

Is Rocky's Warhawk Moshe Dayan Finished?

Aug. 5 (IPS) — Opposition to Israel's leading warhawk, former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, is spreading throughout the entire spectrum of Israeli politics.

With a yearly inflation rate of more than 50 per cent and with the economy on the verge of a total collapse, few people are now paying attention to the psychotic Dayan's war ravings. While RAND's Middle East war plans stall, Dayan has become increasingly isolated from the main stream of the ruling Labor Party (Mapai) and thus is a sitting duck for an attack.

The open question is whether any of his opponents will go far enough to deliver a final knockout blow.

According to reliable Israeli sources, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, the leaders of the Mapai center, have resolved to break up the "Rafi" clique, a tight-knit core of CIA-connected warhawks controlled by Dayan. The key component of the Rabin-Allon strategy is an effort to split up the 25-year alliance between Dayan and his protegee, Defense Minister Shimon Peres. Their plan is to enlist Peres' support for an interim settlement with Egypt — a move which Dayan adamantly opposes.

According to Israeli journalist Matti Golan, the Rabin-Allon moves could effectively "isolate Dayan and

...remove him from the party ranks to the political desert."

This strategy has already achieved some of its objectives. One of Rafi's eight leaders, Yitzhak Navon, endorsed the interim settlement last month. Peres meanwhile has at least once publicly done the same. He is forced by his position as a member of the government to either move with Rabin and Allon, or resign. So far, Peres has shown no sign of doing the latter.

No War

Pressure to move away from Dayan's warhawk policies is also coming from a faction in the military. Conservative Major-General Ezer Weizman announced July 17 that the army chief of staff, many senior officers, and himself were agreed on the necessity of both further concessions in the Sinai and of concrete moves toward peace on Israel's other borders.

The significance of Weizman's statements was highlighted the next day by the hurried denial from Peres' Defense Ministry — likely under Dayan's arm-twisting — that the "chief of staff either held such an opinion or would express it if he did."

While Rabin-Allon, currently have the upperhand on Dayan and his warhawks, their advantage could prove quite temporary.

The Mapai center offers no political program to deal with Israel's economic

measures. To establish the political climate necessary to enforce this non-program, the Rabin-Allon-led clique are committed to stalling on a peace settlement, keeping war tensions high. Such paralysis ensures Dayan's renewed hegemony if RAND succeeds in engineering a war crisis.

From The Left

The pro-socialist Mapam has also escalated its attacks on the Dayan clique. Through the party newspaper *Al Hamishmar*, Mapam spokesmen charged that Dayan's opposition to an interim settlement would necessarily lead to further deterioration of the Mideast situation and a unwanted new war.

Left-wing trade union officials within Mapam led a fight last week against government austerity measures, demanding a cost-of-living allowance of 12.9 per cent for Israel's workers and a general campaign against the Finance Ministry. At a meeting of works committees representing 60,000 Israeli industrial workers, the Mapam-led motions were unanimously supported. More significantly, the Mapam has failed to formulate any program for mutual collaboration between Israeli and Arab leftists. Their followers have thus been left with the same crippling feeling of isolation on which Dayan has always based his organizing and terror campaigns.