

Extremists gaining upper hand in Israel

Over the past couple of weeks, the Israeli government has been stung by a virtual coup d'état from the combined forces of the religious-fundamentalist Gush Emunim movement and the newly formed fascist Renaissance Party chaired by Israeli nuclear-bomb architect Yuval Neeman.

The Gush-Renaissance coalition, the spiritual counterpart to the Khomeini movement in Iran, has forced the Begin cabinet into a series of extremely hardline policies. These policies are bringing Israel toward an out-of-control situation in its relations with the Palestinians on the West Bank and toward the adoption of economic measures modeled directly on those of Hitler's Nazi regime.

This pattern of events conforms precisely to the trends indicated one month ago by this journal in a special feature on the mounting crisis in Israel (see EIR, "Israel: The Biggest Government Crisis Ever," Oct. 30-Nov. 5, 1979).

But the pace and force with which the Neeman-led "kooks" have increased their impact on Israeli society has outdistanced even the ominous forecasts outlined in that report.

"Tremors of instability"

Perhaps the best barometer of how thoroughly the extremists have affected Israeli policy is the mounting chorus of voices from among Zionist supporters of Israel abroad and among self-professedly "realistic" Zionist strategists in Israel itself, who are openly expressing alarm at the direction of current policy.

Most noteworthy is Theodore Mann, president of the prestigious Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the umbrella organization for most major Jewish groups in the U.S. Speaking at a Zionist meeting in Montreal Nov. 18, Mann warned that Israel was undergoing a "shift to the right" and was moving toward "annexing the West Bank." Mann's comments reportedly created an uproar at the meeting, drawing loud exclamations of both support and derision.

Mann's comments were echoed in the lead Nov. 2 editorial in the English-language *Jerusalem Post*, a paper which generally reflects the viewpoints of the Israeli Labour Party. Asking rhetorically whether the government was turning over responsibility for dealing with the Palestinians to the Gush Emunim, the paper charged that the latest round of government decisions

on establishing settlements in the West Bank "make sense only in the context of a dictatorial rule over the local Palestinian population."

The *Post* editorial was run side-by-side with an Op-Ed authored by former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, a key proponent of the "realist" position in Israel. The pattern of recent government actions, Eban charged, were "violat(ing) the dictates of good sense and the public interest drastically" and "sending tremors of instability far and wide into the international system, ... preclud(ing) any further progress towards regional peace. ... This situation," Eban stressed, "isolates Israel from its closest friends" and "sharply polarizes sentiment within Israel itself."

"Ominous parallel" with pre-Nazi Germany

The fears about Israeli policy expressed by certain leading Zionists and Israelis is paralleled by growing concern among Israel's Arab neighbors about the dire consequences for the region if the current trends are not reversed.

In an exceptionally incisive analysis Nov. 13, the Saudi *Arab News* pointed out the "ominous parallel" between the Israeli situation now and pre-Nazi Weimar Germany of the early 1930s period. "European observers of the economic and political chaos in Israel draw the parallel with Weimar on the eve of the Nazis' rise to power," the paper noted, adding that it has been *Israeli* observers, not foreigners, who have underscored the comparison between the Gush Emunim fanatics and the stormtroopers of the Nazi movement.

Building the cult of Greater Israel

What has these various observers so alarmed is typified by a series of decisions taken by the Israeli Cabinet and special ministerial committees over the past week.

On Nov. 15, the Ministerial Committee on Settlement policy, which oversees the creation and expansion of illegal settlements on the occupied West Bank, voted to enact a plan for extensive settlements throughout the West Bank. The crux of this plan is to build 10,000-15,000 dwelling units at both old and new settlements *every coming year*. Estimates of the cost of this plan are as high as 150 billion Israeli pounds, or around \$5 billion. This amount, reports the *Jerusalem Post*, is "nearly half of the entire annual state budget approved for this year!"

One of the few opponents of the scheme within the

cabinet, former Finance Minister and current Deputy Prime Minister Simcha Ehrlich, charged that the main champions of the program, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, were acting as "spokesmen for the anarchists of Gush Emunim...I do not agree to discuss settlement programs under the shadow of Gush Emunim threats," Ehrlich stated.

These objections, however, did not prevent the full Cabinet from endorsing the settlement project at its weekly meeting Nov. 19. At this same meeting, the cabinet also voted to renege, at least for the time being, on its previous commitment to have the Israeli Army forcibly evict Gush Emunim settlers from the controversial settlement site of Elon Moreh, a site which has been declared illegal by Israel's own Supreme Court. No forcible eviction will be attempted, the cabinet has decided, for at least 4-6 weeks.

By that time, the Gushies and their allies in the Renaissance Party hope that the crisis in the West Bank will have grown to such proportions that no eviction will be attempted.

According to once source close to Begin, "the government's decisions on settlements and on Elon Moreh reflect the growing strength of Neeman's party, which is picking off deserters from Begin's Herut and from all the component parts of the ruling Likud coalition. To survive, Begin thinks he must move further to the right."

Nuclear-blackmailer Neeman's determining influence on all aspects of policy is also seen in how the government is handling the economy and relations with its Arab neighbors.

On the same day that the multi-billion-dollar settlement expansion program was announced, a Neeman ally in the government, the newly-installed Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz, announced a series of drastic austerity measures, including taxes on imports and slashes in city services, to head off what he described as an imminent "economic holocaust." The seeming incongruity of cutting the budget for vital necessities while expanding the West Bank drive was described by the Nov. 16 *Jerusalem Post* as part of a conscious policy of "diverting funds" from such areas as housing in order to finance settlements on the West Bank.

In effect, the most impressive of Israel's real achievements as a nation, namely its high-quality services in education and related areas, are being sacrificed so that

more and more of the population can be shifted to the West Bank to reinforce Neeman's Greater Israel cult. It is this policy—expressed in Neeman's dictum that high living standards are evil because they de-ideologize the population—which is ominously similar to the cultist and expansionist economics of the Nazis.

This Zionist-extremist conspiracy against the Israeli nation-state is beginning to create a backlash among layers of Israel's population. On Nov. 19, Hurwitz announced a new series of draconian austerity measures, including 50-115 percent increases in the prices of vital commodities ranging from cheese and milk to electricity; cutbacks of thousands of jobs in the public sector; and a freeze on government building, especially of hospitals and schools. Following the announced measures, France's *Le Monde* reported Nov. 21, several demonstrations broke against the cuts, with demonstrators demanding to know why Israel was spending 150 billion pounds on new West Bank settlements while the population was being forced to tighten its belts.

Heating up the West Bank

Expansionism is also the key to Israel's most recent policies toward the Arabs.

Speaking in Haifa Nov. 15, Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, a sympathizer of Neeman, called for Israel to be the international center of a "crusade against the oil sheikhs" that would "put the sheikhs in their place."

On the same day, Begin announced that he would not be attending a Camp David treaty-related ceremony in Egypt conducted by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. This snub raised speculation that Israel was entertaining the option of renegeing on the Camp David arrangement. Such an option happens to be the key plank of Neeman's Renaissance group.

These events transpired as the so-called "Shak'a affair" on the West Bank began to peak.

This affair has centered around the arrest and possible deportation of the Mayor of Nablus, Bassem Shak'a, for having allegedly made statements sympathetic to the tactics of the Palestine Liberation Organization during private discussions with the overseer of Israeli West Bank policy, General Danny Matt. According to numerous press accounts, Matt first lured Shak'a into a "man-to-man" talk and then entrapped him into making statements that could be construed as supporting "PLO terrorism." This set-up crisis was put into high gear when false accounts of Shak'a's state-

ments were leaked to the press and to hardline members of Israel's Knesset, who loudly demanded that Shak'a be "disciplined."

Once the phony crisis was launched, the West Bank situation rapidly began to get out of control. In the past week, all twenty-five elected mayors have resigned from their posts, in solidarity with Shak'a. The situation on the West Bank has been described by all the most influential London press—the Nov. 19 *Observer* and *Sunday Times* and Nov. 17 *London Economist*—as "explosive." The *Observer* portrays the 1.25 million Palestinians in the West Bank as "united as never before" and concludes that the chances are great for "uprisings" and "violence" rivalling the widespread outbreaks of West Bank unrest in 1976. The *Economist* claimed that "the West Bank seems set to collapse into disorder."

What is particularly revealing about the Shak'a affair

is not, however, the more sensational aspects being headlined in the Anglo-American daily press. What is most interesting is that the order for disciplinary action against Shak'a came from the man who has heretofore been the most prominent public spokesman in Israel for a "pragmatic" policy toward the Palestinians, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman.

Most accounts of Weizman's role in ordering Shaka'a deported or arrested insist that the Defense Minister "acted hastily," or made a "slip of the tongue," an "error," when he authorized action against Shaka'a. This is not the case. In reality, Weizman is beginning to drop his "pragmatic realist" profile, and is beginning to revert to his better-known profile as a reckless, cowboy-like adventurer ready to launch Israel on highly risky paths, up to and including direct confrontations with the Soviet Union.

This shift by Weizman is, however, not a Jekyll-

The 'Ayatollah' Yuval Neeman

One observer of the Israeli political scene remarked that the fictional "Dr. Strangelove" is a model of mental health compared to Yuval Neeman, the leader of the new Renaissance-Covenant of Eretz Israel Party. Neeman, called the "father of the Israel A-bomb," is nominally a scientist. However, he believes in "quarks," the quack theory derived by two Greenwich Village beatniks from the Tibetan strain of Buddhism. Neeman, in fact, claims to have helped develop the theory.

Neeman is primarily a devout practitioner of "master race" psychology which he calls "pure Zionism." As in H.G. Wells' "The Time Machine," Neeman envisages a tightly organized elite—the "pure Israelis"—armed with superweapons and ruling over a mass of loyal slaves (the people of Israel) and feuding peasant tribes (the Arabs).

Already, the Neeman lunacy is evident in the Begin government's land-grabbing "austerity and settlements" program—the Renaissance-Covenant Party demands the annexation of all Arab territories captured in the 1967 war, and the subordination of all economic and military resources to the service of the expansionist cult of "Greater Israel" Neeman and his friends are prepared to hold every person in the Mideast—and the world—hostage under threat of a nuclear war to reach that objective.

Neeman's ideas did not spring full blown from his mind alone. They are a logical extrapolation of

the reasons the British Special Operations Executive circles around Sir William Stephenson set up a Zionist intelligence service in the first place.

Neeman was recruited to the Stephenson-created Israeli intelligence services not long after Israel became a state. Having developed a reputation as a scientific whiz-kid and as an advocate of applying highly computerized gimmicks to war-fighting following his studies at the Ecole de Guerre in France, Neeman was spotted by then-chief of staff Moshe Dayan and brought into Israel's Aman military-intelligence division.

At the time, Dayan was a leading protégé of Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, a staunch believer in a "Fortress Israel" permanently at war with its neighbors. As a result of various "dirty tricks" and purges of the intelligence and defense establishment, Dayan and Ben-Gurion, by the 1954-55 period, had emerged so much in control that they were able to involve Israel in the joint Suez operations with the British and French against Egypt's Nasser. This locked Israel into decades of bitter hostility with its Arab neighbors.

A favored agent

By 1954-55, Neeman was a favored agent of Dayan in procuring both weaponry and the most advanced knowledge available in nuclear and military science. Dayan dispatched him to London in the 1950s, for

and-Hyde-like "personality change." It is an event of equivalent strategic importance to the resignation last month of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, ostensibly in protest against the Begin government's determination to annex the West Bank during the next years. The Weizman shift signals that, under current circumstances, the Israeli rulers are not even bothering to maintain the *illusion* of reasonableness.

The key to the Weizman story is the inside account of how the Nov. 15 Cabinet ministerial commitment came to its expand-the-settlements plan. According to the *Jerusalem Post*, at that meeting Weizman dropped his often-acrimonious feud with Gush backer, Agriculture Minister Sharon, and on the basis of a "compromise" arranged by Education Minister Hammer, made a deal with Sharon to legitimize the settlement push.

What is remarkable about the account is that Hammer is a known leader of Gush Emunim! Heretofore

somewhat of an outcast in the Cabinet spectrum, Hammer is suddenly being portrayed in the Israeli press as a leading "power broker." This means nothing less than that Gush Emunim itself is determining and directing policy in a way that was impossible as long as a strong "pragmatist" strain existed in the Israeli Cabinet.

In fact, Gush Emunim supporters are usurping significant positions of power and influence in Israeli policymaking. According to the Nov. 16 *Jerusalem Post*, a "hefty contingent of Hammer's friends" has been brought into the advisory group around Hurwitz, including the new Director-General of the Finance Ministry, Ya'acov Neeman, and Hurwitz's expert on "saving schemes," Yosef Wolf. This contingent, *Post* reporter Mark Segal reveals, was brought in as part of a deal between Hurwitz and Hammer to get Hurwitz installed as Finance Minister.

a stint as military attaché at the Israeli Embassy and to obtain a PhD degree at the Royal College of Physics so that Neeman could become an insider in British scientific circles.

During the mid-to-late 1950s, most of Israel's actual weaponry came from France, however, a result of extensive direct ties between the Israeli defense establishment and the Rothschild and related networks in French intelligence and the French armed forces. It was from these networks that Israel obtained the necessary material to build its Dimona nuclear center, which has since been the production center for Israel's atomic bombs.

The French-Israeli bomb network derived from a collection of French and pro-Zionist scientists that had worked together during World War II under Stephenson's directions in the so-called "Marco Polo" group that operated behind Vichy French lines. After the war, many of the British agents in this network, typified by the leading cultist in France in recent years, Jacques Bergier, veered off into mysticism and irrationalist spiritual worship. The group was linked to the French military circles that pushed for an Israeli nuclear capability—including several "Ministers of Atomic Affairs" who were later to become leaders in the treasonous OAS/Permindex apparatus that attempted almost 30 assassinations against President Charles de Gaulle. The most important of these was Jacques Soustelle, who occupied the Atomic Affairs post from 1959-60, when Israel was consolidating its nuclear capability. He was a key contact for Yuval Neeman.

During the 1970s, Yuval Neeman has more than once resigned from governments that showed even the most minimal willingness to compromise with the Arabs. He formed his current party as a national movement of protest against Begin's act of "appeasement" in signing the Camp David pact with Egypt.

It is clear that the rise to prominence of Neeman's "Greater Israel" annexationist cult is an included component of the combined British-Jesuit intelligence project launched in the mid-1970s whose most notable feature is the Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran. The "Bernard Lewis Plan" which outlines the goals of the project involves spreading fundamentalist cults throughout the Islamic Middle East including Israel. These fundamentalist movements will break up the nation-states of the region, redrawing the map of a Mideast into Arab provinces dominated by a "Greater Israel."

Neeman's short-term aim, accordingly, is to have nuclear bomb-wielding Israel squat ruthlessly atop an Arab-Islamic world engulfed in chaos by the Muslim Brotherhood.

Yuval Neeman is a pure example of what is coming to be called the "kook faction" in international politics. A believer in the necessity of possessing "superweapons" to ensure racial mastery, whatever the cost, he is an ideologue who subordinates all political and economic reality to the furtherance of an irrational belief. He has no political independence from the geopolitical strategies of the British oligarchy. He can only be credited with being independently mad.