

EXCLUSIVE

Inside Israel's Likud Party

The Likud Party that will likely head Israel's next government is an unstable coalition of at least three distinct political factions — the Herut and Liberal parties and the La'am group — and an amalgam of four sociological layers; the lower-class Oriental Jews who comprise a sizable chunk of Israel's population; middle-level businessmen, shopkeepers, and professionals; rightist generals with varying degrees of connections to Rockefeller and Rothschild (mainly French-related) intelligence networks; and a group of top scientists and military-connected technicians.

Correspondingly, the Likud is a mixed bag of foreign policy orientations and international affiliations. Likud and Herut leader, Menachem Begin, is an unyielding nationalist fanatic who had strong 1940s connections with the Rockefeller family, in their destabilization operations against British interests, but who has since built up a machine in the tradition of Chicago's late Mayor Daley in Israel's largest cities and newer development towns. General Ezer Weizman, likely to assume the Likud-Herut mantle of power if Begin leaves the scene, is an ultra-nationalist-expansionist with substantial ties to the U.S., British and French military and aerospace circles through his years-long experience in building the Israeli Air Force into a powerful machine.

By contrast, Chairman of the Liberal Party and member of the Likud Executive Arieh Dulzin, a possible candidate for Foreign Minister, is a foreign policy dove with primary connections in Mexico, where he lived for almost forty years. Similarly, Liberal Party National Secretariat President Simcha Ehrlich, number two on the Likud's Knesset (Israeli Parliament) slate, is

reliably reported to be a "superdove"; it is Ehrlich who is internally leading the fight to have Moshe Dayan *not* become Israel's next Foreign Minister.

According to intelligence sources, there exist as well within the Likud individuals with long-standing connections to East Germany, who operate in Israel according to understandings between the East Germans and British intelligence networks both within and outside the East Bloc itself. These networks came into existence as the historical result of a process by which old West German Communist Party networks operated in Palestine through joint arrangement of British and Soviet officials. The same sources report that the recent shifts in Israel are being utilized as a means of expediting desired shifts in U.S.-East German relations toward the granting of most-favored nation trade status to East Germany, status useful to the transfer of technology to the East Bloc.

The factors which make the Likud cohere — outside of the perception of a handful of sophisticated intelligence operatives that the Likud could be a useful stalking-horse to get the reins of state power — are twofold.

For one, all factions in the Likud fundamentally agree that the socialist-corporatist measures of the Histadrut labor confederation which have managed Israel for almost three decades must be rolled back and replaced with a severe reduction of the state sector and decisive austerity measures. The degree of austerity to be imposed is likely a matter of disagreement; the Herut interests tied into aerospace-research and development and those responsive to the lower-class Oriental communities are less inclined to provoke class war than are many in the Liberal Party afflicted with a shopkeeper-accountant mentality. It was, for example, Ehrlich and Liberal Knesset-man Gideon Patt who arranged for fascist economist Milton Friedman to become an official economic advisor to Israel's new government.

Second, the Begin-run machine has been a continued center of gravity for Israeli right-wing coalition politics for over a decade. Numerous Liberal and non-party Israeli politicians have seen in the Begin-run "mafioso" operation a means of getting closer to state power than available alternative means for existing smaller parties in Israel opposed to the Labour Party. Begin, in fact, has survived at least three major challenges mounted to his rule within the Likud and its predecessor Gahal bloc. It is an open-ended question what the Likud would look like — if anything — if Begin were to be shunted aside, whether because of ill health or because of a conscious move by Rockefeller and Rothschild operatives intent on bringing into effective power in Israel the hard-core military intelligence crowd around Dayan, Peres and such backers of Yadin's Democratic Movement for Change as Aharon Yariv and Meir Amit.

Begin Headquartered In Rockefeller Command Post

How malleable a Menachem Begin-led government will be to Rockefeller Mideast regional scenarios is a question now being actively posed in intelligence circles. Aside from analyzing the obvious "fanatic" profile of Begin, observers should note two aspects of Begin's life:

*What exactly were the circumstances of Begin's leaving a Polish prison camp in the early 1940s under joint British and Russian supervision — turning up in Palestine to become the Irgun command head in 1943-44? A top-level Rockefeller intelligence source claims that Begin spent much of 1943 in *North Africa*, being tutored on the subject of changing Mideast geopolitics by Robert Murphy and David Rockefeller.

*Begin's 1969 role as head of the Israel-France Association, a grouping totally controlled by Baron Edmond de Rothschild.

The Progression from Herut to Gahal to Likud
The Likud as a political formation is less than four

years old, having been formed on the eve of the October 1973 War by superhawk General Ariel Sharon. Sharon's organizing welded together the Gahal Party (composed itself of Herut and Liberal parties), and three small grouplets, the Greater Israel Movement, the Free Centre and the State List, the latter a grouping put together by ex-Premier David Ben-Gurion.

Herut itself was formed soon after the State of Israel was proclaimed. With Ben-Gurion, Israel's first premier, rapidly subsuming relevant military institutions under his direct command, Begin disbanded his Irgun militia. In coordination with such leading Irgun men as Samuel Merlin, Peter Bergson, Shmuel Tamir, Chaim Landau, and others, Begin put together the leadership of Herut. This leadership moved quickly to neutralize an alternative political leadership force deriving from the Revisionist Party, the political arm of the Irgun, and took the reins of party power. With the exception of Landau, this has since dispersed, and even Landau, intensely faithful to Begin, did not run in the recent Knesset elections.

This factor, however, has not led to the lessening of Begin's control over the party machine, a control which to this day is tenacious.

From 1955 to 1965, Begin and others in Herut sought to end the party's isolation and image as an extremist sectlet. In April, 1965, an arrangement was consolidated

with the General Zionist wing of the newly formed Liberal Party to form a new party, Gahal, on the basis of a common alliance against the Labour Party's "socialism." The Progressive Party wing of the Liberals, composed of sophisticated intellectuals and cosmopolitan counterinsurgents such as the editors of Israel's leading Ha'aretz newspaper, split from the Liberals to form the Independent Liberal Party.

By this time in the mid-1960s, Israeli politics was going through upheavals that have never been competently explicated, but decidedly have the appearance of a major Rockefeller-Rothschild move to muscle in on the Israeli line to put into effect the re-alignments necessary for launching the "Greater Israel" that emerged after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Notably, Ben-Gurion had in 1963 dropped out of the leadership of the ruling Mapai Party, and an observer from the U.S. Massachusetts Institute of Technology stated that "Ben-Gurion's departure from the helm of Mapai has cleared the atmosphere, and Herut's acceptance by other parties as a responsible spokesman will now be more easily achieved. It is quite likely that the new Gahal coalition party would not have been possible had Ben-Gurion retained his full political power."

When Begin suddenly resigned from Herut's leadership in mid-1966, the same author exclaimed that "factional battles within Herut achieved public visibility for

Likud Knesset Members: A Dossier

The prevailing tendencies in the Likud that are the basis for a strong centrifugal phenomenon are evident in the diverse backgrounds of a representative sample of the 43 Likud members just voted into the Knesset.

The number three man in the Herut faction, after Begin and Weizman, Itzhak Shamir, is a former top-level Shin Beth agent who, during the 1940s, had been one of the triumvirate leading the Stern Gang. Shamir has been described by one knowledgeable Rothschild-connected source as "the best assassin the State of Israel has ever had."

Herut man Amnon Linn, number 27 on the Likud slate, is also known for his ideological fervor. A former head of the Labour Party Arab Bureau, Linn is an advocate of strong security measures against Israel's Arabs and has publicly called for the banning of the Israeli Communist Party (Rakah).

Another leading member in Herut is Moshe Arens, the top representative of the "technocratic" faction in the party. A relative newcomer to Israeli politics, Arens went to Massachusetts Institute of Technology and California Institute of Technology, is a member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and, in Israel, is a professor of Aeronautical Engineering at the military-connected Technion Institute and a Vice-President of Israel Aircraft Industries.

Other representatives of the scientist-technocrat layer include Yoram Avidor (slate no. 13), a biochemist at the Technion Department of Biology,

and Yosef Rom (no. 28), who earlier this year publicly advocated using joint Egypt-Israel nuclear development projects as a means of forwarding Arab-Israeli peace discussions.

The Liberal wing of Likud is predominantly characterised by economic management types of the cost-efficiency accountant tendency. Ehrlich and Patt, numbers 1 and 3 in the Liberal part of the Likud slate, were responsible for Milton Friedman being appointed to manage Israel's economic affairs. Dulzin, while not on the official slate, yet considered to be one of the top power-brokers among the Liberals, has authored books titled "The Economic Role of the Middle Class" and "Middle Class and their Place in the Productive Absorption of New Immigrants." The fourth leading Liberal Knesset member, Yehezkel Flumin, wrote a book titled, "Financial Management in the Small Enterprise."

Number 14 on the overall Likud Slate, Liberal Pesach Grupper, is President of the Farmers' Association. Number 18, Yitzhak Madai, is on the Board of Directors of Revlon, Israel, and is a Vice-President of the Israel-American Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The number 3 man on the overall Likud slate, Yigal Horowitz, is the top representative of the La'am faction, which has 10-15 percent of the Likud Knesset seats. Horowitz was the most prominent of those members of the Dayan-Peres-led "Rafi" split-off from the Labour Party who later went into Likud rather than back into Labour.

the first time" and mooted that "major shifts in political alignment, begun in 1964, will be given new impetus by the resignation; it is now possible to contemplate a fairly comprehensive coalition of the moderate right."

But Begin was not out for long. On the eve of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, he and five other Gahal leaders joined the government. A competing Herut faction that had precipitated the 1966 battle, a faction led by Shmuel Tamir, left Gahal to form the Free Centre bloc.

Representation within the government qualitatively transformed Gahal, and the party scored around 30 percent in Israel's 1969 elections. Begin's power in the party was maintained, as exemplified by his surviving a severe challenge to his leadership, when 112 out of 229 delegates of the Gahal Executive voted against his demand that the party leave the government in mid-1970 in protest against the signing of an Egypt-Israel armistice that put an end to the bloody 1969-70 war of attrition between the two countries.

The challenge was led by Weizman, who had agreed to become a Gahal Minister of Transport in the 1967-70 government on the basis of a deal: Weizman lent his popularity as the architect of the Israeli Air Force to Gahal — which lacked representation from the Israeli military's high ranks — in return for his building a power base on the basis of a "reform" appeal. Weizman was supported in this by the leading businessman backer of Herut, Joseph Kremerman, who wanted to shift Herut away from its "proletarian" orientation among the Orientals into a more "technocratic-business" basis. Kremerman, who was related by marriage to the powerful Maritime Fruits shipping interests, personally

engineered Weizman's becoming chairman of the Herut Executive, number 2 man in the party. Kremerman was busily packing local machines with his supporters, building on discontent that had erupted over Begin's 1970 public reprimands of Weizman.

Nonetheless, when push came to shove at the 1972 Herut convention, Begin emerged on top over Weizman-Kremerman's people. Weizman temporarily left politics, joined the now-bankrupt Maritime Fruit interests, and then in mid-1973 threatened to form a new rightist party with the followers of Tamir.

This move was headed off when Sharon, in the words of one source, "transformed Israel's political scene overnight." Now, the source noted, Israel officially had an alternative "Alignment" to oppose the Labour Party-led Alignment that ruled the country. The Sharon move, he concluded, "toned down the image of Gahal as a party closed to new ideas and new people."

But when it became obvious that Sharon was repeating Weizman's efforts to use the Herut-Likud as a base for bringing himself into power, Begin moved to neutralize Sharon, who left Likud in 1976 to form his own Shlomzion bloc for the recent national elections.

While down to this very moment, Begin is holding the reins in Likud, Weizman, Sharon, and other top generals and intelligence men have set the precedent for future exploitation of the Likud as a means of consolidating hard-core Rockefeller-Rothschild interests at the helm of the Israeli government in order to further develop the Rockefellers' regional brinkmanship managed-war scenarios.