

Warhawk Peres Consolidates Victory Over Humiliated Rabin

Defense Minister Shimon Peres is quickly consolidating power in Israel after the bloodless coup d'état April 7 that forced the resignation of moderate Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. According to sources in Jerusalem, Rabin — who had been putting up a rearguard battle against Peres until yesterday — now plans to take a “vacation” next week and will designate Peres to handle state affairs in the pre-election interim period until May 17. The Rabin decision, following his resignation as the Labour Party's candidate for the elections, gives Peres nearly complete control over decision-making by Israel.

The Peres coup, which was backed by nearly the entire Israeli right, especially the military clique headed by former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, dramatically heightens the danger of a lightening Israeli strike into southern Lebanon, creating an instant Arab-Israeli crisis. According to the *Christian Science Monitor*, Peres said yesterday that he can “foresee the introduction of missiles with nuclear warheads into the Middle East.”

A survey of Middle East observers in Washington elicited a near-unanimous consensus that, possibly within days or weeks, Israel will launch a preemptive invasion of Lebanon to counter a Palestinian buildup and to defend the fascist militia of Lebanese extremist Camille Chamoun. In the first official policy statement since the Peres takeover, Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said bluntly April 12 that Israel “would not permit the massacre of Christians” in Lebanon, and would if necessary come to the aid of the besieged Chamoun forces. The Allon statement, said the *Washington Post*, “went beyond previous statements” by Israeli leaders in “defining Israel's responsibility for its allies in southern Lebanon.”

Observers agree. An official at the State Department predicted an Israeli move into Lebanon in the near future, and a former member of the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) said that, according to his information, the Israeli military was planning to attack Lebanon between now and the May 17 election, in part to bolster the image of the faltering Labour Party among the war-fevered electorate.

Joseph Churba, the former director of intelligence for the U.S. Air Force Middle East division, gloated in an interview that the Peres takeover “restored the military deterrent” in the Middle East and would serve to keep the Arabs in line, Churba praised Peres as “a far more hawkish man” who would not tolerate a change in the status quo in southern Lebanon.

Rabin Humiliated

Rabin, who had been publicly resisting calls within

the Israeli armed forces for a strike against Lebanon and the Arabs generally, has been humiliated since his resignation.

Because Rabin is heading an interim government in preparation for elections, he cannot legally resign. Initially, Rabin had sought a “leave of absence” until May 17, but the Attorney General ruled against such a move, and Rabin decided to stay on as caretaker prime minister until May 17. The *Jerusalem Post* reported April 13 that perhaps Rabin had begun to regret his decision to resign, and was seeking to build a base in the party from which to challenge Peres at a later date.

But the pro-Peres-Dayan press geared up for attacks on Rabin. The “liberal” daily *Haaretz*, a Dayan mouthpiece, called it “a strange and repelling sight” for a prime minister accused of a crime to remain in power, and the extremist *Yediot Aharonot* editorialized that the “law is absurd” in forbidding Rabin to resign. According to the *New York Daily News*, Peres was “irritated” that Rabin accepted the decision to stay in office, and was said to feel that Rabin “could, if he wished, overcome the legal difficulties” and get out.

On Sunday, April 10, Peres had been nominated to succeed Rabin as the Labour Party's candidate for prime minister, and the Peres forces were anxious to take power even before the election.

Thus, in a total capitulation to pressure, Rabin said yesterday that he was removing himself from active service to the country.

Making the Peres victory total was the April 11 decision by Mapam, the leftist coalition partner of the Mapai in the Alignment, to support the decision to nominate Peres. Previously, Mapam had threatened to withdraw from the Alignment if Peres were nominated, but collapsed after a meeting between Peres and the Mapam leadership, voting instead to stay inside the Alignment. A leader of Mapam's left wing said bitterly after the vote for warhawk Peres, “We have lost our self-respect.”

“No Room For Hawks”

The Arabs have so far been restrained in their reaction to the stunning Peres coup, which has nevertheless upset the entire strategy of the Arabs in seeking a peaceful settlement of the conflict with Israel. Rabin, until the coup, had tacitly accepted the Arab offers and was working behind the scenes with such leaders as Egypt's President Anwar Sadat.

Although Sadat, terrified to admit to his military commanders that Peres' coup is a disaster for the Arabs, has said that there is no real difference between Rabin and Peres, Egypt's Ambassador to the U.S. Ashraf

Ghorbal was more honest. "There is no room for hawks in the Middle East," Ghorbal told a Chicago audience this week, commenting on the Peres victory.

Other Arabs have warned openly of the possibility of war, especially Syria, whose press now daily predicts the outbreak of a new conflict in the region.

For the Arabs the key question is whether oil-rich states like Saudi Arabia can combine with Egypt and Syria to forge an Arab initiative that can destroy the source of the Israeli danger: the New York banks. One sign of that emerged this week with the report that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have granted a seven-year debt moratorium to Egypt, which may set an unstoppable

precedent for the coming IMF showdown with Egypt early next month in Paris.

In addition, Egypt has proposed the formation of an Arab-Comecon Bank to promote Arab-Soviet trade, according to the French daily *Les Echos*. An official of the Moscow Narodny Bank indicated that Egypt would be on line for trade in transfer rubles in the immediate future, depending on other factors — obviously a change in Egypt's current anti-communist stance under Sadat. A possible opening in that direction was the statement by Abdel Moneim Kaissouny, Egypt's economics czar, that Cairo wished to invite greater Soviet involvement in Egyptian development.

How Rabin Was Dumped: The Real Crime In Israeli Politics

Yitzhak Rabin was not shunted aside as the ruling Israeli Labour Party's candidate for the May 17 elections because of a petty act of financial corruption. His decision last week to resign as the Israeli Labour Party's candidate made him the latest Israeli victim in a months-long conspiracy to destroy the constituency-based machine of the Labour Party and to bring to power a military, pro-war coalition. The conspiracy, totally blacked out of the U.S. press, is run jointly by Zbigniew Brzezinski and the National Security Council here and by the militarist faction in Israel around former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. The Watergate-style series of destabilizations went into high gear just as Jimmy Carter was elected to the U.S. presidency. In Rabin's case, the setup involved a leak to the Israeli press about a family bank account in the U.S., a "leak" that turned what is a "normal" hidden bank account for a high-ranking Israeli politician into a scandal that toppled the government.

Rabin, the leading Israeli pro-peace moderate, has refused to expose the operation against him, and now the conspirators are proceeding unimpeded with their war scenario. With Rabin out of the way and the Labour Party forced into disarray, an Israeli ruling coalition of rightist ex-generals and intelligence chiefs will organize the Israeli population around a program of undiluted nationalism and bellicose isolationism. According to plan, this type of government can wield a "nuclear option" and pre-emptive war against the neighboring Arab states and thus set up a test thermonuclear brinkmanship crisis with the Soviet Union.

Rabin's Vulnerability

Rabin, closely connected to anti-Carter conservatives in the United States, is regarded as a moderate on foreign policy issues by leading Western European leaders, and is at the center of a circle of dovish Zionist machine politicians in Israel. He has also been an open opponent of Israeli pre-emptive strike preparations. In all, Rabin possessed all the necessary qualifications to rally Israel's population behind a pro-peace platform. If he had remained in power, Rabin clearly had the potential to encourage a process of peace for the Arab-

Israeli crisis — necessary for the new world economic order, and anathema to Brzezinski, the Rockefellers, and the Trilateral Commission.

The Watergate operation to rid Israeli politics of moderate leaders and wreck the Labour Party machine involved a number of scandals produced and packaged by Brzezinski and his colleagues and unleashed against top Labour Party leaders. In addition, manipulated, anarchic labor strikes were used to try to drive a wedge between the historical alliance of Israel's Labour Party and the national labor confederation, Histadrut.

To carry out the destabilizations, the Trilateral Commission sent its leaders to visit the Holy Land. Nelson and David Rockefeller, Brzezinski, and a host of members of the warmongering Committee on the Present Danger have been to Israel in the past six months. During the same period, Dayan, Defense Minister Shimon Peres, and other fanatic Israeli militarists have held meetings in the U.S. with President Carter, Brzezinski, and U.S. energy czar James R. Schlesinger.

A series of top-level leaks were systematically fed so-called investigative journalists from the newspapers *Ha'aretz*, *Ma'ariv*, and *Hoalam Hazeah*, while the chief organizational link between Dayan, the National Security Council, and the U.S. Jewish Lobby — the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) — has run a covert, but systematic campaign to undermine the credibility of Rabin and old-line Labour Party leaders and to bolster the images of former generals Ariel Sharon and Yigal Yadin, the fascist Israeli candidates for the premiership.

The NSC - Dayan Partnership

Less than two weeks after the election that put Carter in the White House, Moshe Dayan trumpeted his joy at the anticipated happy relationship between his circle of warhawks and the Trilateral Commission. From Paris, Dayan beamed to reporters, "The victory of Carter is a great satisfaction for us...Carter is ready to resist the Soviets and the Arab blackmail. That can only make us happy." The warhawk told France's *Quotidien de Paris*,