

**75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR****TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1992****VOL. 70, NO. 67****LIKUD AND LABOR FILL CAMPAIGN SLOTS  
AMID CONTINUED TENSION IN BOTH CAMPS****By David Landau**

JERUSALEM, April 6 (JTA) -- Amid continued criticism of the concessions made by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to David Levy, the Likud moved to incorporate Levy supporters into its election campaign.

The concessions were made to avert the foreign minister's threatened resignation less than three months before the June 23 national elections.

Meanwhile in the opposition Labor Party, key slots in its election staff were being filled amid tension between the camps of party leader Yitzhak Rabin and former leader Shimon Peres.

Shamir loyalist Haim Landau was heard at Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv complaining bitterly of a sellout as Knesset members Reuven Rivlin and Michael Kleiner, members of the Levy camp, assumed senior positions on Likud's election campaign staff Monday.

Two other staunch Shamir backers, Health Minister Ehud Olmert and Justice Minister Dan Meridor, are also known to entertain strong reservations. But they are keeping their criticism muted.

Shamir's closest ally in the government, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, was busy Monday denying media reports that he had accused the prime minister of "cracking" under pressure from Levy.

Shamir himself denied Monday that he had "surrendered under pressure." He insisted that he had not agreed to a "party within the party," which he said he would not tolerate in Likud.

**Party Making Painful Adjustments**

Nevertheless, the party apparatus is making painful adjustments to integrate Levy backers into key positions from which they were largely excluded when the Likud Central Committee voted to select the election slate last month.

Levy has been guaranteed the office of foreign minister and deputy premier in any Likud government. He would receive one of the four most senior Cabinet posts if another Likud-Labor unity government is formed after the elections.

In addition, Levy will be allowed to name one minister of his choice, a privilege which has resided hitherto exclusively with the prime minister.

While Likud members were chafing, there were also signs of tension in the Labor Party Monday, as Rabin named hawkish Knesset member Binyamin Ben-Eliezer to head the important information section of the party's election campaign.

Rabin squelched objections. "I was elected leader and the responsibility rests with me and so does the authority," he told the party executive.

He said he would hold consultations whenever possible, but not always.

Peres supporters had to grit their teeth and accept Ben-Eliezer's appointment. But their faction was not shut out. Knesset member Moshe Shahal, a Peres man, was named deputy head of the campaign under the party's secretary-general, Micha Harish.

**JEWISH PRESENCE STRONGLY FELT  
AT PRO-CHOICE MARCH IN CAPITAL****By Alexandra J. Wall**

WASHINGTON, April 6 (JTA) -- Jewish voters, waving their affiliation on banners and placards, came from all over the country to participate in the "March for Women's Lives" held here Sunday.

They were among the estimated crowd of 500,000 who converged on Washington in an attempt to send a strong pro-choice message on abortion to the White House on the eve of the presidential elections.

Organized by the National Organization for Women, the march -- which turned out to be the largest of its kind ever -- was also co-sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, the Reform Movement and several Jewish women's organizations.

B'nai B'rith Women National President Joan Kort participated with a B'nai B'rith delegation of 250 people.

"We had marchers in our delegation from the age of 10, we had teen-agers and senior citizens, women and men. I was very enthusiastic about the size of our delegation, and the size of the march in general," she said.

**Mother And Daughter March Together**

Mother and daughter Gloria and Beth Kaufman came from New York City to attend the march.

"I wanted to be represented as a Jewish American here," said the elder Kaufman.

"I wanted to share a very crucial issue with my daughter. It is important for all of us to be counted on this issue which affects us all," she added.

Her daughter said that she wanted to come with her mother because "activism should be intergenerational; when an issue is as important as this one, it should not only be the young out here."

She added that there was something innate in Judaism which drew her to political activism, and the abortion issue in particular.

After the march, participants filled the mall to listen to a number of prominent feminists, celebrities and politicians. Democratic Presidential hopefuls Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton and former California Gov. Jerry Brown took time out from campaigning in New York to be present, but did not address the crowd.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson spoke briefly about the importance of a woman's right to choose, and then turned to his own agenda.

In what seemed to be an attempt to campaign for himself and Brown, Jackson tried a last-ditch effort to woo Jewish voters by condemning America's neglect of Jewish European immigrants during the Holocaust.

Actor Ron Silver expressed his anger at the denial of women's rights.

"What the hell is going on?" he asked. He addressed the men in the crowd and said "Guys, it should not be the way things are, but it is--we control the show. Men, look inward. Support your girlfriends, your mothers, your sisters, your wives. Allow them the choice of what to do."

Pastor Ignacio Castuera, a member of the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, an umbrella organization of clergy members dedicated to reproductive freedom for women, also spoke.

"I am here to debunk the myth that religious people are religious fanatics who terrorize women. Most people of faith are pro-choice," he said.

**NOTES FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL:  
BROWN HUMS AND MRS. CLINTON TALKS HIPS**  
By Larry Yudelson and Alexandra J. Wall

NEW YORK, April 6 (JTA) -- Late Saturday afternoon, Democratic Presidential hopeful Edmund Brown Jr. ventured into a Brooklyn synagogue and, in a rare departure from campaign protocol, did not speak.

He hummed.

The former California governor's visit to a Hasidic shul for a traditional Sabbath meal first elicited amusement and hostility from the regular worshippers. But by the end, they seemed convinced that the visit by the eclectic candidate was as much a stop on a spiritual pilgrimage that has already included Jesuit training, Zen Buddhist studies and service with Mother Teresa as it was a political maneuver.

Hosting the governor was Rabbi Meir Fund, who said afterward that this was probably the first time an American political candidate "experienced an authentic Hasidic spiritual gathering."

Brown and Fund, rabbi of the Flatbush Minyan, were brought together by a mutual friend.

Starting at Fund's house, they walked to the synagogue of the Moditz Hasidim, for a half hour's worth of Hasidic melodies. Brown looked at the translations of some of the songs -- and asked Fund about various kabbalistic terms they contained -- but for the most part was content to listen, hum along and tap his feet in time.

Outside both the shul and Fund's house, where the two returned for the havdalah service marking the end of the Sabbath, Brown was confronted with demonstrators against Rev. Jesse Jackson, Brown's announced choice for running mate.

According to Fund, Brown began to understand why the Jewish community had not forgiven Jackson, despite his public apologies for referring to New York as "Hymietown."

"I think he got the message on Jackson; he's more committed to facilitating as a bridge between Jackson and the Jewish community; he understands more clearly why Jackson isn't good enough for the Jewish community," Fund said.

Is a spiritual sensitivity and quest a good qualification for the presidency?

Putting aside all other factors -- and voters in New York's primary faced plenty of factors before casting their uncertain ballots Tuesday -- Fund says yes.

"That's the best thing in the world. Because that kind of person is going to factor in certain kind of values that a pragmatic political hack will never get to."

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In remarks to a Queens synagogue sisterhood Thursday, Hillary Clinton, wife of Brown's rival, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, appealed to an audience by bragging about her hip credentials.

Hip, that is, as in "Home Instruction Program," an Israeli program which trains mothers to teach their children.

The program was created at Hebrew University with assistance from the National Council of Jewish Women, and is now among the calling cards the governor leaves at addresses to Jewish groups.

"Years ago Israel was facing a massive influx of Jews from North Africa. When these children got to school, they had many learning disabilities," Clinton told the 200 people at the Young Israel of Hillcrest.

Clinton went on to explain how when she first heard about this program, she was immediately on the phone to the head researcher at Hebrew University.

"Now this program is in effect in New York, and in Arkansas. I am proud to say that Little Rock has the largest program of its kind in the U.S.," she added.

Clinton hammered on the need for new vision and leadership for the United States. "Anti-Semitism and racism are tearing this country apart. We need new leadership to bring us back together again," she said.

**SWISS BISHOPS DECLARE ANTI-SEMITISM  
'A CRIME AGAINST GOD AND HUMANITY'**  
By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, April 6 (JTA) -- Switzerland's Conference of Catholic Bishops and representatives of the country's Jewish community have signed a joint declaration condemning anti-Semitism as "a crime against God and humanity."

The statement is Switzerland's implementation of the 1990 Prague declaration, according to Michael Kohn, president of the Swiss Jewish community, and is meant to mark increased understanding between Jews and Catholics on the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of Jews from Spain.

The Prague declaration was issued in September 1990 by representatives of the Vatican and the International Jewish Committee on Inter-religious Consultations, the Jewish partner in interfaith dialogue. It states that anti-Semitism is a sin, and that concrete measures must be taken to combat it.

The nine-page Swiss declaration states that "through misguided preaching and catechisms, the Church contributed to the creation of the climate that allowed the murderers of the Nazi regime to carry out their crimes against Jews."

The joint declaration also stresses the central role of Israel in Judaism and emphasizes that the country's legitimacy is based not only on the Bible and tradition, but also on international law.

The policies of Israel's government are open to criticism, like those of any other country, but Christians must accept Israel's right to exist, the statement says.

Archbishop Joseph Candelori, chairman of the Swiss Bishops Conference, said that the joint declaration also aims at the general problem of racism and xenophobia when it says that "current racism against Turks, Tamils and black Africans is a dreadful continuation of earlier hatred against Jews."

With this statement, the Swiss church joins Poland's Catholic hierarchy in having officially condemned anti-Semitism. Hungary and Czechoslovakia are expected to join that list shortly.

## IDF CHIEF BARAK VISITS POLAND, WILL MAKE STOP AT AUSCHWITZ

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 6 (JTA) -- Israel's army chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, has begun a four-day official visit to Poland, the first ever by an incumbent Israel Defense Force chief to an Eastern European country.

He is expected to announce the opening of a military attache's office at the Israeli Embassy in Warsaw, the first in an Eastern European capital.

Barak will pay a ceremonial visit to the site of the Auschwitz death camp in southeastern Poland. He will be joined there by a delegation of young IDF soldiers, children and grandchildren of former camp victims, and survivors who are flying out from Israel.

The chief of staff will meet his Polish counterpart, observe a Polish air force exercise and visit the naval base at Gdansk.

The visit to Poland by the Israeli general coincided with the arrival in southern Lebanon of the first contingent of 80 Polish soldiers, the first contingent Poland has contributed to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

The Polish troops will replace the Swedish detachment, which the Swedish government has withdrawn from the 5,800-member international peacekeeping force.

Barak flew to Warsaw after visiting both Germany and Switzerland. During a two-day stop in Switzerland, he discussed ongoing military cooperation and military purchase agreements between the two countries with the Swiss army chief of staff.

In Geneva, Barak and his Swiss counterpart, Heinz Haesler, who have known each other for 10 years, engaged in talks which Barak characterized as "most friendly."

Barak told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency he had received assurances that the Swiss army will continue to buy arms from the Israeli arms industry and that cuts the Swiss Ministry of Defense will have to make shortly will not affect orders from Israel.

(JTA correspondent Tamar Levy in Geneva contributed to this report.)

## HOUSING STARTS IN TERRITORIES DOUBLE THAT OF WHOLE COUNTRY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 6 (JTA) -- The rate of housing starts in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1991 was double that in the country as a whole, according to figures released Sunday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The bureau said housing starts quadrupled last year, in contrast to a doubling countrywide.

Construction began on 8,110 units in the territories, nearly 10 percent of the 83,350 building starts recorded in the entire country.

That compared to 1,810 starts in the territories in 1990, which was about 4 percent of the 42,410 units started nationally that year, the bureau reported.

A total of 2,270 housing units were completed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip last year, compared to 1,340 units in 1990.

But that was only part of the story. In addition to apartments built, 3,735 campers and small mobile homes were introduced into the territories last year, accounting for 21 percent of the homes of that kind all over the country.

Observers noted that 73 percent of last year's housing starts were government-sponsored and were targeted to those regions favored by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, an outspoken advocate of Jewish settlement in the administered territories.

But Sharon's choices were not necessarily in regions offering the most jobs, the observers pointed out. Consequently, many of the government-built units remain empty.

## ISRAELI ECONOMY SURGES BEFORE PESACH

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 6 (JTA) -- Although the Bank of Israel released data last week showing the country to be in "the worst economic slowdown since the mid-1960s," Israeli consumers are engaged in an orgy of holiday shopping with Passover less than two weeks away.

Never mind Shabbat. Stores were stormed last Saturday by throngs of shoppers eager to buy everything in sight.

Detergents, household goods, wines, clothing and electrical appliances topped the shopping lists of Israelis who seemed to ignore their overdrawn checking accounts and the overall air of economic uncertainty.

The big department stores reported sales jumping by 15 to 22 percent compared to the same period last year and an 11 percent rise in the number of customers.

According to store managers, sales were slower in April 1991 because many consumers had already stocked up for the Persian Gulf war.

## TOURISM COMES BACK AFTER GULF WAR

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 6 (JTA) -- Israel's tourism industry has bounced back from the deep slump of the Persian Gulf War.

The Tourism Ministry reported Monday that 350,000 foreigners visited Israel during the first quarter of this year, restoring tourism to the record levels it enjoyed before the Gulf crisis took its toll.

Most of the tourists from January through March were from the United States. The ministry reported that American tourism was up 12 percent for the quarter.

The rest of the visitors were mainly from Europe, especially Germany and Italy.

The ministry said hotels are fully booked for the approaching Passover-Easter holiday season and that prospects look good for the summer ahead.

## CHINA TO GIVE ISRAEL A ROCKET

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 6 (JTA) -- China is prepared to provide a rocket to launch an Israeli-built space satellite, the deputy head of the Chinese military industries said during a visit here Monday.

He leads a high-level delegation sent from Beijing to sign a commercial and economic agreement with Israel.

The delegation, which includes senior officials of China's Ministry of National Planning, has had several meetings with local industrialists and leaders of the Israeli Chamber of Commerce.

They were reported to be interested in Israeli advances in agricultural irrigation.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:  
LEADER OF ISRAEL'S NEW PEACE BLOC  
SAYS ABSORPTION IS THE TOP PRIORITY**  
By Alexandra J. Wall

NEW YORK, April 6 (JTA) -- Israelis should blame Yitzhak Shamir, not George Bush, if the Jewish state does not wind up with U.S. guarantees for billions of dollars in loans needed to help absorb immigrants, says Knesset member Shulamit Aloni.

"Absorbing the olim should be the priority of the government, not building new settlements in the occupied territories," Aloni said in a recent interview.

Aloni was on an American speaking tour to raise funds for Meretz, the new coalition of dovish Israeli political parties that she heads.

Meretz, which means energy, is also an acronym for two of the three member parties: Mapam, the United Workers Party of Israel, and Ratz, the Citizens Rights Movement founded by Aloni in 1973. The third member is the Center-Shinui Movement.

The parties have put aside their disagreements on economic issues to present a united front for the June 23 elections.

All three parties agree that negotiations that will eventually lead to a Palestinian state need to be under way as soon as possible in order to preserve the democratic nature of Israel.

Speaking recently at Temple Israel of the City of New York, Aloni struck a note seldom heard in recent months from visiting Israelis.

**Reason For Optimism**

"There is reason to be optimistic," she said. "For the first time since the beginning of Zionism, we have a great opportunity to implement the prophecy that the Jewish people can and will ingather in Israel.

"The prophets say that they will come from the East, West, North and South, and they are coming. For the first time we have an opportunity to build peace and flourish in the State of Israel," she said.

Aloni noted the end of Israel's diplomatic isolation, the willingness of Palestinians to accept U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the fact that a dozen Arab nations sat together with Israel in the multilateral peace talks in Moscow.

"If it can be so good, why is it as bad as it is?" she asked.

"And it is that bad," she added, charging that the Shamir government is missing the opportunities for both peace and aliyah.

But Aloni sounded confident in her talk that the Israeli electorate will retire Shamir.

Bolstering her enthusiasm are polls indicating that large numbers of the new immigrants support Meretz, despite the conventional wisdom that immigrants from the former Communist lands would not vote for parties on the left.

"People are suffering," she said.

"The new immigrants know that Shamir is to blame for their situation. They are smart. They read, they know and they suffer because of the policies of the government. They will not vote for the government responsible for their own misery," she said.

To support her charge that the Shamir government has failed to take immigration absorption seriously, Aloni pointed to the minister of absorption, Yitzhak Peretz.

Peretz, an ultra-Orthodox rabbi, has represented no political party since 1990, when he defected from the Shas party to prevent it from forming a coalition with Labor.

Aloni, a longtime critic of Israel's Orthodox establishment, charged that Peretz "only wants to find the kosher Jews and make the rest kosher, too."

"Obviously absorption is not a priority with him in charge," she said.

**Charges Abuse of Palestinian Rights**

Aloni, who has been a civil rights advocate for her tenure in politics, cited examples of Israel's denial of human rights for the Palestinians.

"Israel put 120,000 Palestinians under curfew in Nablus, so the speaker of the Knesset could go dance with a Sefer Torah," she said. She was referring to the incident when speaker Dov Shilansky was guest of honor at the dedication of Yeshiva Od Yosef Chai, a Jewish settler outpost in Nablus.

The curfew was imposed to guarantee the security of Shilansky and the few dozen settlers.

Asked about the propriety of imposing the curfew for the celebration, Shilansky sang into the television camera: "Out of Zion will come forth Torah."

In discussing the current alarm in the Jewish community about the changing relationship between Israel and Washington, Aloni remained remarkably upbeat.

Despite the fact that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's reported slur of "F--- the Jews" appeared as an English headline in Israel's Hebrew dailies, Israelis did not take the reported comment seriously, Aloni said.

"We joked about it," she said.

"How many Jews say, 'F--- the goyim?' That word is used on a much more frequent basis now. It's a legitimate word. I don't think it was said because of the nature of the relationship between Israel and Washington; it was said because it is said all the time. I don't think Baker is really an anti-Semite."

Baker, in fact, denies ever making the remark.

Aloni also appeared to have little quarrel with the Bush administration's reasoning for denying loan guarantees to Israel.

"We don't need money on a humanistic basis. We need money for economic development, to prosper and to flourish. We don't need it to build another villa for a religious zealot," she said.

**Settlements Don't Help Israel's Security**

After her synagogue talk, members of the audience asked about matters of security.

Aloni responded that the settlements do not help Israel's security.

"The defense army is responsible for the security of the country, and everyone knows it," she said emphatically.

"Those settlements are only a liability for the army," she added.

While the more centrist Labor Party has more of a chance of defeating the Likud in the elections, Aloni remained firm that her party is the true voice of those who want peace.

"Labor does not have the same priorities. They whisper things that we shout," she said. "They are not mature enough to say out loud what we agree upon and have been advocating for years."