

# Mobilizing the crazies

by Joseph Brewda

Beginning in October 1993, former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon began an international mobilization on behalf of their Anglo-American sponsors against the Israeli-PLO peace accords. To that end, the crazies were set into motion.

**October:** The JDL/Kach movement announced that it had formed a "Judean police department" made up of 1,000 settlers who also are active-duty servicemen. "What should I do, wait until they kill me first?" Judean police spokesman Noam Federman asked the Israel press in respect to announced plans to form a PLO police department in Jericho. "Now our order is: If you see a Palestinian policeman, you shoot him first." The group said it was advocating forming a Judean State in "Judea and Samaria" (the Occupied Territories).

**Oct. 25:** Baruch Goldstein's group, the Committee for Safety on the Roads, took credit for a grenade attack on a Arab-owned truck in Nablus.

**Oct. 29:** The *Jewish Press*, the Brooklyn, New York paper of the JDL and Gush Emunim, published a front-page article claiming "Under PLO-Israeli Accord: Jews Barred from Holy Site, Will Be Unable to Pray in Cave of Our Patriarchs." Kiryat Arba Mayor Zvi Katzover, Goldstein's close associate, told the paper that if Jews were barred from the Cave of the Patriarchs, they would bar Muslims.

**Nov. 14:** Ariel Sharon addressed the inaugural meeting of the World Committee for Israel, in his first U.S. appearance since the signing of the accords. The group had been established expressly to mobilize international Jewry against the accords. In his keynote speech, Sharon claimed that the Israeli government was neither able nor willing any longer to provide security for the 150,000 settlers in "Judea and Samaria." "Make no mistake," he raved, "the only barrier we have right now to a Palestinian state is the settlers. It is these 150,000 settlers that Rabin said he cannot defend, who are really defending Jerusalem. Our job right now is to strengthen these communities." Sharon called for a massive infusion of funds to the settlers in Kiryat Arba and related settlements for this purpose.

At a press conference announcing the meeting on Nov. 11, Dr. Joseph Frager, leader of the American Friends of the Jerusalem Reclamation Project (which advocates rebuilding Solomon's Temple) stressed the urgency of the situation, while Rabbi Zvulun Lieberman from a settlement in Israel

repeated the *Jewish Press* claim that the PLO would bar Jews from the Cave of the Patriarchs.

**Late November:** Speaking to a conference of the Zionist Organization of America, Yitzhak Shamir condemned the accords as a "national crime" leading to the "abandonment" of the territories. In later comments in New York, Shamir charged that the territories represent "the heartland of Eretz Israel," and that the settlements "symbolize the existence of Jewish opposition to foreign rule in our land." He called for strengthening the settlements' ability to resist the Arabs. "The stronger the settlements will be, the more difficult it will be for the Arabs and their supporters to remove them," he declared.

**Nov. 31:** Binyamin Zev Kahane, the son of Rabbi Kahane, was arrested upon his return to Israel after a three-week trip to the U.S. pleading for funds for the settlers. Kahane had raised at least \$250,000 on the tour.

**December:** In the first week of the month, the Jewish settlers began warning of civil war. "Things are going to blow up and we are going to have a civil war with Jew fight Jew. These peace talks must stop," said Maaleh Adumim Mayor Beey Kasriel.

**Dec. 10:** Hollinger's *Jerusalem Post* further inflamed the situation by claiming to have acquired government documents showing that the government planned to dismantle the settlements and return Israel to its pre-1967 borders.

**Dec. 17:** Israeli police arrested six Kach members, all of American origin, accused of arms smuggling and planning terrorist attacks against Arabs. Among those arrested was Baruch Ben Yosef of the Temple Mount Yeshiva, a long-term Baruch Goldstein crony.

**Dec. 19:** The former Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Shlomo Goren, called on Israeli soldiers to disobey any orders to evacuate settlers. Goren said that the duty of the army was "first and foremost" to obey the Law of Moses, and claimed that the dismantling the settlement would violate that law. The government, he said, is in a state of rebellion, not the soldiers who are religiously required to refuse any such orders.

**Dec. 22:** Morton Klein, a former economist in the Carter administration and official of Shearson Lehman, organized the ouster of Zionist Organization of America President W. James Schiller, and installed himself in his place. Klein called for reorganizing the ZOA into active opposition to the accord.

**Early February 1994:** American Jewish Committee official Norman Podhoretz predicted "violence" and "civil insurrection" in Israel by settlers who, like himself, are opposed to the accord. Podhoretz was speaking at the national conference of Americans for Safe Israel, which is chaired by JDL co-founder Bertram Zweibon. One week prior to the Hebron shooting, former long-time AJC head Max Fisher, a crony of the Lansky syndicate, traveled to Israel for meetings with the Israeli elite.