

**ALONI AGREES TO QUIT EDUCATION POST, BUT COALITION CRISIS IS NOT OVER YET**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 10 (JTA) -- Shulamit Aloni agreed Monday to step down from her post as education minister, but it was not immediately clear whether the proposed Cabinet reshuffle would prevent Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's center-left coalition government from collapsing.

The government, meanwhile, survived three no-confidence motions in the Knesset on Monday, but not without a raucous debate that many described as the stormiest in years.

Rabin asked for Aloni's resignation in an attempt to prevent the fervently Orthodox Shas party from leaving his coalition as it threatened to do Sunday when its chairman, Aryeh Deri, resigned his post as interior minister.

Shas is upset over a string of remarks made by the outspoken education minister that have offended the Orthodox communities in Israel. Most recently she disparaged Rabin's recitation of the Shema Yisrael prayer at last month's commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

But Rabin also cannot afford to alienate Aloni, who heads the left-wing Meretz bloc, which controls an even larger bloc of votes in the Knesset than Shas does.

Under the law, Deri's resignation does not take effect until Tuesday, and Rabin was scrambling to put together a deal before then that would be acceptable to all parties. He said he would convene a special Cabinet meeting Tuesday to announce the reshuffling of ministerial portfolios.

But as word of the proposed compromise leaked out Monday, there were immediate grumblings from both Shas and Meretz. Pessimists in the Labor Party said it remained unclear whether the prime minister would succeed in preventing Deri from quitting.

Under Rabin's proposed deal, Aloni would step down from the education post but remain as minister of culture, a post now considered to be part of the education portfolio. In addition, she would pick up the communications portfolio now held by Moshe Shahal of Labor.

Shahal would stay on as police minister and pick up the energy portfolio currently held by Amnon Rubinstein of Meretz, who, in turn, would replace Aloni as education minister.

**Both Sides Reject Deal**

The deal would leave the Education Ministry in the hands of the secularist Meretz bloc and would leave Aloni in control, as communications minister, of the Israel Broadcasting Authority, the parent body of state television and radio.

Deri said Shas could not possibly accept such an arrangement, which would be tantamount to "giving the cherries in the cake" to Aloni.

Meretz also initially rejected the formula, saying that the party deserved additional concessions for agreeing to have its leader assume a lower-profile post. It demanded, among other things, that a third Meretz minister be added to the "inner Cabinet" of senior ministers dealing with national security matters.

Despite the objections, Rabin said he was

determined to present the new ministerial assignments to the Cabinet on Tuesday, whether or not Shas decided to remain in the government.

If Shas did quit, the coalition would survive, but only by the thinnest possible margin. The move would make Rabin uncomfortably dependent on the Arab parties to maintain his majority in the 120-seat Knesset.

The government's Knesset majority was challenged Monday, when the opposition Likud, Tsomet, National Religious Party and United Torah Judaism Front submitted no-confidence motions against Rabin's handling of the security situation and the Middle East peace process.

The six Knesset members of Shas stayed away from the vote, but only after making sure the government would survive it without them.

In the end, the motions were defeated by a vote of 56-47, but not before a turbulent debate in which Knesset Speaker Shevach Weiss expelled three Likud lawmakers and one NRP member from the Knesset chamber because of their heckling.

**Rabin Loses His Patience**

Weiss at one point threatened to adjourn the session altogether if the "hooliganism" continued.

Knesset member Gonen Segev of the right-wing opposition Tsomet party drew angry protests from Knesset member Abdel Wahab Darawshe from the Arab Democratic Party, after having decried the fact that the government was now dependent upon Arab Knesset members. Darawshe retorted by calling Segev a racist.

Rabin lost patience with the continuous disruptions by the opposition, at one point responding to a Knesset member's remark by exclaiming, "What an idiot."

But on a more serious note, the prime minister spoke proudly of the "fruits" of his 5-week-old closure of the administered territories. He argued that it had not only brought about an improvement in the security situation, but had re-educated Israelis about the value of menial work, which had previously been relegated to the Arabs.

He said the opposition had no grounds for complaining about the security situation, since nobody had been killed in Israel proper since the territories had been sealed off.

Rabin also said that, contrary to news reports last week, a proposed Palestinian police force would not be established before the implementation of an interim agreement on autonomy in the territories.

"If the Palestinians want to organize a nucleus of a Palestinian police force in Jordan or in Egypt, it is their business," he said.

**PALESTINIANS CUT SIZE OF DELEGATION AS ISRAEL ALLOWS MORE DEPORTEES HOME**By Deborah Kalb  
States News Service

WASHINGTON, May 10 (JTA) -- In a sign that it feels its concerns are being ignored, the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks here has cut the size of its negotiating team from 14 to three and suspended its participation in working groups set up to deal with autonomy arrangements and with land and water issues.

The move, announced Monday, was protested

by the Israelis. In a statement, they said the action "constitutes a violation of the agreement reached between the sides and disrupts the proper functioning of the working groups which we have both agreed upon."

At the same time, though, Israel announced it would let an additional 25 of the 415 Palestinians deported to Lebanon last December return to the administered territories.

Seventeen other deportees have already been allowed back, and Israel earlier announced its willingness to let 101 of the deportees return immediately from Lebanon, where they have been stranded between Israeli and Lebanese army lines.

The fate of the deportees has been a chief concern of the Palestinian negotiators, some of whom had been opposed to resuming negotiations with Israel two weeks ago until the matter was resolved.

The delegation explained its move Monday by saying that Israel had not fulfilled commitments it had made to the Palestinians, including the "speedy return" of the deportees.

The decision to reduce the size of the negotiating team was first announced in Tunis, where the head of the overall delegation, Faisal Husseini, held weekend consultations with the Palestine Liberation Organization leadership.

Haider Abdel-Shafi, chief of the Palestinian negotiating team, was also absent from Monday's round of talks with the Israelis, leaving negotiator Saeb Erekat to lead the truncated delegation.

Monday's move followed a decision by the Palestinians last week to suspend their participation in a third working group with the Israelis, this one dealing with human rights issues in the territories.

That move had baffled the Israelis, both because the Palestinians had requested the working group in the first place and because it appeared that the talks were making headway.

### **'Serious Backsliding' Alleged**

But the Palestinians apparently did not feel that way. In the statement issued Monday, they accused Israel of showing a "lack of seriousness" in the negotiations.

In particular, the Palestinians lambasted a draft statement of principles Israel had issued as showing "serious backsliding" and a "return to earlier unworkable positions."

The mood was a sharp contrast to the euphoria that greeted Israel's decision two weeks ago to allow 30 Palestinians deported from the territories prior to 1987 to return.

Late last week, the Israelis still seemed hopeful of concluding this ninth round of bilateral negotiations with "something concrete" that the Palestinians could then show their constituency back home, as delegation spokesman Yossi Gal put it.

"It is high time the Israelis and Palestinians show that they can reach agreement" on something, Gal said last Friday.

In the wake of the Palestinian move Monday, such a harmonious ending seemed unlikely. Still, both sides were careful not to slam the doors.

The Palestinians said they were "seriously pursuing a joint declaration of principles that could serve as an effective guide for the future course of negotiations."

And the Israelis, for their part, said that "for the sake of the negotiations and our commitment to peace, we have decided to continue the talks, even under the present circumstances."

### **KEY ALLY OF RABIN'S SAYS HE WON'T RULE OUT EVENTUAL PALESTINIAN STATE** By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, May 10 (JTA) -- A key political ally of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's told American Jewish leaders last week that he would not rule out eventual Palestinian statehood.

Speaking to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations on May 6, Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer rejected a suggestion that the current peace talks threaten Israel because they may lead to the creation of a Palestinian state.

"Maybe it will be in our interest to see a Palestinian state," said Ben-Eliezer. "I don't want it now, but who knows what will happen?"

Ben-Eliezer, in New York for the local Salute to Israel parade, served as West Bank military governor and coordinator of government activities in the administered territories before becoming a Labor Party Knesset member in 1984.

He brought his ample military experience to bear in arguing the case for peace to the Conference of Presidents.

He said his years in the West Bank taught him something crucial about the Palestinians with whom Israel is currently negotiating.

"I know them. I drank coffee with them," he said. "They're young, bright -- yes some are militant -- and dignified."

"If you sit and talk, you realize that they realize that coexistence has to be the solution, because if not, hell will break."

"There's no reason to hide it from you: They are PLO," he said, referring to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"The same PLO. No games. The same dreams, wishes, and flags. The only difference from those in (PLO headquarters in) Tunis is that they are realpolitik. They realize what can be done and cannot be done when they're in dialogue with Israelis."

"They understand Israel, they understand Israelis," he said.

### **Netanyahu Blasts 'Headlong Rush'**

They understand further, he added, Israel's refusal to include PLO leader Yasir Arafat or others from Tunis in the peace negotiations.

That refusal, he said, is based on Arafat's inevitable demand that the status of Jerusalem, the return of Palestinian refugees and a Palestinian state all be addressed at the negotiating table now.

The Palestinians taking part in the peace talks, however, "are smart enough to know what is possible and not possible," Ben-Eliezer said.

Ten minutes after Ben-Eliezer finished defending Israel's approach to the negotiations, Israeli opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu could be heard criticizing that very approach to a different audience just three blocks away.

In a briefing for a small group of journalists, Netanyahu criticized "the headlong rush to the 1967 boundary that characterizes the government's incompetent negotiating techniques."

Netanyahu's meeting with the journalists was part of a three-day trip to the United States that included several television and radio appearances and fund-raising for the Likud cause.

Netanyahu, recently elected to succeed former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as head of the Likud party, was also promoting his newly published book, "A Place Among the Nations."

## SECURITY FORCES NAB A TERRORIST ALLEGED TO HAVE MURDERED LAWYER By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 10 (JTA) -- Israeli security forces have apprehended a terrorist who is suspected of having murdered an Israeli lawyer last month in Gaza City.

Ian Feinberg, 32, a native of South Africa, had worked as a legal consultant to international organizations involved in giving humanitarian assistance to Palestinians in the administered territories.

He was brutally murdered April 18 during a visit he was making to the office of the Cooperation for Development Agency, an affiliate of the European Community.

Two Palestinians, armed with a rifle, axes and knives, burst into the office and hacked Feinberg to death, despite the protests of Palestinian workers that he was a friend of the community.

A group called the Red Eagle, an armed wing of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, claimed responsibility for the terror attack.

Security forces and the General Security Service, or Shin Bet, immediately launched a major search for Feinberg's killers. Two days after his murder, one suspect, Majed Abu Moussa, was shot and killed during an army operation in Deir el Balah in the Gaza Strip.

Sunday night, a second man wanted for the murder, Mohammed Oda Sakran, of the Bureij refugee camp, was taken prisoner in an operation close to the camp.

Captured together with Sakran was Issa Mohammed Mansour, 24, of the Fatah Hawks, a group tied to Yasir Arafat, who was also on the wanted list for the murder of a Gaza Palestinian last month.

Security sources said the men were armed with a pistol, ammunition and a grenade. Four other wanted men were also apprehended during that operation.

## DIRECT FLIGHTS ARE SET UP FROM BIROBIDJAN TO ISRAEL By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, May 10 (JTA) -- About 280 immigrants from Birobidjan, the "Jewish homeland" in the former Soviet Union, are scheduled to arrive in Israel on Thursday on the Jewish Agency's first direct flight from Khabarovsk, which is on Russia's border with Manchuria.

Simcha Dinitz, the chairman of the Jewish Agency, this week called the immigration of Birobidjan Jews a symbol of "Zionism's victory over communism."

The so-called autonomous region of Birobidjan, in Siberia, was created by the Stalin regime in 1927 as an alternative to Zionism. It was an effort to keep Soviet Jews interested in remaining in the Soviet Union and the world believing that Jews had a national homeland in that country.

But despite the effort, the Jewish population there never topped 30,000, and the Soviet authorities finally admitted in 1958 that the endeavor was a failure.

The Jewish Agency recently initiated emissary operations in Birobidjan, which has 10,000 Jews; in Novosibirsk, another Siberian city, with 15,000 Jews; in Vladivostok, with about 4,000 Jews; and Mogadan, a former city of internal

exile. All are in the Far East, on or near the Pacific coast.

The operations are part of the agency's plans to expand its aliyah activities in the central and eastern regions of Russia.

## STRIKING TEACHERS RETURN TO WORK WITH AGREEMENT ON WAGES AND HOURS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 10 (JTA) -- Israeli teachers called off their 11-day strike early Monday morning following a marathon, 48-hour negotiating session.

Signatures were put on a contract just in time for Israel Radio's first broadcast of the day, at 6 a.m.

The sudden return found 1 million pupils scrambling for their books and school clothes.

Actually, some students had gone to school on Sunday, albeit bleary-eyed from Lag B'Omer celebrations. Teachers had put in a practice day back by returning to work Sunday to give back to the Education Ministry a day owed from a previous labor stoppage.

The labor pact signed Monday morning followed more than two years of desultory talks on wages and terms of service. The two years had been interrupted by various periods of labor unrest, strike threats and actual walkouts.

The agreement, negotiated by the teachers and the Education and Finance ministries, was described by Education Minister Shulamit Aloni, in her last day in that position, as "the happiest day of my life."

"We have finally assured our pupils of uninterrupted studies and our teachers with some of their demands for adequate salaries," she said.

According to the terms of the contract, the teachers are to be granted a 25 percent increase in their gross salaries, to be paid in installments over the next three years, in return for a commitment to add several hours to their weekly teaching schedule and to refrain from engaging in strikes and labor unrest during the coming three years.

The teachers are also to receive a one-time 20 percent gross erosion in their next month's salary, to cover past erosions in their incomes.

The payment installments will begin to be paid at the rate of 10 percent in September, 4 percent next April, 5 percent in September 1994 and a final 2 percent in May 1995.

## WORKER WAS KILLED WEIGHING EXPLOSIVE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 10 (JTA) -- The Israel Military Industries worker killed Sunday in an explosion at a weapons and ammunition factory in Ramat Hasharon has been identified as Meir Muallam, 46, of Netanya.

At the time of the blast, Muallam was weighing a small quantity of a sensitive explosive in an open-sided shed in an isolated part of the facility.

It was the fourth blast with casualties at an IMI factory in the past year, and the second at the Ramat Hasharon plant since January, when another worker was killed.

In an odd coincidence, Muallam's brother was reported to have been one of those injured in an explosion at another IMI factory in the Kfar Shmaryahu-Nof Yam area, north of Tel Aviv, last July. That blast left two dead and several injured.

### 3 YEARS AFTER CEMETERY VANDALISM, NO PERPETRATORS HAVE BEEN FOUND

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, May 10 (JTA) -- Three years after the particularly savage desecration of the Jewish cemetery of Carpentras, the perpetrators are still at large. And there is now concern that the case may never be solved.

Despite widespread outrage over the vandalism that elicited large protest marches, no one has been fingered in the May 10, 1990 crime, in which 34 tombstones were toppled or broken and the corpse of a recently buried man was exhumed and brutally defiled.

Skinheads, political militants, Satanic cult adherents and all other manner of suspects with varied affiliations have since been interrogated, with no result.

In spite of some 100 investigators put on the trail of the vandals, and the more than 800 people interviewed, no clue was ever found.

At the time, then Interior Minister Pierre Joxe denounced the perpetrators as being tied to France's extreme-right wing, pointing the finger at Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front.

Le Pen angrily denied the charge. But political commentators blamed his group for the "sick racist climate" that led to the desecration.

Outrage over the crime triggered protests by hundreds of thousands of French people, including President Francois Mitterrand and then Prime Minister Michel Rocard.

But the crime also spurred copycat vandalism in several European nations. And in France, a history teacher was called a dirty Jew and beaten by masked men for having discussed the incident in her class.

#### Investigators Re-enact The Crime

Last week, Sylvie Motte, the judge in charge of the criminal investigation, conducted an on-site re-enactment of the desecration.

On the evening of May 6, with the help of a large police contingent, the ancient Jewish cemetery in the southern French town was sealed off.

Under a full moon, exactly as it was three years ago, four police officers impersonated the desecrators and exhumed from a prepared grave a coffin loaded with lead.

Police technicians measured the resulting noise to try to gauge whether the cemetery's closest neighbor, a Catholic boarding school for girls, could possibly have heard anything on the night of the wild vandalism.

Observers have attributed the difficulty of the investigation to a fundamental mistake made at the time: Hundreds of reporters and curious onlookers were allowed inside the cemetery before the police forensics department was able to gather necessary information.

Other critics say the failure to come up with any real lead was due to politicization of the investigation. The police were instructed to look closely in the direction indicated by Joxe, toward the extreme-right wing, instead of leading an objective investigation.

Judge Motte has summoned a local representative of the National Front to appear in her chambers Tuesday.

Fernand Teboul, who happens to be Jewish, is a town counselor of l'Isle-sur-Sorgue, a small city close to Carpentras.

Teboul declared several months ago that the culprits were known to the authorities, but that

those authorities were not interested in revealing their names.

Teboul said he knew nothing more than anyone else and that he did not understand why the judge had summoned him.

But a publication tied to the National Front published a chilling story over a year ago saying that the desecration was committed by Jews.

According to the publication, Orthodox Jews were outraged by the fact that Felix Germon, a non-practicing Jew married to a gentile, had been buried in the Jewish cemetery. The publication alleges that those Orthodox Jews decided to exhume his body.

The corpse of the 81-year-old Germon, who had been interred two weeks earlier, was the one exhumed during the Carpentras desecration. The vandals placed an iron umbrella handle between the cadaver's thighs and put a Star of David, taken from a nearby grave, on the belly.

But the story alleging Orthodox involvement was dismissed as total nonsense by local Jewish authorities.

Meanwhile, Germon's widow has hailed the judge's decision to re-enact the crime. She said she wants to know the truth and that she is not prepared to pardon the culprits.

### NEO-NAZI TROVE UNCOVERED IN ITALY

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, May 10 (JTA) -- Police in the northern Italian city of Brescia raided the homes of three militant soccer fans this weekend and discovered a veritable treasure-trove of weapons and neo-Nazi propaganda.

The three fans -- a 26-year-old ironworker, a 25-year-old carpenter and a 22-year-old student -- "had practically transformed their homes into temples of Nazism," the daily Corriere della Sera reported Sunday.

The police carried out the raids on the youths, known to be active in skinhead and militant soccer circles, before a hotly contested soccer match Sunday between two local teams.

Security measures for the game were stepped up and the management of both teams appealed to fans to maintain order.

Among the material discovered were banners, flags, pins and badges bearing the swastika and other Nazi insignia, propaganda material, knives, bullets, and a crowbar.

They also found photographs of other skinheads raising their arms in the Nazi salute. Police said investigations were under way to identify these people.

### PRAGUE RABBI'S KIN PAY HOMAGE

By Josef Klansky

PRAGUE, May 10 (JTA) -- Some 300 descendants of the renowned 18th-century Prague rabbi, Ezekiel ben Yehuda Landau, recently gathered at his tomb to commemorate the 200th anniversary of his death.

The author of several volumes of Jewish responsa, most notably the work "Noda B'Yehuda," Landau served the Prague community for almost 40 years.

His progeny, including a dozen rabbis from all over the world, were addressed by rabbis from Prague, Jerusalem and Strasbourg, France, and by one of the descendants, Jerold Weiss of Brooklyn, N.Y., who initiated the repair and restoration of the gravesites of the rabbi and his family.