

## Middle East Report by Robert Dreyfuss

### Jabotinsky's posthumous coup

*Fanatic advocates of 'Greater Zion' are sabotaging possibilities for peace with Arabs.*

Efforts to achieve a viable Arab-Israeli peace agreement may be set back several years because of an institutional coup d'état now being carried out in international Zionist organizations.

The coup organizers are the modern-day followers of Vladimir Jabotinsky, the founder in the 1920s of the chauvinist "Revisionist" Zionist movement, a split-off from mainstream Zionism, and of the paramilitary, fascist-modeled "Betar" Zionist youth groups.

Jabotinsky's followers today include Israel's prime minister Menachem Begin, a significant number of the Israeli cabinet and Knesset, a faction of Israeli intelligence, and powerful elements in the dope-and-dirty-money coordinators of the Israeli mafia.

It is this combine that is on the brink of a "putsch" in the international Zionist political community.

The coup efforts center around the mid-November trip to the U.S. of Israeli primeminister Menachem Begin.

During that trip, Begin will keynote an extravaganza dinner in New York Nov. 11 commemorating the centennial birthdate of Jabotinsky. The central organizers of the dinner—which has already sold out beyond seating capacity at the plush Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York—are a hostel of Jabotinsky true believers centered at the Jabotinsky Foundation in New York, whose prestigious head is

New York financier John L. Loeb, Jr., a close associate of New York mobster lawyer Roy Cohn.

Aside from the true believers, organizers and/or sponsors of the event include no less than 70 U.S. governors, senators, and congressmen, and a wide spectrum of U.S. Zionist organizations. Included in the latter are moderate-liberal organizations such as the Union of American Hebrew Congregations whose political views have historically been diametrically in opposition to Jabotinsky's uncompromising chauvinism.

Occurring only one week after the U.S. elections, the Jabotinsky Centennial will be an impressive show of force intervention into American politics. At the same time, the acquiescence of the broad spectrum of Jewish organizations in the U.S. is already a major victory for the Jabotinsky forces, since it nullifies the outcast pariah reputation that Jabotinsky has suffered throughout this century.

Throughout the 1920s and the 1930s, Jabotinsky was excoriated as a "fascist" and a "Führer" by most U.S. Zionist or pro-Zionist leaders, including Rabbi Stephen Wise, a pioneer of American Zionism, and scientist Albert Einstein.

Within Palestine, the nickname "Vladimir Hitler" was coined for Jabotinsky in the 1930s by none other than the later-to-be first Israeli prime minister, David Ben-Gurion.

The acceptance of funding by

Jabotinsky's Betar from the fascist and anti-Semitic post-Pilsudski Polish government drew special ire from Zionists both in Palestine and in the U.S.

Jabotinsky's insistence that the Jews must leave Europe *en masse* also drew the derision and wrath of Jewish and Zionist leaders at the time, as it was seen as a craven caving in to the "expel the Jews" beliefs of Europe's anti-Semites.

The fact that Jabotinsky can be so feted today, with hardly a whimper of protest from American Jews, is providing the Begin crowd in Israel with the free rein to argue, again, that Jews just leave their resident countries to settle in Israel as the only "solution" to anti-Semitism.

A resolution to that effect was actually passed earlier this month in Israel's Knesset following the events at the Rue Copernic synagogue in France.

The Rue Copernic bombing also strengthened the hand in France of the Jabotinsky-devotee circles of the "Renouveau Juif" (Jewish Renewal) group of Henri Hajdenberg, who, prior to the bombing, had been subordinate to the moderate circles around Baron Guy de Rothschild.

As these movements grow in force abroad, the factions inside Israel arguing for annexation of the Golan Heights, annexation of the West Bank, and for military confrontations with Israel's Arab neighbors—all components of Jabotinsky's militant "Greater Zionism" vision—will feel a freer hand to act. This will engender a corresponding hardline reaction in the Arab Islamic countries, and make any kind of workable settlement in that region well-nigh impossible.