

# Israeli leaders exude pre-war calm

by Scott Thompson

On Aug. 11, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir met in Washington with President George Bush, a meeting later characterized as unusually harmonious. Judging by the statements of White House spin doctors, it would seem that there had not been any discussion of recent Israeli butchery of Palestinians, any demands for more aid to resettle upwards of one million Soviet Jews, or any talk of the countdown to war in the Persian Gulf. But, the image of a happy Yitzhak Shamir emerging from those talks belies signs known to the Bush administration that Israel is preparing for war with Iraq and to possibly expel Palestinians from Israel and the Occupied Territories.

Only a week before Shamir's visit, according to the Dec. 5 Israeli daily *Ha'aretz*, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy had a meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Israel William Brown, in which Levy "threatened" the United States. Said Levy, Israel's continued "low profile" on the Gulf crisis was "contingent" on America undertaking to "remove Saddam Hussein," which is certainly not a stated goal of any of the U.N. resolutions the Bush administration has brandished. In an interview with Israeli television later that day, Levy elaborated that he was talking about an Israeli preemptive strike if the U.S. failed to act: "Whoever thinks that if Israel alone has to stand up against this danger, that Israel will continue with a low profile, is making a mistake. In order to defend herself, like in the past, Israel will not call on anyone to fight its war or anyone else's soldiers, but will reply with all its might."

*EIR* asked Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, who held a press conference in Washington on Dec. 12, if it were true, as Levy stated, that the U.S. and Israel had a secret agreement to destroy Saddam Hussein's nuclear, chemical, and biological warfare capabilities. Kollek responded: "You must understand that David Levy is not very politically sophisticated. Agreements like that should not be discussed in public." As Kollek implied, the question of an Israeli "breakaway ally" scenario, where Israel becomes the marcher lord against Iraq for the Anglo-Americans, is very much on the agenda despite the characterizations of the Bush-Shamir meeting. On the very day of the meeting, Richard Owen of the *Times* of London reported that Israeli officials told him Israel "may have to fight a unilateral war with Iraq in 1991 if the United States and its allies reach a compromise with President Sad-

dam Hussein rather than removing him."

Although all public accounts say Shamir did not raise it with President Bush, he intimated this "breakaway ally" threat the previous night at a Jabotinsky award dinner in New York: "Let me, therefore, state at the very outset: Israel in 1990 is not Czechoslovakia of 1938. We shall not acquiesce to any deal with enemies who wish to destroy us." Shamir said that Israel would not acquiesce in any "move to appease Saddam Hussein at the expense of Israel," including any genuine attempt to negotiate a settlement with Iraq that left the Saddam Hussein government and military intact.

## 'Jordan is Palestine'

This Israeli drumbeat for war, which is coming at a time when the White House has temporarily toned down its belligerent rhetoric, is accompanied by calls for the expulsion of the Palestinians. On Dec. 11 in the Hong Kong *Sunday Morning Post*, Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, the would-be Israeli Hitler, said, "Don't expect us to enable a second Palestinian state—there is one already in Jordan—in Samaria, Judea, and Gaza."

Sharon's statement was made within the context of saying that Israel would not tolerate a peace with Saddam Hussein if he were left in power with his military intact. In a Dec. 9 interview with *Ha'aretz*, another Shamir cabinet member, Minister of Science and Technology Yuval Ne'eman, said that Israel might expel the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, as had happened in 1948, when 700,000 Arabs were made refugees. Even Kollek, who purports to be a liberal, said in a speech in acceptance of an award for ethics at the Dec. 12 banquet of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, that he had come to accept the fact that Israel could not rule 1.5 million Palestinians and that polls showed Israelis want separation.

Highly reliable intelligence sources have reported to *EIR* that one of the Israeli goals of conflict with Saddam Hussein would be to use this as a pretext to drive the Palestinians into Jordan under Sharon's "Jordan is Palestine" formula. Shamir was explicit at the Jabotinsky award dinner on Dec. 10 in New York, that Israel would not give up the Occupied Territories. And, he said, Israel would reject any attempt by the United Nations or others to compare Iraq's occupation of Kuwait with Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. One of the reasons why Israel can now economically contemplate the expulsion of Palestinian manual laborers was spelled out by Shamir: "There is now a realistic expectation that we may increase our population by one million in the next three to five years." That is the number of Russian Jews now expected in Israel.

It is most relevant to the lies told about how Bush and Shamir did not discuss these flashpoint issues—i.e., that the U.S. is looking the other way—that Israel announced one day after the meeting that it would station snipers to shoot Palestinian youths throwing rocks.