

## Peres: Syria Is Israel's Most Dangerous Neighbor

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Premier Shimon Peres answered a wide range of questions on domestic and foreign policy matters during a tour of northern Israel. He pointed to Syria as the most dangerous and "most radical" of Israel's neighbors.

He expressed concern over the rise of Islamic fundamentalism and economic deterioration in the region. On the home front, he reiterated that he intends to abide by the rotation-of-power agreement with Likud, but mentioned two conditions.

Under the Labor-Likud coalition agreement Peres must turn over the office of Prime Minister to Herut's Yitzhak Shamir next October 13. But the failure of the Herut convention last week to endorse Shamir as party leader has raised doubts about the

rotation. The agreement specifies that only Shamir will be Peres' successor.

"Regarding rotation, I am firm in my belief in implementing it, Peres told reporters. He added, however, that rotation would be implemented if two conditions are met -- progress toward peace and a genuine healing of the country's economic ills without preference for one sector over another.

Peres stressed that "Israel must make an unceasing effort" to search for peace with its neighbors. He said that Israel has offered King Hussein of Jordan immediate, direct peace negotiations. But Hussein believed he could bring the PLO into the peace talks. Only lately did he realize that while he might not be able to enter peace negotiations without the PLO, he could not

do so with the current PLO leadership, Peres said.

He said that both Syria and Iran are making efforts to gain control of Lebanon, the latter by providing financial support to the extremist "Hezbollah" movement, an organization that "has no problem in killing people, in murdering people from all nations -- not only ours, by the way," Peres said.

He said the current deployment of the

Israel Defense Force with respect to Lebanon is the best possible under present circumstances. The IDF will withdraw from the border security zone "when they (terrorists) stop sending car bombs to attack our border," Peres said. He reiterated that Israel has no designs on Lebanese territory or its water resources. Its primary interest is to protect the northern border towns from attack.

Peres maintained, as he has on many occasions in the past, that Syria is the "most radical" of Israel's neighbors and its President, Hafez Assad, the most radical Arab leader and "the most serious in his radicalism." Nevertheless, he suggested that

Israel refrain from polemics with Syria. Its policy should be "as little talk as possible and as much alertness as possible," he said. Assad continues to seek "strategic parity" with Israel but "he still has a long way to go," Peres added.

## Imperial Palace Poker Giveaway Winners



MILT HAMMER (center) was the big winner March 14th in the Imperial Palace \$2,000 Poker Giveaway. Milt took 1st place prize money of \$1,000. 2nd place went to BILL FRANCISCO (right) and 3rd place to GEORGE ZACK (left).

## Arab Street Cleaner's Hand Blown Off By Terrorist Blast

TEL AVIV (WNS) — An Arab street cleaner employed by the Kfar Saba municipality near Tel Aviv had his hand blown off by an explosive charge placed

in a garbage bin near the Brenner School.

The man had placed his hand inside the bin at the school entrance when the charge went off. The school entrance has been the scene of previous terrorist explosive charges in Kfar Saba, not far from the old green line representing the pre-1967 border.

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