

Shamir, New Premier, Stresses National Unity

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Premier Yitzhak Shamir's 25-member Cabinet won Knesset approval by a vote of 82-17 with three abstentions. In a 40-minute address preceding the vote of confidence, Shamir said his government would

focus mainly on economic affairs during the final two years of its tenure but would also vigorously pursue the peace process.

He stressed the "unity of the nation," said that U.S. - Israel relations were at an "unprecedented peak" and expressed hope that the Eastern European bloc, "first and foremost" the Soviet Union, would change their attitude toward Israel. Shamir emphasized that "Like its

predecessor, this government will be a government of national unity — it will refrain from divisiveness and extremism, will strive for mutual respect and consideration for others, and will seek to augment the love of Israel within us."

"National unity is not just a matter of parliamentary convenience," Shamir said. "Those who conceived the idea of the unity government hoped and desired that by virtue of its very formation and existence, that government would project a message of unity, of drawing closer together, of love of Israel, and of true cooperation among the country's political leadership and between all the strata of the population in the country. These goals have already been achieved to a certain extent, and the government I head will indeed make the unity of the nation its chief concern," Shamir said.

Shamir termed the government's economic program a "Zionist economy." Its goals, he said, are "reducing inflation to acceptable levels in order to attract immigration and ensure economic growth with work available for all newcomers, and the settlement of the entire Eretz Israel -- the Biblical land of Israel or Palestine."

According to Shamir, "The unity government which has just concluded the first half of its term of office, has already registered some not inconsiderable achievements -- in the economy, in labor relations, in foreign policy, in the war against Arab terrorism, and in fortifying Israel's security."

He expressed his "thanks and appreciation to the outgoing Prime Minister, Mr. Shimon Peres, for the understanding and cooperation he accorded me during the two years (of Peres' tenure), and to wish him the best in his next position" as Foreign Minister.

Shamir presented an essentially conservative economic program. "We have to adopt the rule of refraining as far as possible from any government intervention in the economic sector, unless the need to do so has been proven," he said.

"In any other case, there is no place for subsidies, for incentives, for grants, or for providing free service to everyone -- which constitute the reason for heavy taxation." He said however that encouragement should be given "any manifestation of initiative, action, originality and the assumption of personal responsibility."

He pledged that "Every working citizen will be able to earn a living with dignity and the State will be able to look forward to economic growth and augmented aliya, the Zionist goal for whose sake the State of Israel was established and exists."

He conceded that reviving economic growth will be difficult. "Yet this is the true challenge. Economic growth does not mean only a growth in the national product that enables a higher standard of living and reduced dependence on foreign aid. Economic growth signifies, first of

(Continued on page 13)

Presidents Conference Urges Closing Of PLO Washington Office

NEW YORK (WNS) — The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations has called on U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese "to reconsider the continuing presence of the PLO office in Washington and those who are using it to advance the terrorist cause."

A telegram to Meese, signed by Conference chairman Morris Abram stated that "No less than Soviet spies acting under the guise of diplomatic representation, the PLO threatens the safety of American citizens." Abram noted: "The PLO's stated goal is to 'purge the Zionist presence' from the Middle East. It has vowed to do so by armed attack, and it continues that policy. We believe that our country should reconsider allowing the same PLO to operate a so-called 'information' office in Washington. The PLO's continued presence in our midst poses a danger to the security of Americans while the implied recognition that the U.S. grants to the PLO by permitting it to operate serves to enhance its position and stature."

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ASSEMBLY 5



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