

Israel's Netanyahu is the new 'Vladimir Hitler'

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The fate of the Netanyahu government in Israel, and the Middle East peace process, hangs in the balance. Although the Israeli Attorney General's office decided, for the time being, on April 20, not to indict Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on corruption charges related to his alleged efforts to "fix" a long-pending criminal prosecution against the head of the Shas Party, a coalition partner in his government, it is still possible that the Israeli Supreme Court will override the no-indictment ruling in early June. A formal appeal to the Supreme Court was filed by the opposition Meretz Party within hours of the decision.

Several Cabinet ministers from Netanyahu's Likud party, and others from smaller coalition parties, are threatening to pull out of the government if Netanyahu does not fire Justice Minister Tzachi Hanegbi, a central figure in the case-fixing scandal, and a man known to be one of Netanyahu's prime "dirty tricks" assets.

Hanegbi, Netanyahu's liaison to the fanatical Israeli settlers movement, is the son of Geula Cohen, one of the original patrons of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, the founder of the terrorist Jewish Defense League, and of other elements of the Jewish terrorist underground who assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and who are committed to sabotaging the Palestinian-Israeli peace process at all costs. Cohen was a member of the Stern Gang terrorist underground in Palestine, in the pre-independence period.

Sources in Israel believe that if Hanegbi is dumped from the cabinet, or indicted, he might spill the beans on Netanyahu's involvement in a range of corrupt operations, including Netanyahu's efforts to shut down the prosecution of Shas Party head Aryeh Deri. The Attorney General's report called for the indictment of Deri, and for continuing the investigation into the role of Avigdor Lieberman, Netanyahu's top aide, in the case-fixing effort. On the night of April 20, hundreds of

Shas Party activists rioted in front of the home of one of their leaders, protesting the decision to prosecute Deri.

The decision not to indict the prime minister was not unanimous. On April 23, Hanegbi announced, in his capacity as justice minister, that he would not allow the release of a minority report from the Attorney General's office, which argued for the indictment of both Netanyahu and Hanegbi. The 15-page document, according to the Israeli daily *Haaretz*, was signed by three senior prosecutors, and "alleged there was enough evidence of criminal wrongdoing to indict Netanyahu and . . . Hanegbi."

Under Israel's new election law, the Knesset (parliament) could dump Netanyahu as prime minister by a simple majority of 61 votes in the 120-seat body, which would result in new elections within 90 days for prime minister and the entire Knesset. If a "super-majority" of 81 Knesset members voted against Netanyahu, new elections would only be required for the prime minister.

Further complicating the internal political scene in Israel is the fact that, in early June, the Labor Party will elect a new leadership. At that time, Ehud Barak, the former Israeli Defense Forces chief, is expected to replace Shimon Peres as head of Labor, and as the party's candidate-designate for the prime ministership. There is no guarantee that a Labor Party under Barak's leadership would pursue the full gamut of peace initiatives, including vital Arab-Israeli collaboration on the economic development of the entire region, which was a hallmark of Peres's policy and was adopted by Rabin.

It didn't start with the Deri scandal

The recent crisis in Israel did not begin with the Deri scandal. In March, Netanyahu announced that Israel would break ground for a new Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem, and simultaneously reneged on commitments that he had

personally made to the Clinton administration, in the Hebron agreements, to turn over substantial portions of the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority. As a result, the peace process was thrown into a deep crisis.

In early April, Netanyahu traveled to Washington for a one-day meeting with President Clinton, and he also met with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. He was pressured to cancel the new settlement in East Jerusalem, and to honor his commitments under the Hebron protocol, which he had signed in late 1996. The administration even agreed to keep up the pressure on Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, to reinstitute cooperation with Israeli police in the crackdown on Islamic terrorists. Indeed, Arafat's police successfully shut down a terrorist cell, responsible for the 1996 rash of car-bombings in Israel, and a recent suicide bomb attack in Tel Aviv.

Despite these efforts, Netanyahu showed no signs of returning to the peace track; ground was broken at the settlement in East Jerusalem and, following the April 20 decision not to indict him, Netanyahu arrogantly charged that he had been the "victim" of an attempt to "erode" his "legitimacy as prime minister."

If there was any silver lining in this hideous turn of events, it was the fact that Netanyahu showed his hand, and, hopefully, shattered any remaining illusions that "Bibi the American" (Netanyahu) was a practical politician, who could be cajoled into moving the peace process forward.

The view from the White House

In one of the most thought-provoking commentaries on the Israeli government crisis, Patrice Claude, of the Paris daily *Le Monde*, wrote from Jerusalem on April 22 that, as a result of recent events, President Clinton has come to see Netanyahu as a fanatical follower of the late Irgun founder and Jewish fascist ideologue Vladimir Jabotinsky, who believed that "the Arabs will forever be the enemy of Israel." In an accompanying editorial, titled "The Flight Forward of Netanyahu," *Le Monde's* editors warned that Netanyahu's triumphant comments following the no-indictment decision, signaled that he would "avenge the offense against him, in a still more radical flight forward."

The editorial described Netanyahu's ten months in office as a monumental failure, but noted that the Clinton administration is "finally understanding his true nature, that of a man for whom colonization is more important than peace. In order that the three years [the remainder of his term] not be a nightmare, Washington must, by all means, convince Netanyahu of a truth, that peace and colonization are mutually exclusive."

In an interview with the weekly radio program "EIR Talks" on April 22, Lyndon LaRouche was even more blunt in his characterization of Netanyahu. "Netanyahu is entirely a British asset," LaRouche began. "Entirely. Even though he is largely financed, he and his goons, out of Brooklyn, New York. But, nonetheless, as Yitzhak Rabin emphasized just before he was assassinated by these goons, and as Mr. Rabin's

widow has emphasized again recently: In the press in Europe, the report is, this week, that the recent experience in dealing with this rogue, Netanyahu, has persuaded the White House—I haven't verified this myself, but the report is interesting because it responds to reality; I don't know what the President believes, but I do know what Netanyahu is, and the report says that the President has discovered what Netanyahu is. The argument is that the President has come to understand that Netanyahu is a true continuation of the avowed fascist, Vladimir Jabotinsky, the one who was referred to by a former prime minister of Israel, as 'Vladimir Hitler.' Now, Jabotinsky is key in understanding Netanyahu, as is Ariel Sharon.

"Jabotinsky was a product of the Russian pogroms, and the Russian secret police, the Tsarist Okhrana. He was turned up as a British agent in the context of the Young Turk operation, which was entirely a London-run operation, through, probably assisted through the B'nai B'rith International lodge of Salonika in what is now Greece. And the Young Turk government was actually a creation of the British Intelligence-controlled International B'nai B'rith lodge in Salonika. Now, this lodge had a publication, which was named in French, because it was the diplomatic language of the time, *Jeune Turquie*. The editor was Vladimir Jabotinsky. Jabotinsky was associated with a fellow, who was later upgraded, Volpi di Misurata, famous as the finance minister who put Mussolini into power. And through Volpi and company, Volpi di Misurata, Jabotinsky, who was the editor of the Young Turks' ideological magazine in an earlier period, moved on, to become closely associated with Mussolini, and became an avowed Fascist, and the leader of the Fascist movement within Zionism.

"Netanyahu is a continuation of that today. You see it in his style. If you understand fascism, particularly the Mussolini variety, the Jabotinsky variety of fascism, you'll see that Netanyahu's policy, his style, his way of making decisions, his duplicity—all of these objectionable, obnoxious qualities that make him civet cat of the region. These are truly echoes of the fascism of Mussolini, and Mussolini's client, Jabotinsky. And if people understand *that*, they'll understand why Jabotinsky was called by a prime minister of Israel, Vladimir Hitler, which for any person in the Jewish community, particularly the Zionist community, is very strong language, but very appropriate language. He was Vladimir Hitler."

Clinton must act

LaRouche has been arguing for months, that the only chance left for Middle East peace in the foreseeable future, is for President Clinton to take off the gloves. Netanyahu must be told that the United States holds him personally accountable for the fate of the Middle East peace process, and will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that he, and Ariel Sharon, and the other adherents of the Jabotinsky dogma of a "Greater Israel," are brought down, if they attempt any further steps aimed at wrecking the last, best chance for Middle East peace.