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Israel's Unity Achievements

After 25 months and countless disputes, the second phase of Israel's unique National Unity government has begun. Shimon Peres has passed the premiership to Yitzhak Shamir, who has given the Foreign Ministry to Peres. And two new faces have joined the 25-person Cabinet.

This government was born out of necessity in 1984 when neither Peres' Labor Party nor Shamir's Likud bloc could claim an electoral majority. Its survival would be a giant accomplishment in any parliamentary democracy. But in Israel -- where despite the preponderance of desert, political mudslinging is the norm -- the maintenance of the government is a political miracle. Who could have predicted that Peres and Shamir could forge the endless variety of compromises and face-saving gestures necessary to overcome their differences over some 750 days?

Of course, politics colored this picture -- and primarily from Shamir, who knew that maintenance of the unity government was his best opportunity to regain the premiership that he held before the unity government was formed. Shamir, of course, has been struggling to hold on to his leadership of Likud. Peres, too, had political motivations, as the polls showed a growing admiration for him, but not enough to risk an election. And as the rotation of power was approaching, it was thought that Peres again resisted electoral temptation because he wanted to bolster his reputation as a statesman who kept his power-sharing promise.

But political back-stabbing is only half of this picture, as the Cabinet also made significant accomplishments. Through hard bargaining with labor and real cost-of-living sacrifices borne by the general public, annual inflation was reduced from more than 400 percent to about 16 percent. The Israel Defense Force withdrew from its dangerous positions inside Lebanon. Progress was made on the diplomatic front, as Peres met with King Hassan of Morocco and warned the cold peace with Egypt, and relations with the U.S. continued to blossom.

Shamir has promised to continue the policies worked out by the unity Cabinet, although he has chosen to emphasize settlement of Judaea and Samaria, which does not sit well with Labor. Add to that Peres ability to pull out of the government soon and still save face, and the sum is that the longevity of the unity government is anybody's guess. In the meantime, it seems that two of this era's most unlikely political bedfellows will continue to toss and turn, careful to avoid pushing the other too hard, but not particularly minding if the other just happens to fall off.

BONN (WNS) — The Bundesrat has approved a change in laws dealing with State pensions and welfare which will accord victims of Nazi persecution the same status as other pensioners, such as war victims and persons wounded in active military service.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

France's Appeasement Of Terrorists Boomerangs

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — France's long-time policy of appeasement in catering to, and, in some cases, even abetting notorious terrorists -- the freeing of Abu Daoud who had engineered the massacre of the Israeli athletes at 1972 Munich Olympic Games -- has boomeranged to the disgrace of the nation of Lafayette.

Although Prime Minister Chirac has sworn that France would "never yield to terrorist blackmail," following the series of Paris bombings, he and his Government availed themselves of the mediation of the notorious Greek Catholic Arch-

bishop Hilarion Capucci who was once caught by Israel smuggling arms from Lebanon to the PLO into Samaria-Judea.

In a lengthy feature article entitled "The Terror -- Why France? Why Now?," appearing in the Times Magazine October 19, correspondent Richard Bernstein refers to the Capucci case as follows:

"Around the time Mr. Chirac was making his surprising statements in New York, and while French officials were denying reports that negotiations -- with the terrorists -- were in progress, a mysterious Greek prelate named Hilarion Capucci arrived in the French capital. Capucci, an outspoken advocate of the Palestinian cause who is known to maintain close contacts with Syrian and Iranian leaders -- and who spend several years in an Israeli prison after explosives were found hidden in the trunk of his car -- was greeted as if he were a foreign dignitary on an official visit.

After meeting with the French Deputy In-

(Continued on page 8)

at Boston University, a lecturer at the 92nd Street YMHA in New York and chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

Before Wiesel made the painful decision to write his testimonies of the Holocaust, he worked as a correspondent for the Israeli daily, Yediot Achronot, in Paris and New York in the 1950's.

In a press conference in New York, Wiesel, who said he shuns publicity and "the limelight," stated that he wanted to take the occasion to voice his views on important issues because "today I will be heard."

Wiesel said he was "profoundly grateful" to the chairman of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee. "Today, thanks to the very great honor I have received, I feel these words will have a stronger future," he said. The prize, Wiesel said, would allow him to speak louder and reach more people.

Wiesel said he shares his honor with all the survivors of the Holocaust. "It belongs to all the survivors who have tried to do something with their pain, with their suffering, with their lives."

The survivors are an example of "how not to succumb to despair," Wiesel said. He said he has tried to use his suffering to prevent further suffering. "I have developed a romance with many causes...Soviet Jewry is surely one of the most exalting of all."

Wiesel, one of the founders of American activism on behalf of Soviet Jewry in the 1960's, said the Jews are "an example of courage and nobility."

He made a personal plea to Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev to release Yosef Begun, Ida Nudel, Andrei Sakharov and several other imprisoned dissidents.

Wiesel has received a visa and plans to visit the Soviet Union for five days. He is going officially to meet with Soviet representatives for an upcoming international conference on non-Jewish victims of the Nazis.

Wiesel spoke briefly about faith after the Holocaust. "I have never lost faith in God," he said. "I never left God although he might have left me." Wiesel said he came from a religious Jewish heritage and called himself a "yeshiva bocher from Sighet," a small town located in the Transylvania region of Rumania, where Wiesel grew up. The prize Wiesel said has special significance coming the day after Yom Kippur. "I believe that in Jewish history, there is no coincidence." The prize coming after Yom Kippur, "means that some of my friends and I have prayed well," Wiesel said.

Wiesel, 58, said he did not think the prize would change his life; he will continue his teaching, his publishing and his activism for human rights.

"I decided to devote my life to tell the story because I felt that having survived, I owe something to the dead. They left me behind ... That was their obsession ... to be remembered. Anyone who does not remember betrays them again. That is why I devoted my life to tell the story," Wiesel said.

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

(Continued from page 1)

family fled to Florence and remained there until the occupation ended. She returned to Turin after the war and in 1947 moved to the United States.

Among the two scientists' major breakthrough were a discovery by Levi-Montalcini in the 1950's of a protein growth factor that stimulated nerve cell development and a subsequent discovery by Cohen of an epidermal growth factor related to the nerve growth substance. Their work has the potential to help combat Parkinsons Disease, cancers and Alzheimer's Disease among other ailments. One future use of Cohen's discovery might be the quicker repair of skin wounds or cornea wounds after injury or surgery, according to the Nobel Committee.

Elie Wiesel's name and his accomplishments are perhaps much more familiar to both the Jewish and non-Jewish world communities. He is an acclaimed spokesman for Holocaust survivors who has championed civil rights and human rights for peoples of the world, including the Cambodian boat people, the Meskito Indians of Nicaragua and the Blacks of South Africa.

He has published some 30 novels, many of them biographical accounts of his own dramatic survival of the Auschwitz and Buchenwald death camps as a teenaged boy.

Wiesel is currently a professor of humanities

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