

The ADL's showdown with Yitzhak Rabin

by Joseph Brewda

Ever since the August 1993 announcement that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization had struck a deal in secret negotiations in Norway, the Anti-Defamation League has been on a full mobilization to block the accord. That mobilization helped prepare the climate for the November 1995 assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and is currently threatening to destroy the Mideast peace process altogether. The ADL's stooge, Gen. Ariel Sharon, may come to power as a result.

The ADL's power derives from the fact that it is the dirty tricks arm of the B'nai B'rith, a nominally Jewish, masonic organization established by British Prime Minister Lord Palmerston in the 1840s. The B'nai B'rith and the ADL are still run out of Britain today—as are most Israeli and Arab terrorist organizations. One of the ADL's primary coordinators is the United Grand Lodge of England's Quatuor Coronati research lodge, which manufactured the murderous Zionist settlers movement which the ADL helps deploy. The Hollinger Corporation, the British intelligence publishing front which owns the *Jerusalem Post*, is another ADL coordinator. ADL and Hollinger helped create the climate for the Rabin murder.

That Britain would try to kill Rabin, using a patsy from the ADL's Jewish settlers movement, was forecast on several occasions by this news service since 1992, and was also forecast by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who warned that an "OAS" within the Israeli security services was using such sects to that end. The OAS (Secret Army Organization) was a British-run group within the French military which attempted to kill French President Charles de Gaulle, over his decision to end the Algerian civil war by granting Algeria independence.

Chronology of the showdown

In June 1992, the Labor Party won the Israeli election. The newly sworn-in government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres had the secret commitment, it is now known, to bring the Arab-Israeli conflict to an end. The next month, the Israeli government began secret talks with the PLO in Norway, paralleling diversionary public discussions with Palestinians in Washington. The secret talks were held in Norway to evade interference by the Bush administration and the ADL-led Zionist lobby, which

Rabin knew were opposed to peace in the Mideast. The Norway talks later came under the patronage of President Bill Clinton, who unlike Bush, has been committed to Mideast peace.

Rabin knew the PLO deal would provoke a violent response from the ADL and other U.S.-based Zionist organizations, and preemptive measures were necessary. One month after the beginning of the talks, Rabin traveled to the United States to deliver, behind closed doors, an unprecedented denunciation of the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee for interfering in Israeli diplomacy. AIPAC has been the ADL's most important Congressional lobbying arm. Simultaneously, Peres's top aide, Yossi Beilin, publicly condemned AIPAC as a "right-wing Jewish organization," unrepresentative of the American Jewish public.

As a result of the intervention, and scandals over AIPAC's attacks on religious Jews, AIPAC's chairman, Tom Dine, a fierce opponent of peace in the Mideast, was purged, and returned to the State Department. A more acceptable figure was installed in his place.

Rabin's assault was part of a broader campaign, made possible by ongoing U.S. government investigation of the ADL for espionage, an investigation which was made public in January 1993, when government investigators discovered that the group had spied on 1,000 political organizations in the United States. In December 1992, police raided ADL offices in San Francisco, after their investigations revealed that the group had illegally obtained police files. In April 1993, the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Francisco publicly stated that the ADL was the target; the ensuing investigation tied up the ADL, just as the secret discussions in Norway were coming to fruition. In September, the peace accords were signed in Washington.

Responding to the Israeli-PLO deal

The first reaction by the Likud bloc in Israel to the September 1993 peace accords was low-key, with some Likud officials, such as Meir Sheerit, abstaining from voting against the accords. "There are many people in the Likud who think like me and feel this agreement is worth a try," he said. The party as a whole was waiting for orders from abroad, and these orders were not long in coming. On Sept. 9, Foreign Minister Peres charged in the Knesset that Likud bloc Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu was acting on behalf of financiers in the United States, after Netanyahu charged Peres with high treason over the accord.

British agent of influence Henry A. Kissinger—an ADL "Man of the Year"—was the first prominent figure to denounce the accords. "Euphoria!" he told CBS News on Sept. 11. Two weeks later, Kissinger addressed the London office of the ADL—the Institute for Jewish Affairs—and predicted that Jordan would disintegrate through an impending Islamic fundamentalist takeover, thereby ending the possibility of the

accords being implemented.

But it was not until October, that an international conference was organized against the accords. On Oct. 11, eight hundred people attended a conference in Arlington, Virginia, run by Bertram and Herbert Zweibon, who had teamed up with Brooklyn ADL head Bernard Deutsch in 1968 to found Rabbi Meir Kahane's Jewish Defense League (JDL). The most prominent speaker at the conference was Uri Ra'anan, the British-trained former head of ADL intelligence, who had also been an Israeli intelligence liaison to the ADL. Rael Jean Isaac, a long-time ADL hack, was another speaker.

On Oct. 16, Sharon picked up on the theme and began calling for settlers to resist the Israeli government. On Nov. 14, Sharon toured the United States to mobilize against the accords, the first Israeli official to do so. In his keynote speech to a New York conference called against the accords, he raved that "the only barrier we have right now to a Palestinian State is the settlers. It is the 150,000 settlers that Rabin said he cannot defend who are really defending Jerusalem." Sharon was accompanied by Yechial Leiter, leader of the JDL and of the settlers movement.

Sharon's political career is entirely the result of the funding of Minneapolis mobster Meshulam Riklis (whose own career was entirely the creation of ADL National Vice Chairman Burton Joseph).

Sharon's campaign bore fruit on Feb. 25, 1994, when Benjamin (alias Baruch) Goldstein, a JDL official originally from Brooklyn, entered the Cave of the Patriarchs Mosque in Hebron on the West Bank, during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, and killed 50 worshippers. Goldstein had been JDL founder Meir Kahane's campaign manager for the Knesset, and was an official in the JDL West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba, for which Sharon had raised funds during his U.S. tour four months earlier.

Prime Minister Rabin, immediately following the Hebron massacre, denounced Goldstein and his cronies as an "errant weed," which he said "grew in a swamp whose murderous sources are found here, and across the sea." The Israeli government soon declared the JDL and its kindred organizations illegal, and the Clinton administration followed suit. Britain and France refused to do so, and funding for the organization shifted there.

Although the Israeli government was able to weather the storm in the aftermath of the massacre, it knew, as PLO Chairman Arafat has emphasized, that the continuing sabotage of economic development of the occupied territories, by the World Bank, meant the peace accords could be destroyed.

Mobilizing a mutiny

Despite the ban on the JDL, its partisans continued to mobilize against the accords, often outrageously claiming that it was they who represented Judaism. In the last week of March, 200 rabbis, led by Israel's former Chief Rabbi, Avra-



The late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. His courageous pursuit of peace with Israel's Palestinian neighbors outraged the ADL and its British sponsors.

ham Schapira, gathered at his residence in Kiryat Arba, to issue a religious ruling enjoining soldiers from obeying evacuation orders. "The Torah forbids evacuation from parts of the Land of Israel," Rabbi Schapira told the press. "Maimonides says that even if a king orders us to break the laws of the Torah, we must not listen to him."

On March 31, former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who had worked with the ADL in deploying Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard in the United States, called for soldiers to disobey their officers. "If a commander orders a soldier to kill his mother, does he have to follow such an order? Evacuating Jews from their homeland [i.e., the occupied territories] is like killing their parents, their history."

While Shamir and the rabbis were calling for rebellion, ADL National Chairman Abraham Foxman was attempting to rally American Jewry against the Israeli government, and against the Clinton administration for supporting the peace plan.

In a statement to the Hollinger Corp.'s *Jerusalem Post* on April 2, Foxman condemned the Rabin government for acting to prevent the ADL from mobilizing against the Clinton administration. Foxman charged that the Israeli government had "asked American Jewish groups last January not to fight the nomination of Strobe Talbott as deputy secretary of state." He also complained that the Israeli government had pressured them not to push for an end of the Arab boycott, and not to

insist that occupied East Jerusalem is part of Israel.

The Rabin government, Foxman complained, is “seeking to restrain American Jewish opposition” and is “undermining organized Jewry’s clout.” Foxman warned that this had “serious implications.” “If the Clinton administration thinks Israel can dominate American Jews by remote control, it will have precious little incentive to deal with them directly,” he said.

Then, on July 12, a group of U.S. rabbis, many from Brooklyn, flew to Israel to a meeting at Rabbi Schapira’s home. There, they decreed that Israeli soldiers were required to disobey any orders to dismantle Jewish settlements in the territories. Rabin immediately denounced the ruling on State radio: “It is inconceivable that we will turn the State of Israel into a banana republic.”

Countdown to the assassination

In the first week of October 1995, Yitzhak Rabin made his last visit to the United States, where he came into sharp conflict with the ADL. Press accounts in the Jewish and Israeli press give the flavor of the confrontation:

- *Jewish Telegraph Agency*, Oct. 5: “In a series of meetings with Jewish leaders and journalists, Rabin targeted the increasingly vocal segment of American Jewry opposed to his policies. . . . These latest encounters with American Jews came in the wake of last week’s signing ceremony in Washington of the interim agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. . . .

“Rabin’s comments made front-page news in Israel with *Yediot Aharonot*, the country’s largest circulation newspaper, blasting the headline ‘Rabin Against the Jews’ in its Sunday edition. Another major Israeli daily, *Ma’ariv*, reported that Rabin had called groups opposed to his policies *muktzeh* (outside the pale). The paper quoted Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, and Seymour Reich of the American Zionist Movement, as saying the prime minister had made a major mistake.”

- *Jerusalem Post*, Oct. 7: “Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, facing American Jewish leaders on their turf last week, blasted the community for lobbying against his policies.”

- *Forward*, Oct. 20, “Yizhak Rabin’s Own Chutzpah,” by Likud ideologue Shmuel Katz. The paper’s editorial board is dominated by ADL officials: “Mr. Rabin accuses the American Jews of chutzpah because they protest against American money being given to Yasser Arafat. The chutzpah is all Mr. Rabin’s. The protesting American Jews do not want their taxes to be used for the strengthening of a terrorist who—incidentally—means to bring about the destruction of Israel. These Americans still recoil at the recollection of that handshake on the White House lawn.

“Mr. Rabin and his colleagues, however, evidently object strongly when Americans who *have* immigrated dare to express opposition to the government’s ‘peace’ policy. Their attitude may be exemplified by Foreign Minister Peres’ reaction to such dissent. Heckled at a meeting by a woman with

an American accent, he told her: ‘Go back to Brooklyn.’ ”

Accompanying Katz’s article was an op-ed by Abraham Foxman, entitled, “. . . And Where He Erred in America”: “During his recent visit to the United States for the signing of the Oslo II accords, Prime Minister Rabin leveled two criticisms at American Jews. First, he lashed out against those who oppose his policies and seek to hamper the peace process through congressional action. . . . By focusing on the negative rather than the positive, he only serves to alienate his target audiences and ultimately fails to encourage American Jews to support his goals.

“One can understand the passion of American Jews ‘lobbying’ against the policies of the Israeli government. Indeed, every caring Jew has a right to his opinion about the safety and security of Israel.”

- *Washington Jewish Week*, Oct. 12, “American Jews Divided—Peace Process Opponents ‘Treasonous’?”: “Late last month, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin lashed out at American Jews who lobby in Washington against the Israeli government’s negotiating policy toward the Palestinians. Rabin told members of Jewish organizations that American Jewish groups should not lobby against the peace process in Congress.

“‘I have never before witnessed an attempt by [Jewish] Americans who live here to try to put pressure on the Congress against the policy of the government of Israel,’ Rabin said, according to a source who attended the private meeting. ‘This cannot be tolerated by any government of Israel.’ Rabin made similar remarks to reporters in New York and on a plane to Jerusalem, calling opponents’ actions ‘loathsome’ and ‘audacious.’ ”

The death order comes down

Rabin returned to Israel to face demonstrations in which followers of the JDL and other settlers organizations carried signs depicting him in Nazi uniform. On Nov. 4, a month later, Rabin was shot dead by a member of the ADL-spawned settlers movement.

The death order against Rabin was issued by Brooklyn-based Lubavitcher Rabbi Avraham Hecht, of Congregation Sha’are Zion, in an interview with writer Robert Friedman, that appeared in the Oct. 9, 1995 issue of *New York* magazine. Following the Rabin assassination, the prime minister’s killer, Yigal Amir, admitted that he was acting under rabbinical orders.

Rabbi Hecht was and remains the “spiritual adviser” to one of the leading members of the ADL’s “Millionaires Club,” banker Edmond Safra. Safra, who owns a string of banks in the United States, Brazil, and Switzerland, which have been accused by the Drug Enforcement Administration of laundering drug money for the Syrian and Colombian cartels, made a \$1 million tax-exempt contribution to the ADL in the mid-1980s, and remains one of the League’s largest donors.