

**SHAMIR, TAKING UP THE PEACE CUDGEL,  
DARES SYRIA'S ASSAD TO PEACE TALKS**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 18 (JTA) -- Just five days after Secretary of State James Baker strongly intimated that Israel's new government had no interests in continuing the peace process, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has challenged one of Israel's most intractable foes to come to the negotiating table.

In an interview with an Egyptian newspaper, Shamir challenged Syrian President Hafez Assad to visit Israel for peace talks, "with no prior conditions."

"Our policy is to conduct peace talks with all the neighboring countries, and with elected representatives of the residents in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip," Shamir told Mayo, the organ of Egypt's ruling National Democratic Party.

But he repeated Israel's rejection of any negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization or any terrorist organization.

"If Syria's president wants to come to Israel and talk to us with no prior conditions, we shall meet him and welcome him," Shamir said.

Last week, Assad, addressing a session of the People's Council, said the next war with Israel could spell disaster for both parties. But, he said, the Arabs would suffer less because of the Arab countries' large, unpopulated territories, compared to Israel's dense population centers.

Shamir's remarks to the Egyptian paper were seen here as the new government's first attempt to create a more positive image in the eyes of the Arab world.

Foreign Minister David Levy, who is hospitalized following a mild heart attack, met Sunday with Professor Shimon Shamir, Israel's ambassador to Egypt, and told him he wanted to improve relations with Egypt.

**NEWS ANALYSIS:****STRONG STATEMENTS BY SHAMIR INDICATE  
'NO-BLINK' ATTITUDE TOWARD WASHINGTON**  
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 18 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, still honeymooning with his new government, is showing no sign whatsoever of blinking in what seems to be a showdown with Washington, particularly U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Oozing sarcasm Monday during an address to schoolchildren in Petach Tikvah, the premier chastised the United States for failing to sever its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization in the wake of the May 30 attempted terrorist attack on Israel's beaches, perpetrated by a constituent group of the PLO.

"The weeks go by, and they still can't decide," Shamir said. "They are still consulting in the corridors of power in Washington. They can't decide whether to prove American credibility and uphold the principle that there can be no negotiations with those who engage in terrorism."

The statement appeared to be his public response to the widely publicized rebuke Israel received last week from Baker, who, using sarcasm of his own, broadcast the White House

telephone number and told the Israeli government to call "when you're serious about peace."

Baker's tough words on Israel, made during an appearance before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, appeared to be a direct reaction to hard-line statements on the peace process made by several mainstream Likud ministers in the new government.

Police Minister Ronni Milo, for instance, was quoted as saying that the Baker proposal for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in Cairo was "no longer relevant," a position echoed by Health Minister Ehud Olmert, another Likud moderate.

Shamir himself said last week that it would be pointless to talk to any Palestinian not willing to accept Israel's offer of autonomy, or limited self-rule.

**Levy Adopts A Softer Line**

But this hard-line stance on the peace process is not all-pervasive in the new government. Paradoxically, a Likud hard-liner, Foreign Minister David Levy, has been adopting a more conciliatory approach.

Reports in the Israeli news media described Levy as offended and angry at the mission to Washington undertaken last week by Cabinet Secretary Elyakim Rubinstein, which was orchestrated without his knowledge.

Shortly after the government was formed last week, Rubinstein held meetings with John Kelly, the assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs; Robert Kimmitt, undersecretary of state for political affairs; and with Dennis Ross, director of the department's policy planning staff.

According to Israeli press reports, Rubinstein told the State Department officials that Israel would now reject the whole idea of a dialogue with Palestinians in Cairo.

Rubinstein denied this on Sunday. And in Washington, a spokeswoman for the Israeli Embassy said Tuesday that the "only message" Rubinstein delivered was that Israel is prepared to work with the United States on advancing the peace process.

That appears to be closer to the image Levy would like to convey. Sources close to the foreign minister let it be known this week that, once he recuperates from a heart attack he suffered last week, Levy would like to arrange an early meeting with Baker.

He is said to be convinced that he can use his personal charm to prevent the U.S.-Israeli relationship from deteriorating further.

Levy also signaled that he would like to be invited to Cairo to meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, a gesture that has yet to be extended to Shamir himself. Levy conveyed this message Monday to the Egyptian ambassador, Mohammed Basiouny, whom he met at his hospital bedside in Afula.

Sources close to Levy are reportedly displeased with what they feel is a high-handed and unnecessarily hard-line posture projected by the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yossi Ben-Aharon.

But it remains to be seen whether Levy's debut into the diplomatic arena will indeed produce moderation in Likud policy-making.

**SHAMIR INVITES SOVIET OFFICIALS  
TO SEE TERRITORIES FOR THEMSELVES**

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, June 18 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has suggested that the members of the Soviet consular mission in Tel Aviv visit the Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to see for themselves that the Israeli government is not directing Soviet olim to settle there.

In an interview published Monday by the Hebrew daily Ma'ariv, Shamir said, "If they would visit, they would see with their own eyes that there is no truth to the lies that are being spread about us. The members of the delegation do not even have to apply to the authorities -- Israel is an open and free society."

The prime minister said the "lies against us" continued to be spread by hostile propaganda despite his own repeated denials.

The government's position is that it does not direct immigrants to any particular area; but it does not prevent any Jew from living wherever he or she wishes in Israel.

Official figures show that there are only about 200 Soviet olim in the territories, excluding East Jerusalem, which Israel regards as an integral part of a unified Jerusalem.

"The propaganda against us is shocking," Shamir said. "Therefore, I call on the members of the consular delegation to go and see with their own eyes. But I doubt they will do this."

A senior Soviet delegation member would only say, "I shall not respond to diplomatic contacts with the Israeli government."

**ZIONIST GENERAL COUNCIL DISCUSSES  
ALIIYAH, REVAMPING EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
By Charles Hoffman

JERUSALEM, June 18 (JTA) -- Soviet Jews are applying to come to Israel at the rate of 1,700 a day, World Zionist Organization Chairman Simcha Dinitz said at the opening of the Zionist General Council here.

"A quarter of the Jewish people is on the move in the direction of Israel," Dinitz told 150 delegates representing Zionist organizations from all over the world. The Zionist General Council, which convenes once a year in Jerusalem, is the governing body of the WZO between Zionist congresses.

Israel's goal, Dinitz said, is to "make every effort to bring out as many (Soviet) Jews as possible in the shortest possible time." He said that emissaries of the Zionist movement were in the Soviet Union teaching Hebrew and preparing thousands of Jews for aliyah.

WZO Treasurer Meir Sheerit called on world Jewry to launch a militant campaign to free the 3,000 Jews of Yemen, who he said are living in terrible conditions.

"The silence on this issue is a crime that will not be forgiven," he said. "We in the Zionist movement should not wait for an initiative by the government (of Israel), but should start a campaign in all public forums. I am certain that it will bring results."

Dinitz welcomed delegates from the Soviet Union and Hungary who are attending the Zionist conference for the first time.

The Zionist General Council, which will be followed at the end of this week by the opening of the annual Jewish Agency Assembly, is grap-

pling with the sensitive issue of Jewish education in the Diaspora, one of the WZO's main functions.

The delegates discussed a proposal to set up a "Jewish Education Authority," which is supposed to reorganize the many education programs for Diaspora Jews run by the WZO.

**American Zionist Groups Split**

The role of the WZO in Jewish education for the Diaspora has been a bone of contention for many years between the Diaspora fund-raising and communal bodies that fund the WZO and the Israeli political parties and Zionist organizations that run it.

The Diaspora bodies, which are represented on the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, have had little control over how the money they provide the WZO is spent. The fund-raising organizations now want to end that situation, which has prevailed for decades.

During the past two years, leaders of the WZO and the fund-raising bodies have worked up a proposal that would force the WZO to yield some of its power to a Jewish Education Authority; in which Diaspora organizations would exercise more of an oversight role.

Dinitz, a Labor Party member who also chairs the Jewish Agency Executive, stressed the positive side of the proposal, which he said assures the dominance of the WZO and a victory for Zionist ideology.

"This is an achievement of which we can be proud," Dinitz said of the plan for the authority. He said the authority would allow the WZO to "reach out to communities (in the Diaspora) which have been closed to us until now."

The Likud bloc in the WZO, however, opposes the proposal. The head of the bloc, Matityahu Drobes, said that the authority would spell "the end of the Zionist movement," because of policy-making powers to be ceded to the fund-raising and communal leaders.

The American Zionists affiliated with or sympathetic to Likud, including the Zionist Organization of America, are also opposed to the plan.

Other American Zionist groups, including Hadassah, the Association of Reform Zionists of America and Mercaz, the association of Conservative Zionists, support the plan. Nevertheless, these groups have serious reservations about some of its provisions.

Norman Schwartz, president of ARZA, said that "the authority was supposed to improve the delivery of Jewish-Zionist education and to eliminate duplication, but it does neither."

Pointing out that one of the WZO departments has always been in the hands of the Orthodox, he proposed that another department explicitly serve the religious needs of the Reform and Conservative movements, as well as the cultural needs of non-religious Jews.

**TOWNS TO DIRECTLY AID SOVIET JEWS**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency plans to involve municipalities more closely in the absorption of Soviet immigrants.

Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, outlined his program at a gathering of several dozen mayors here last week. He said he would send Israeli mayors to the Soviet Union to prepare for direct absorption of the newcomers.

## NEW DEFENSE MINISTER PLOTS STRATEGY FOR TACKLING VIOLENCE OF THE INTIFADA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 18 (JTA) -- Newly appointed Defense Minister Moshe Arens has gone straight to the Israel Defense Force for advice on how to quell the Palestinian uprising.

Sources in the Defense Ministry indicated that a general outline was given to heads of the security forces suggesting tough, selective measures to achieve relative calm.

Arens, who had preferred to remain in his previous post of defense minister, reportedly feels pressure to effect a de-escalation of violence in the administered territories as soon as possible. However, he also reportedly believes little can be accomplished solely in military terms.

Observers believe Arens, a pragmatist, will operate on two parallel tracks.

He will try to normalize the situation in the territories by taking such measures as reopening the Palestinian universities that have been closed for most of the 30 months of the Palestinian uprising. On Saturday, for instance, the medical school at the Palestinian Jerusalem University, located in Ramallah, was reopened.

At the same time, Arens will use strict measures, such as demolition of homes, to curb violence in specific, targeted areas, such as key roads that have been subjected to repeated terrorist attacks. One of the roads mentioned as a test case is the Jerusalem-Hebron road, which serves the settlers of Gush Etzion, Kiryat Arba and Hebron.

Speaking Sunday on Israel's Arabic television program, Arens said his responsibility was to cut down violence in the territories.

"I want to continue visiting the territories and talking to both Arabs and Jews. I lay weight on meeting with Palestinian leaders," he said. He suggested improving "the level of dialogue" with the Palestinians in the territories "to try to find common ground."

## ARAB YOUTHS ARRESTED FOR VANDALISM OF CEMETERY AND TORCHING OF CARS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 18 (JTA) -- Three Arab youths, one age 12, have been apprehended by the Jerusalem police in connection with the violent destruction 10 days ago of scores of gravestones on the Mount of Olives cemetery.

The police also announced Monday that they had arrested two young men in connection with the torching over the weekend of nine cars in a garage in the Atarot industrial zone north of Jerusalem, and another two on Mount Zion.

The torchings were the climax of a crime epidemic that has left scores of Jewish-owned cars in the capital smoldering wrecks.

The burnings usually occur along the "seam" the line that divided Israeli and Jordanian sections of Jerusalem before 1967.

The three youths allegedly involved in the grave desecrations come from the village of Ras al-Amud, which abuts the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives.

Police said they were equipped with hammers and spent over an hour on the night of June 10 smashing 77 gravestones -- many of them into little fragments. All the damage was sustained in the section of the cemetery run by the Kollel Polin Burial Society.

## HOT, DRY WINDS FAN INTIFADA FIRES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 18 (JTA) -- Extensive damage to crops, harvested hay and forests was caused Sunday by over a dozen fires that raged in widely separated parts of Israel.

Arson is suspected in at least three of the blazes, part of an ongoing onslaught of fiery attacks against crops by intifada activists.

Others, however, were attributed by firefighters to carelessness and the failure of farmers to abide by warnings not to burn off brush and trash in the event of a Khamsin, the hot, dry wind also known in Hebrew as Sharav.

Sunday's blazes were increased by such winds.

There was no loss of life to humans or cattle.

One fire raged over the border area between Israel and Lebanon near the Mediterranean coast, endangering installations of both the Israel Defense Force and South Lebanon Army.

The fire trapped a group of unidentified soldiers, who were rescued by local civilian and military firefighters.

## TELEPHONE STRIKE HAS MINIMAL EFFECT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 18 (JTA) -- Employees of Bezek, Israel's government-run telephone corporation, staged a strike Monday, but the work stoppage affected only parts of the country.

Bezek's 10,000 employees, who charge the company has failed to implement wage agreements, are divided into two camps. The largest group, covering some 60 percent of the work force and concentrated in the greater Tel Aviv area, decided not to obey the strike call of the central telephone workers' committee.

The strikers defied a court order issued Sunday by the Tel Aviv Labor Court ordering them not to stop work.

The strike closed down telephone repair and information services and shut the corporation's offices throughout the country, apart from Tel Aviv.

Israel Radio and Television transmitters emanating from the central area, and maintained by post office engineers, stopped broadcasting. But the main AM transmitters, located between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and maintained by central region committee members, continued to broadcast and could be picked up through the country, including places where local FM transmitters were silenced.

The strikers said they would allow broadcasts of three television programs Monday evening: the Hebrew and Arabic news programs, and the broadcast of the Mondial World Soccer Cup games from Italy.

## RISHON LE-ZION KILLER TO STAND TRIAL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 18 (JTA) -- Murder charges were brought Monday before the Tel Aviv District Court against Ami Popper, the confessed killer of seven Palestinian workers in a hiring field near Rishon le-Zion on May 20.

The charges followed a ruling by psychiatrists that Popper is capable of standing trial for his actions.

The trial was due to begin Tuesday.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:****BUSH'S STAND ON CIVIL RIGHTS BILL  
MAY BE INFLUENCED BY JEWISH GROUPS**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 18 (JTA) -- The support of most Jewish organizations for the Civil Rights Act of 1990 could tip the balance on whether President Bush vetoes or signs the bill.

Bush, who has said he would like to sign the bill if he can be assured it will not lead to hiring quotas, has been impressed that Jewish groups support the legislation.

"Jewish groups bring a special perspective to the issues of quotas," said Jess Hordes, Washington representative of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

He was referring to the use of quotas earlier this century by American universities and employers to limit the number of Jews they would accept for admission or placement. That historical experience has made Jews wary of supporting affirmative action programs that contain specific numerical hiring or promotion goals.

"The fact that we have come to the conclusion that this bill would not result in quotas" could be a factor in the president's decision, Hordes said.

However, one Jewish group, Agudath Israel of America, has opposed the bill, because the Orthodox group fears it could lead to employers imposing their own quotas to avoid the threat of expensive lawsuits.

The legislation was introduced by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.), in order to strengthen protection against discrimination on the basis of race or sex that was weakened by five Supreme Court decisions in 1989.

**Agudah Supports Some Provisions**

The Senate is expected to approve the bill within the next few weeks. In the House of Representatives, it has been approved by the Education and Labor Committee, but still needs to be voted out by the Judiciary Committee before going to the full House.

Some supporters of the bill are pushing for floor votes in each house during the American visit of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, who arrives in New York on Wednesday and is to address a joint session of Congress on June 26.

Bush has held a series of meetings with representatives of black, Jewish, Catholic, Hispanic, Asian-American, civil rights and women's groups, in order to get their views on the Kennedy-Hawkins Bill.

The Jewish representatives were: Meyer Eisenberg, chairman of ADL's national legal affairs committee; Judith Golub, legislative director in the Washington office of the American Jewish Committee; and David Zwiebel, Agudath Israel's general counsel.

In a letter sent to Bush recently, Zwiebel said Agudath Israel supports a provision of the law that would hold employers accountable for intentional illegal discrimination.

The bill would allow victims of job discrimination to seek compensatory and punitive damages. Up to now, they could only sue for back pay, attorney's fees or a court order to reverse a dismissal or denial of promotion based on discrimination.

"We do not believe that holding employers

responsible for the full consequences of their unlawful intention is likely to lead to the implementation of unlawful quotas," Zwiebel said in his letter to Bush.

But Zwiebel believes the bill's provision on unintentional discrimination are too broad and could lead to "kitchen sink complaints" that would require huge legal expenses by employers.

"Rather than risking legal exposure, many employers would likely adopt numerical quotas to avoid problems," Zwiebel said.

**Compromise Language Welcomed**

Golub of AJCommittee called this argument a "red herring."

She said that before the Supreme Court reversed the 1971 decision in *Griggs vs. Duke Power Co.*, the court for 19 years had ordered employers to remove subjective tests and other barriers to employment, without ever once imposing a numerical quota. Nor did employers during that period set up quotas on their own, she said.

Supporters of the bill point to an agreement recently worked out between Kennedy and Sen. John Danforth (R-Mo.) on unintentional discrimination that they believe has effectively eliminated the threat of quotas from the legislation.

Danforth and several other Republicans, who were concerned about quotas, now support the bill.

As explained by Danforth, the Senate version of the bill now drops the requirement that employers prove that job qualifications are "essential" to their businesses. Instead, employers would only need to show that hiring practices bear "a substantial and demonstrable relationship to effective job performance."

"This lower standard will bar discrimination without forcing employers to adopt surreptitious employment quotas," Danforth said. He said that House managers have agreed to this change.

The Kennedy-Danforth amendment "should resolve once and for all legitimate concerns" about quotas, Golub said.

Hordes said that ADL believed the original bill would not result in quotas, and the amendment "further reduces the possibility."

He said that it makes it easier for an employer to prove the necessity of its employment practices.

**Semantic Debate Continues**

But Agudath Israel still feels the language is too burdensome on the employer. The employer should be able to show that his practices are "more than insubstantial, but less than essential or indispensable," said Abba Cohen, the group's Washington representative.

Hordes observed that no one on either side wants quotas. But the debate has come down to a question of semantics over whether this would be the result of the legislation.

This semantic debate is now going on within the Bush administration as the president looks for a way to support the legislation. Bush is said to want to make a show of support for civil rights and to reach out to the black community, which felt alienated by the Reagan administration.

But the president is under heavy pressure from conservatives to veto the legislation. There is some expectation that before the bill comes to the Senate floor, Bush may propose his own language, in an attempt to ensure that quotas would not result from the new law, even inadvertently.