

Behind Ariel Sharon's meteoric rise, a tale of dirty money and the ADL

by Allen Douglas

Contrary to all expectations both in Israel and abroad, madman Ariel Sharon scored a sweeping victory in the Herut Party elections for prime minister candidate April 13th, an ominous portent for the Herut Knesset slate elections to take place in May. Running against Herut leader and current prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, Sharon, who was expected to get somewhere around 10% of the vote, scored 42%—effectively guaranteeing him whatever post he wants short of prime minister, if the Herut-led Likud bloc wins the national elections scheduled for July 23.

Oligarchical circles in the West typified by Henry Kissinger are ensuring the domination of the next Israeli government by Sharon. This is guaranteed to drive moderate Arab states and former U.S. allies such as Jordan and Egypt further into the arms of the Soviets, consolidating Soviet influence in the area in the wake of President Reagan's abandonment of Lebanon.

The Soviets contributed their bit with a pre-election surge of terrorist incidents launched into Israel out of Damascus, and most Israelis attribute Sharon's near-capture of the prime minister spot to a lackluster effort by Shamir and his ally, Housing Minister David Levy. But there is more to it than that. Reached for comment on the Sharon upset, a Jewish source in New York with ties to Israel opined: "The Sharon vote was rigged. Did you ever notice that before major events in Israel, Sharon comes over here on these low-profile tours? He meets with the big money-bags and goes back loaded. Didn't you wonder why so many of those Herut voters stayed home and the vote otherwise was very high for Sharon? I'll give you a hint: Sharon was here right before the prime minister elections, and will be on a very quiet tour again before the Herut Knesset slate vote in May. Watch for some surprises there also."

Who owns Sharon?

The popular image in certain circles of the Israeli electorate of Sharon as a misunderstood patriot, fighting off the back-stabbers and traitors who want to pillory him for trying his best, is a calculated fraud. Sharon is no lone voice in the

wilderness crying out against the liberal establishment. Virtually all his moves are guided from behind the scenes by a cabal in the United States centered around Henry Kissinger and acting *against* any notion of Israeli national self-interest.

A source in Tel Aviv identified the personnel at the "quiet meetings" Sharon attends in the United States (organized by the Harry Walker Associates public relations firm, which also handles Henry Kissinger's tours): "Sharon's tours to the United States are usually sponsored by a group of Syrian Jews, like the Nakach brothers of the jeans company [Jordache], Edmund Safra of American Express, and Meshulam Riklis [Turkish-born, but part of the same crowd]."

Edmund Safra, the most important of Sharon's backers and sometimes called the "new Meyer Lansky," by sources who believe he is a front man for dirty-money flows which reach into the hundreds of billions of dollars. Safra's career began as an adolescent in wartime Marseille, in the gold-smuggling black market. "With his heavy involvement in the gold market and his Middle Eastern origins, some outsiders surmised that he was a heavy speculator whose banks stockpiled smuggled gold," according to a May 1979 profile in *Institutional Investor*. Safra's financial interests include American Express, the Trade Development Bank of Geneva, the Republic National Bank in New York, and holdings in Brazil. Safra's banking empire is tightly interlocked with East bloc institutions. In March Safra added **Henry Kissinger** to his Amex board.

The Nakach brothers of Jordache, Inc. are notorious for using their jeans commercials to break pornography into prime-time television, with pictures of half-naked boys and girls playing leapfrog.

Meshulam Riklis of the organized-crime-connected Rapid-American Corporation is Sharon's principal backer, and reportedly picked him up cheap during the mid-1970s, buying Sharon his farm in the Negev desert. For film director Riklis, the pornography is all in the family: He is notorious for having his child-wife Pia Zadora make love to other men in movies which he himself directs. Riklis in turn is a stooge for **Burton Joseph**, former national chairman of the Anti-

Defamation League of B'Nai B'Rith. Since he quit his job teaching Hebrew school in the 1950s, Riklis's career has been bankrolled by Joseph.

Another of Sharon's boosters is Manhattan district attorney and former national ADL executive member **Robert Morgenthau**, the man who has given instructions to New York City police not to arrest marijuana offenders and has allowed prostitution to flourish throughout the city.

The ADL and the *New York Times*

Wherever one follows the footsteps of Sharon, one comes upon the Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'Rith (the organization which mobilized to prevent American Jews from boycotting Hitler's Germany in the 1930s) and the *New York Times* (which urged appeasement of Hitler during the same period). Sharon's recent lawsuit against *Time* magazine "in defense of the national honor of Israel," for *Time's* coverage of Sharon's role as defense minister in perpetrating the massacres of Palestinians in the Sabra and Chatila refugee camps in Lebanon, is handled by **Arnold Forster**, a leading light of the ADL. **Burton Joseph**, former ADL national director, is Sharon's chief controller. **Robert Morgenthau** has been an ADL bigwig for years. **Edmund Safra** is a financial angel for the ADL, through his dealings with those circles in the New York garment district. And finally it is the ADL which is fostering a Christian fundamentalist-Jewish fundamentalist alliance so that American Jews, most of whom cannot stomach Sharon's vision of Israel, will be replaced as a lobby by the pro-terrorist fundamentalists.

At crucial turning points in both Israeli politics and Sharon's career, heavy-handed intervention has been exerted by this ADL crowd, together with their friends at the *New York Times*. Many Israelis, particularly those sympathetic to the Labor Party, remember with bitterness the fall of 1982, when after the release of the Kahan Commission report demonstrating Sharon's and other government officials' culpability in the Sabra-Chatila massacre, Sharon and the Likud seemed to be on the way out, until *New York Times* editor Max Frankel came to the rescue. By leaking a story, later shown to be a wholesale concoction, that the Labor Party was asking the Reagan administration to cut back funds to Israel, particularly for West Bank development, the political scene was shifted as cries of "traitor!" went up against the Labor Party, and the Likud and Sharon were bolstered. More recently the same modus operandi was used by the Robert Morgenthau and his wife, *New York Times* stringer Lucinda Franks. After setting up a tour of Israel with Defense Minister Moshe Arens, Franks released a story claiming that Arens had said U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger "should see a psychoanalyst"—a story Arens vehemently denied. This occurred shortly before the recent Herut elections.

One of Sharon's key activities for the past several years on behalf of his New York backers, beginning with his tenure as agriculture minister, has been overseeing a massive spec-

ulation operation on the occupied West Bank. Sharon's militance for retaining the West Bank and backing the large-scale settlement plan there has nothing to do with the security of Israel! In fact, he stunned many observers in the early 1970s by talking about how he would deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization, and be "unbelievably sympathetic" in giving back the West Bank. But this was before his intensified association with the Riklis group.

Dovetailing with the West Bank takeover operation is a fundamentalist plot to blow up the Muslim holy shrine of the Dome of the Rock and rebuild Solomon's Temple on the spot. The controllers of this Temple Mount conspiracy aim to transform Israel from a technology-proud bastion of Judeo-Christian culture in the Middle East, with the potential to develop the Arab world and Africa, to an organized-crime paradise with an "oriental" cultural milieu. Under the rubric of "Jewish fundamentalism," animal sacrifices are being reinstated by the Torat Cohanim yeshiva, and training programs are under way to produce the high priests for the new Babylonian cults to be organized around the Temple.

Elements of the real estate speculation and Temple Mount terrorist crowd converged at a Nov. 1, 1980 meeting in New York City, chaired by Ariel Sharon and Manhattan DA Robert Morgenthau. At the meeting, Sharon and Israeli Science and Technology Minister Yuval Neeman launched a new organization to propagandize for West Bank expansion, The International Conference for P.E.A.C.E. (an acronym for the 'Prevention of the Emergence of another Arab Country in Eretz Yisrael'). Board members include **Meir Jolawitz**, national director of the Jewish Defense League, **Joseph Churba**, former business partner of the JDL's Meir Kahane and a leading U.S. propagandist for rebuilding Solomon's Temple, **Geula Cohen**, a member of the Jerusalem Temple Mount Foundation, and **Roni Milo**, Menachem Begin's son-in-law, chief partner of one of the seven major real estate combines operating on the West Bank, and suspected insider in coordinating the recent Herut vote for Sharon.

According to Israeli sources, money is now pouring in from the same U.S.-based Syrian Jews who support Sharon to the Torat Cohanim and Birkat Avraham yeshivas and other operatives of the Temple Mount conspiracy. Sharon-backer Safra's personal hobby is "funding synagogues"—in this case the ultimate synagogue, a rebuilt Solomon's Temple. Many of the "recently become religious" members of the Torat Cohanim and Birkat Avraham yeshivas are ex-convicts and, as the Israeli police have noted, many members of the Jewish terrorist gangs have criminal records.

These punks are simply the tools of the international organized-crime mafia, and where the local criminals won't do, new elements are sent in from mafia networks in Los Angeles or from Jewish Defense League strongholds in New York which function under DA Morgenthau's protection. Four of the fundamentalists arrested in Jerusalem recently for a bus-bombing were Americans.