shamir offered him a tempting portfolio in any Likud-led government that might be formed.

Other Likud ministers, meanwhile, were working Wednesday to guarantee support in the upcoming test of parliamentary strength from the far-right party Moledet, which has not yet pledged its votes.

NEWS ANALYSIS:**ORTHODOX PARTIES HOLD KEY
TO FATE OF ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA) -- Once again, and perhaps more starkly than ever before, Israel's political future -- and the future of the peace process -- are in the hands of the religious parties, which hold the balance of power between Likud and Labor.

Their spiritual leaders and their politicians will be deciding this week whether there is to be a narrow government led by Likud, a narrow government led by Labor or no government at all, meaning new elections.

They will reach their decision against the backdrop of what several observers have discerned as a trend away from political hawkishness in the ultra-Orthodox or "haredi" camp.

Ever since the 1977 political earthquake that swept Menachem Begin into power, the haredim have sided with the Likud-led "nationalist camp."

But more recently, the parties have been

edging toward their former centrist position in the Israeli political spectrum. And they have been doing so while dramatically increasing their strength at the ballot box and in the Knesset.

In the November 1988 election, Shas emerged as the third-largest party with six seats; Agudat Yisrael was just a whisker behind with five; and Degel HaTorah, the anti-Hasidic breakaway from Agudah, ended up with just enough votes for a respectable -- and now pivotal -- two seats in the 120-member Knesset.

The trend toward political centrism, or at least greater unpredictability, also has affected the National Religious Party, to an extent.

Agudah Leaning Toward Labor

On Tuesday, after Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir ousted Labor Party leader Shimon Peres from the national unity government, NRP's secretary-general, Rabbi Yitzhak Levy, quickly declared that his party would back the Likud-led rump government in the confidence vote scheduled for Thursday.

But another NRP Knesset member, Yigal Bibi, said he wanted the party to allow a freedom-of-conscience vote for all five of its members. "Shamir does not deserve our support," Bibi remarked.

Still, Labor's hopes at this time are pinned not on the modern-Orthodox NRP, but on the black-hatted, long-coated rabbis of Agudah, Degel and Shas.

The strongest hopes rest with Agudah, which emerged from the November-December 1988 coalition negotiations bruised and bleeding -- and bitterly resentful of Prime Minister Shamir.

Agudah maintains that the premier promised far-reaching changes in religious legislation and generous government funding that he had no intention of delivering.

Agudah, moreover, is a much more moderate and attractive coalition partner for Labor now than it was then -- because the controversial "Who Is a Jew" issue that dogged the 1988 negotiations has since been quietly shelved by almost all circles in the haredi community, both here and in the Diaspora.

With Agudah's five votes, and with the blanket support of all the parties of the center and the left, Labor would reach 60 votes Thursday in the no-confidence debate. In order for the present "rump" government to survive, Likud would have to ensure the favorable vote of every single remaining Knesset member.

Agudah's faction chairman, Rabbi Moshe Feldman, said Tuesday night that his party "has no confidence in the prime minister" -- seeming to imply that it would join Labor and the left in a no-confidence vote Thursday.

Degel Members Receive Instructions

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Labor's No. 2 leader, also reportedly picked up warm words of encouragement from Rabbi Yohanan Sofer, head of the Erlau Yeshiva and a member of the presidium of Agudah's Council of Torah Sages.

Rumors abounded in the Knesset that at least one member of Shas would conveniently take sick at the operative moment, again giving Labor an advantage.

Degel HaTorah was considered unlikely to allow its rivals in Agudah to "steal a march" on them by being the only haredi party "in on the ground floor" of an evolving Labor-led coalition.

Degel's two Knesset members, Avraham

Ravitz and Moshe Gafni, met Wednesday afternoon with their ailing mentor, Rabbi Eliezer Schach of Bnei Brak, to receive his blessing and his orders.

He reportedly instructed them to inform Shamir that they would support him only if he reinstated Peres and announced his acceptance of the U.S. peace proposals. It was Shamir's reluctance to call a vote on those proposals that precipitated the government crisis this week.

Pundits therefore speculated that Degel would either absent itself or vote with Labor, spoiling Shamir's hope of surviving the vote.

Similarly, the Shas Knesset members were expected to convene with their party's Council of Torah Sages under Rabbi Ovadia Yosef before the Thursday deadline.

The various sages themselves have been the targets of intensive lobbying this week by the leading politicians of Likud and Labor. Shamir and Peres have either sought audiences with each of them or tried to arrange lengthy telephone conversations to explain their respective positions.

If enough Orthodox swing away from the Likud and the government falls, the political community will be cast into a lengthy period of uncertainty while President Chaim Herzog goes through his statutory duty of consulting with all the parties in the Knesset to decide which leader is best placed to form a new government.

JERUSALEM SHOULD 'NEVER AGAIN' BE DIVIDED, BUSH TELLS KOLLEK

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 14 (JTA) -- President Bush has reaffirmed that Jerusalem "must never again be a divided city." But he also maintained, in a letter to Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, that the city's final status "should be decided by negotiation."

Kollek released the March 13 letter Wednesday at a news conference in London, a copy of which was obtained by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

In the letter, Bush nostalgically recalls a visit to Jerusalem and praises "Israel's exemplary respect for the holy places," as well as Kollek's "farsighted leadership."

Affirming that Jerusalem should remain united, Bush says, "We did not approve of the status quo before 1967; in no way do we advocate a return to it now."

He adds, "Our efforts in the peace process are in no way designed to promote the division of Jerusalem. We would oppose any such effort."

But at the same time, the president says "the final status of this most special of cities should be decided by negotiation."

And he adds that "all sides should be taking steps to get to negotiations and avoiding steps that could prejudice the prospects for these negotiations."

Israel considers Jerusalem the eternal capital of Israel and is not willing to consider relinquishing the eastern part of the city, which it annexed in 1967.

Bush raised deep concern in Israel and in the American Jewish community when he expressed opposition, at a March 3 news conference, to Jewish "settlement in the West Bank and East Jerusalem."

In his letter to Kollek, the president did not address the issue of whether Israel has the right to settle portions of Jerusalem that lie beyond its 1967 border.

SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIAL DENOUNCES ANTI-SEMITISM FROM THE RIGHT WING

CAPE TOWN, March 14 (JTA) -- The South African minister for foreign affairs issued a statement here Tuesday expressing concern over recent incidents of anti-Semitism in South Africa.

The incidents included the burning of an Israeli flag and the display of Nazi flags at a right-wing rally in Pretoria last month.

Foreign Minister Roelof (Pik) Botha said that the incidents, occurring at a time when the government is striving to promote reconciliation in Africa, should be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

The most serious incident occurred Feb. 10, at a rally in Pretoria of the far right-wing Afrikaner Resistance Movement, commonly known by the Afrikaans abbreviation AWB.

During the rally, a Star of David was ceremonially burnt. Original Nazi flags, not the copy of them sported by the right-wing movement, were paraded. Men wearing Nazi-style brown shirts chanted anti-Semitic slogans and waved anti-Semitic placards.

The slogans linked the Jews to the Communists and blamed the Jews for all the ills of South Africa.

A delegation from the South African Jewish Board of Deputies met here Tuesday with the commissioner of police, Gen. J.V. van der Merwe, and with the head of the security police, Lt. Gen. S.J.J. Smit.

The four-member Jewish delegation, which included a member of Parliament, discussed the Jewish community's serious concern over the incidents. Van der Merwe assured the delegation that the matters were receiving attention at the highest level.

Jewish Rallies In Two Cities

Jews held mass meetings last week in both Cape Town and Johannesburg to affirm their resolve to combat anti-Semitism.

"The Jewish community of South Africa will not tolerate acts of anti-Semitism in this country or any other country," said Julius Weinstein, president of the South African Zionist Federation.

The gatherings were convened by both the Zionist Federation and the Board of Deputies, to display community solidarity and unity with Israel.

South African Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris told a packed hall of 2,000 Jews in Johannesburg, "Let the insults prompt us to help build a new South Africa."

The Jews of South Africa have also had to contend in recent weeks with negative statements from the left wing of the political spectrum.

Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader freed from prison last month, angered many here by embracing Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat and disparaging the South African Jewish community.

Prior to that, Jews were insulted by comments and actions of Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu during a Christmas visit to Israel. After a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and museum, Tutu said Jews should forgive the Nazis for their murderous deeds.

Rabbi Harris told the rally, "Seldom before have Jews been so insulted by both the right and the left in South Africa."

He said, nonetheless, that "Mandela is not Arafat. Many of us believe that it is important for Nelson Mandela to succeed."

ISRAEL DENIES IT PLANS TO BUY ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILES FROM U.S.

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 14 (JTA) -- Israel has no intention of buying sophisticated anti-ballistic missiles from the United States, because they cost too much, a senior Israeli Defense Force officer said Wednesday.

His remark was at odds with a report last week in the Los Angeles Times that the United States had recently decided to sell Israel \$200 million worth of specially designed Patriot air-defense missiles.

According to the Times, the American decision involves an emergency transfer of the Patriots and also the use of intelligence from U.S. early-warning satellites to activate those missiles.

In a news story from its Washington bureau, the Times cited opinions by Pentagon officials and defense analysts that the role of U.S. satellites in alerting the new anti-ballistic missiles would mark a deepening of the U.S.-Israel "strategic relationship" begun during the Reagan administration.

Additionally, the transfer would be the first time a superpower has introduced such a missile-defense shield into the Middle East military equation, the paper said.

But Israeli military experts here said that the Patriot is not cost-effective compared to other options.

One alternative is to wait for the development of the proposed Arrow anti-tactical ballistic missile, currently being researched jointly by the United States and Israel. The other chief option is to spend the \$200 million on other defense needs that may be more acute than an Arab missile threat.

Deal 'Not Yet Finalized'

In Washington, a Capitol Hill source said some Israeli officials feel that while Israel faces a growing missile threat, the real danger is "farther down the road than immediate."

The source said the Patriot's chief advantage over the Arrow is that it could be deployed by the end of 1991, whereas the Arrow would take five to 10 years to deploy.

Through this fiscal year, the United States and Israel will have spent a combined \$200 million on researching the Arrow, which is more sophisticated than the Patriot, the source said.

U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney was asked Tuesday in Washington about any Patriot deal with Israel. He replied that the United States and Israel "have not yet finalized arrangements in this area."

(Contributing to this report were JTA correspondents Howard Rosenberg in Washington and Tom Tugend in Los Angeles.)

RAIZ GETS VISA, TO LEAVE NEXT WEEK

NEW YORK, March 14 (JTA) -- Longtime refusenik Vladimir Raiz picked up his visa Tuesday in Vilnius, and expects to leave the Soviet Union early next week.

Raiz, who has been waiting 17 years for permission to leave, is scheduled to fly out on the private plane of Albert Reichmann, the Toronto real estate magnate.

Raiz, who will be accompanied by his 7-year-old son, Shaul, will fly direct to Israel, according to the Greater New York Coalition for Soviet Jewry.

**E. GERMANY DONATES SHOAH ARTIFACTS
TO HOLOCAUST MUSEUM IN WASHINGTON**
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, March 14 (JTA) -- East Germany donated hundreds of artifacts to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on Tuesday, ranging from Nazi euthanasia instruments to an IBM machine used by Nazis to register Jews.

Gerhard Herder, the East German ambassador to the United States, made the presentation at the museum's office here to Miles Lerman, chairman of the museum's international relations committee.

The presentation, said Herder, "underlines that my government is serious in stating that the entire German people has a responsibility for the past. That is why the negotiations with Jewish organizations to provide material support to those who became victims of the Holocaust in the years from 1933 to 1945 will be continued."

The one other Eastern European country that has contributed artifacts to the museum is Poland, which contributed barracks from the Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps as well as a railway car used to transport Jews.

In addition, the museum has received archival material from East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the Soviet Union.

The Nazi euthanasia program killed roughly 500,000 Germans and set a precedent for the mass killings of the Holocaust.

The registration machine, an IBM Hollerith punch card tabulating and sorting machine, was originally developed in the United States for the census of 1890.

In 1933, 1935 and 1939, the Third Reich used the machine to conduct national censuses, which provided a vital link in the chain of identifying Jews, Gypsies and other ethnic groups.

Rocket Parts Built From Slave Labor

East Germany also presented V-2 rocket parts made by slave laborers. More than 10,000 of the 60,000 slave laborers died in the Holocaust, some killed by the SS, others dying from the grim conditions in the underground tunnels.

In addition, the museum received portions of tree trunks inscribed with messages from prisoners of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

The messages were carved by Jews, political prisoners and Soviet prisoners of war in a forest as British and Soviet forces closed in on the camp in 1945. Thousands of prisoners had been marching from the camp when the convoy halted for some days in a forest, where they ate tree bark to stay alive.

The Holocaust museum, which is under construction here on a federal site near the Washington Monument, is scheduled to open in the spring of 1993.

Meanwhile, Sam Eskenazi, spokesman for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, which oversees the \$147 million project, rejected a call by Washington Post columnist Richard Cohen for the museum to be moved to Berlin.

"If there is to be one major museum, if \$147 million is to be spent somewhere, then it ought to be where the Holocaust originated: Germany," Cohen wrote Wednesday.

"The museum belongs at the site of the crime -- a gift from America, particularly American Jews, to the German nation," Cohen asserted.

But Eskenazi responded that "our museum is not going to move anywhere, of course."

**BRUNO BETTELHEIM, PSYCHOANALYST
AND HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR, DEAD AT 86**
By Elena Neuman

NEW YORK, March 14 (JTA) -- Bruno Bettelheim, a controversial psychoanalyst whose Holocaust experience helped shape his compassionate approach to the treatment of troubled children, died Tuesday at a retirement home in Maryland. He was 86.

Bettelheim, while revered as the progenitor of the currently accepted treatment for childhood autism, was also known as a maverick and iconoclast in the psychoanalytic world.

He is perhaps most well known in the Jewish world for his controversial theories about Holocaust survival.

A prisoner for two years in Buchenwald and Dachau concentration camps, Bettelheim applied his personal experiences of victimization to the human condition in his written works, including two books, "The Informed Heart" and "Freud's Vienna and Other Essays," an autobiography.

In his first article, "Individual and Mass Behavior in Extreme Situations," Bettelheim wrote that he was able to retain his identity in the camps because in his earlier life, he had cultivated the powers of observation and analysis.

"Psychoanalysis didn't save my life, but it helped me survive," Bettelheim said in a 1988 interview with Le Figaro, a French newspaper.

"Having survived concentration camps was for many a question of chance," he said. "But the important thing was not to succumb to madness or personality disintegration. That was the Nazis' goal."

Transcending Religious Ideal

In an essay written in The New Yorker in 1976 entitled "Surviving," Bettelheim wrote that those who survived the camps were those who lived not for life's sake but for some cultural or religious ideal that transcended them.

Bettelheim's controversial theories appeared in his autobiography, published in 1989. He suggested that the insular Jewish ghettos of Europe nourished an attitude of "compliance" toward Hitler, and that Jews who died in Nazi concentration camps exhibited a form of "suicidal behavior."

As a result, he argued, "millions of people, like lemmings, marched themselves to their own death. It was not only lack of knowledge that led millions to their doom; it was also an unwillingness to fight for themselves."

Born in 1903 to a middle-class Jewish family, Bettelheim grew up in pre-World War I Vienna, a city steeped in Freudian thought at the time.

He received his training in psychology at the University of Vienna, and was just starting to experiment with autism when the Nazi annexation of Austria took place in March 1938.

Released from Dachau in 1939 after the personal intervention on his behalf by Eleanor Roosevelt and then New York Gov. Herbert Lehman, Bettelheim continued to work with childhood mental disease in Chicago.

In "The Informed Heart," Bettelheim took his observations about the personality alteration that occurred in the concentration camps and applied it to the treatment of disturbed children.

He tried to reverse the process by creating a warm, supportive environment, which included all-day interaction, full staff care and luxuriant surroundings.