

London is the winner in Israeli elections

by Dean Andromidas

Although, as of this writing, the Israeli May 29 election results have not been made official, the defeat of Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres is seen as a foregone conclusion. Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the Likud party and committed to destroying the peace process, appears to have edged out Peres in Israel's first direct election for the post of prime minister, by a razor-thin margin of less than 1%. According to Israeli TV, with 98% of the ballots counted, Netanyahu received 50.1% of the vote, to Peres's 49.8%. This is a margin of about 10,000 votes. Another 120,000 absentee ballots, mostly from soldiers, are expected to further tip the election in Netanyahu's favor. The absentee vote count was to be finished by June 2, at which point the election results would be made official.

Seen as a disaster by pro-peace forces in the region, the result is clearly a dangerous setback for the foreign policy of the United States administration of President William Clinton.

A Netanyahu-led government brings to the center of power such dangerous British assets as Gen. Ariel Sharon. Sharon is known as the "butcher of Lebanon," because of his role as architect of the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and is a controller of the extremist settlers movement. Sharon's return to center-stage will shift the balance of power in favor of those international forces committed not only to destroying the Middle East peace process, but the foreign policy of the Clinton administration.

The Likud victory is the culmination of a three-year campaign by British-allied forces to destroy the peace process begun by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, then-Israeli Foreign Minister Peres, and Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat, and backed by the Clinton administration. The process has been based not only on a "land-for-peace" compromise, but on a peace settlement premised

on political justice and the development of economic infrastructure for a new Middle East.

American Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, while proclaiming his utmost support for this initiative, warned that it would drown in a sea of blood, if it were economically undermined. No sooner was the Oslo agreement signed between Rabin and Arafat in 1993, than Britain unleashed its sabotage operations, utilizing, on the one hand, assets within the region centered around the Sharon apparatus in Israel, and the drug-terror apparatus based out of Syria and Lebanon under the protection of Syria's President Hafez al-Assad, and, on the other, their U.S. and international assets centered around the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL). ADL moneybags dominated both the Netanyahu and Peres campaigns, giving the ADL mafia the ability to tilt the election in Netanyahu's favor. A decisive role in undermining the whole process, can be laid at the doorstep of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, which ensured that none of the economic accords of the initiative would be realized.

The sea of blood

The assassination on Nov. 4, 1995 of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin demonstrated that Britain and its allies were committed to a policy that would bury the peace process along with one of its major architects. That assassination, ordered from London, was carried out by a right-wing extremist linked to the networks associated with Sharon, now expected to be the most powerful man in a Netanyahu government. While this assassination almost destroyed the Likud, as soon as Peres called for new elections, the British struck swiftly, with three major bus bombings carried out at their behest, which left scores of Israelis dead. Those bombings were carried out by Islamic Jihad, an offshoot of the Palestinian Hamas move-

ment, but the orders came directly from its London-based operatives who enjoy the protection of the British Foreign Office.

Most observers in Israel agree that those terror bombings were the only reason for the Likud victory, since they threw the Israeli population into a state of terror. This led to the election campaign being shaped around the question of personal security, and not a debate on Israeli national interests and a vision for the future.

The internal terror campaign was augmented through activating Syrian President Assad, while convincing Peres and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that Assad was an "honest" partner and could be convinced to join the peace process. One of the contributing factors to holding elections one year early, was to strengthen Peres's mandate to negotiate with Syria. With the backing of London, France, and the George Bush faction in the United States, Syria initiated the recent south Lebanon crisis, through activating its Hezbollah assets last April. The American- and French-brokered agreement with Syria which ended the fighting, was soon violated, and only served to discredit Peres further in the eyes of an already-traumatized Israeli electorate.

The entire destabilization process was pushed forward through the World Bank's denial of funds to begin the economic development projects which could bring two former enemies into a productive and peaceful intercourse.

Sharon's bloody hand

While some observers are entertaining "a wait and see" attitude, the reality is that the most powerful man in the Netanyahu government will be Ariel Sharon. Sharon is more than just an enemy of peace with the Arabs. He is a witting tool of the British. He has promised, at best, "no war and no peace," and is committed to stopping, if not reversing, the Palestinian advances in the Oslo Accords. He is the architect of the so-called "canton" system for a Palestinian agreement, which would confine the Palestinians to bantustan-like enclaves around major Palestinian population centers. He is the leading proponent of the "Jordan is Palestine" policy, which states that under no circumstance will an independent Palestinian state be allowed in the Occupied Territories. According to this doctrine, if the Palestinians want a state, they can go to Jordan, where 50% of the population are Palestinians. These are mostly Palestinian refugees and their descendants from three Middle East wars.

It should be remembered that it was Sharon, who, as defense minister, engineered the bloody 1982 invasion of Lebanon and the infamous massacre of Palestinians at the Sabra and Chatilla refugee camps in Lebanon. The end result of that invasion was to eliminate United States influence in Lebanon and turn that country into a satrapy of Syrian President Assad. As housing minister under the previous Likud government, Sharon oversaw the rapid construction of settlements throughout the Occupied Territories, an operation given massive support by financial circles directly associated with

Henry Kissinger and the Anti-Defamation League. During the period of the Labor Party government, Sharon functioned as the chief supporter of the extremist settlers movement. He spent most of his time in the United States, France, and Great Britain, where he raised millions of dollars for the settlers movement, the Likud, and other right-wing forces.

The Islamic Jihad terror bombings did most to revive his political fortunes in Israel and brought him directly into the center of Israeli politics. Backed by outside financial resources needed to fund the election campaign, he brokered the right-wing bloc that included the Likud, the right-wing Tsomet party of Gen. Rafael Eitan, and the Likud dissident faction led by Daniel Levy. It is significant that one of Sharon's top financial backers is Ronald Lauder of the Estée Lauder cosmetic company. Under the Reagan-Bush administration, Lauder had been ambassador to Austria, where he in effect ran the ADL operation falsely charging that then-Austrian President Kurt Waldheim was a Nazi war criminal.

Sharon ran as number-two on the Likud electoral list, and has made public his desire for the defense, foreign affairs, or finance portfolio. Not known for his honesty and integrity, statements by Netanyahu that Sharon will be sidelined to an unimportant portfolio in his new government, are not taken seriously.

An unstable coalition

Although all the results are not yet in, both Labor and Likud suffered significant losses in the number of seats they held in the 120-seat Israeli Knesset (parliament). Labor, which held 44 seats in the parliament, declined to 34; the Likud, which held 40, has declined to 31.

Significant advances were made among the smaller right-wing religious parties, and two new parties won seats for the first time: The new Russian immigrant-based Israeli Immigrants party (Yisrael Ba-Aliya) won 7 seats; the Third Way won 4. The National Religious Party and Shas both increased their seats from 6 to 10. The National Religious Party and Shas both favor expansion of the settlements and no relinquishing of the territories; Natan Sharansky's Yisrael Ba-Aliya is the party of the new Russian population in Israel (and the Russian mafia). It, too, tends to have a hard line against peace with the Arabs.

Under the new system, in which the prime minister is directly elected, Netanyahu is the only one who can lead the government. Unlike the old system, in which a vote of no confidence could bring in a new prime minister and new party, under the current system a successful vote of no confidence would mandate new elections. This is considered a powerful incentive not to force a vote of no confidence unless one is prepared for new elections.

Although there is speculation of a possible national coalition between Labor and Likud, Netanyahu would define the terms. Such a move would be seen simply as an attempt to reassure Washington and the Arabs, and has not been mandated by the election result.