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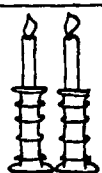
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Shavuot: Seeing Torah as Living Presence

By Nehemia Polen

Neurologist Dr. Oliver Sacks, in his book *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*, describes the case of Dr. P., an accomplished musician and music teacher who developed a strange problem of vision. His ability to identify abstract shapes was unimpaired, but he could not recognize persons. He could focus well enough on specific features — a nose, an ear, a chin — but could not integrate the disparate parts into a meaningful whole. He saw a human face as an abstract puzzle, not as a gestalt, a unity, a person. As Sacks puts it, Dr. P. could not see any face as a Thou; he did not behold.

Many of us suffer from a similar dysfunction with respect to our vision of the Torah. We focus on a particular verse, concept, or bit of Torah wisdom, appropriating it as our own, and neglect much of the rest; we sometimes neglect, in fact, to even see that there is anything else.

Yet the Torah presents itself to us as a whole, as a unified integrated organism with an appearance, a visage, a personality if you will, which is more than the sum of its parts. Truly great students of Torah are able, after many years of assiduous study and contemplation, to see the Torah's face at a glance. This is what is meant when it is said that a *gadol be-Torah* (great scholar of Torah) has achieved *da'at Torah*, or Torah consciousness. Having become intimately familiar with each aspect and feature of Torah, having surrendered himself to Torah, he achieves a kind of indwelling, and is able to meet the Torah face to face, in a single moment of personal gnosis.

This is certainly part of our perennial fascination with such luminaries as Maimonides. It is evident that Maimonides, through his prodigious intellect and insight, arrived at a total view of Torah and Judaism, within which seemingly disparate and even conflicting elements stood integrated and united. Parts of Torah which to lesser mortals may appear to exist in tension — law and philosophy, ritual and ethics, science and faith — were united in his own personality, and in the magisterial organic vision he had of the whole Torah.

It is most significant that Maimonides chose to introduce the *Mishneh Torah*, his comprehensive presentation of the entire system of Torah thought and practice, with the verse

(Continued on Page 26)

Suspicious Fire Claims Connecticut Temple

By Bette Keva
Advocate Staff

In the densely populated working-class city of West Haven, Connecticut, the Jewish community's only synagogue has been burned out, the victim of arson, according to authorities. But while the blaze of May 9 is history, the burning question left among the ashes is, was the act anti-Semitic?

Jewish leaders have been careful not to characterize the fire as being aimed against Jews, but an ominous sign crudely scratched in magic marker on a rear door leaves the question as open as are the charred remains of Congregation Sinai.

At about 4:50 p.m. on Mon-

day, May 9, West Haven firefighters responded to the fire raging inside the Conservative synagogue which serves 187 families. The shul, which was empty at the time, is located on Washington Avenue in a residential neighborhood according to Gerry Cohen, secretary to Rabbi Larry Heimer.

Flames shot out the window, and a thick cloud of black smoke enveloped the area, according to several sources, while firefighters fought to control the three-alarm blaze.

With the aid of a trained dog State Police determined that some type of accelerant had been dumped in several places on the south side of

the building, according to Mike Foley, the Hartford Current reporter who was on the scene. Foley said the indication was that the act was more deliberate and planned out than if someone had simply tossed a Molotov cocktail through a window.

The building erected in 1940 is probably beyond salvaging, according to Gerry Cohen. Most of the damage was confined to the south side where the rabbi's office, administrative offices, classrooms, and small sanctuary are located, she added. All the rabbi's books, office records, copying machine, and addressographs were destroyed, Cohen added.

But the large sanctuary,

the Torahs and other religious artifacts were mostly undamaged, according to Foley. As word of the fire spread congregants returning home from work gathered to watch it, said Foley. The loss was estimated at \$750,000 for the interior articles, and at \$560,000 for the building.

While battling the blaze firefighters discovered a drawing on a rear outside door leading to the kitchen, according to both Foley and Cohen. Crudely scrawled in magic marker was a swastika with the words "Nazi Punk" over it; a drawing of a buttocks with a foot kicking it was labeled "Jew Ass Kickers," said Foley. According to him, nobody recalls having seen the sign prior to the weekend before the fire.

Cohen, who has worked for Congregation Sinai for 22 years, said "I think the drawing had been there for a couple of days." In all her years at the synagogue, she said, there have been swastikas drawn on the building "loads of times. We know it's kids, and nobody gets too upset about it." There have never been acts of destruction to the synagogue before this, she said.

Assistant Police Chief Lester F. Burns pointed out that the parking lot behind the synagogue is a hangout for teens in the 12 to 15 year-old range. Local authorities as well as the State Fire Marshall, State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are on the case. Burns said arson is one of the hardest crimes to solve. Lack of

evidence makes investigations lengthy.

Scott Feigelstein, director of the Connecticut regional office of the Anti-Defamation League was careful not to characterize the blaze as an act of anti-Semitism. He said it is unclear whether the graffiti appeared "a couple of weeks or a couple of days" before the fire.

But even if the graffiti had been drawn over the weekend, he said, "that doesn't prove it is linked" to the arson of Monday.

Feigelstein recalled the dark summer of 1983 when two synagogues and two rabbis' homes were set aflame in West Hartford, at the other end of the state from West Haven.

After considerable speculation (Continued on Page 26)

Newton Man to Get Award from Hebrew U.



Charlotte and Louis Kaitz

Two institutions of higher learning — the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School and the Boston University School of Medicine — will join together on Tuesday, June 7, to pay tribute to a prominent Jewish communal leader, Louis L. Kaitz of Newton.

The dinner will take place at the Hiebert Lounge at the B.U. School of Medicine. At

that time, the American Friends of the Hebrew University will present Kaitz with the Scopus Award, the highest honor given by the American Friends organization.

Co-chairing the event are Alan and Marjorie Tichnor of Newton and Dr. Leonard Gottlieb of Brookline.

In conjunction with the tribute, endowment funds have been established at both medical schools in behalf of the Louis and Charlotte Kaitz Exchange Program which will support in perpetuity (Continued on Page 26)

THOUSANDS FLOCKED to the Esplanade last Sunday to mark Israel's 40th anniversary with a festive party.

Bostonians Throng Israel's 40th

By Steve Rosenberg
Special to the Advocate

Under a blue sky and golden sun more than 10,000 Jews poured into Boston's Esplanade Sunday, to celebrate Israel's 40th Independence Day.

The Esplanade took on the appearance of an Israeli park during holiday season. The Israeli flag flew on the same mast as the Massachusetts state flag. A fifteen-foot combination of blue-and-white balloons forming the number 40 hung over the performing area within the hatchshell; and on the Esplanade green, thousands of families received Israeli flags and blue balloons which swayed with the warm breeze.

Those who arrived early saw the crowds enter. Youth groups stepped onto the Esplanade lawn singing Israeli songs, families pushing toddlers' strollers pointed to Israeli flags and balloons, and bubbles and zaydes carrying lawn chairs looked at the gathering with wonderful amazement. This was a day when Boston's Jews stood strong in their support for Israel and Judaism, a day when emotions ran high, a day when everyone wanted to tell a story about Israel.

"Being here is the greatest feeling in the world," said Malden's Maurice Band, who served as an American volunteer in the Mahal unit during the 1948 War of Independence.

Adell Shigel, an M.D. in Russia for 35 years, and now of Brighton, was bursting with excitement. "I am proud of Israel and what Jewish people are about. I feel so excited so many Jews together," she said.

Two Israeli travelers, Donna Ettlinger of Herzliya and Orli Meshumar of Rehovot, held Israeli flags while listening to the Israeli songs being performed on the stage. There was a hint of homesickness in their voices, as they recounted Independence Day celebrations of years past.

"All of our friends usually meet in the center of town for our town's celebration, and then we go to Tel Aviv for the big celebration," said Donna. Her friend Orli said she goes to either Tel Aviv or Jerusalem on Independence Day. "This year was the special year to be there because it was the 40th," said Orli.

Plymouth's David Kelman, who lived in Israel as a special worker for several years, was enthusiastic about the turnout. "It makes me feel very good because in Israel there's a feeling that Americans are apathetic and don't care. After seeing this, I know we care," he said.

Ami Kollangi, who left Jerusalem in the early 1970s, echoed Kelman's thoughts. (Continued on Page 26)



CHAIRMAN — Patty Cort of Weston has been named chairman of the Annual Meeting of the Young Women's Division of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston to be held on June 5. (See story of page 14)

Peres Confers with Reagan, Given Boost by White House

By David Friedman and Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Reagan administration issued a statement Tuesday that appeared to endorse positions on the Middle East peace process advanced by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The statement, issued by the White House after Peres concluded a 30-minute meeting with President Reagan, said: "While being steadfast in his commitment to Israeli strength and security, the foreign minister has a vision for the future, recognizes the increasing danger of the status quo and understands the negative consequences of passivity and delay in the search for a settlement."

The White House contrasted this position with "those leaders who are

negative, consistently reject new ideas and fail to exploit realistic opportunities to bring about negotiations, making progress impossible. In the end they will have to answer to their own people for the suffering that will inevitably result."

This warning was similar to one made by Reagan after his meeting with Premier Yitzhak Shamir in March. Neither statement mentioned Shamir by name, but both appeared to be aimed at the prime minister, who has steadfastly refused a U.S. proposal that Israel participate in an international peace conference as a prelude to direct negotiations with Israel's Arab neighbors. Peres supports this idea.

When Peres was asked by a reporter at the White House whether the Reagan administra-

tion is supporting him in the upcoming elections in Israel, he replied that the United States does not involve itself in Israeli politics and that Israeli officials do not interfere in American elections.

In Jerusalem, Shamir's office issued a statement playing down the White House remarks, saying the Reagan administration has said such things before. Aides to Shamir said the Prime Minister's Office would have to study the full text of the statement before issuing a formal reply.

Peres emerged from his meeting with Reagan expressing confidence that the president will pursue the Middle East peace process during his summit talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow, which (Continued on Page 26)

Notables to Receive Honorary Degrees from Hebrew College

Leading novelist Cynthia Ozick, distinguished historian Benjamin Halpern and noted philanthropist and businessman Irving W. Rabb will receive honorary degrees at the 64th commencement ceremonies of Hebrew College in Brookline on Sunday, June 5, at 3:30 p.m.

The college's coveted Lown Medal, named for the late industrialist and educator Philip W. Lown, will be bestowed upon Bernard M. Hyatt, editor and publisher of The Jewish Advocate, which is celebrating its 85th anniversary this year.

Ozick, twice nominated for the prestigious PEN (Poets/Essayists/Novelists) Faulkner Award and recipient of the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award for Literature in 1973 and a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1982, will also serve as graduation speaker. She will receive a doctor of Hebrew Literature degree.

Author of *Trust*, *The Pagan Rabbi*, *Bloodshed*, *Leviathan* and *Art and Ardor*,

Ozick has written extensively for the *New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *The New Republic*, *New York Review of Books* and *New York Times Magazine*, and authored eight books, including *The Messiah of Stockholm*, *Metaphor and Memory*, as well as a myriad of articles and reviews that have been translated into Dutch, Italian, Japanese, Hungarian, Arabic and Hebrew.

Halpern, who received a Bachelor of Jewish Education from the College in 1932, the same year that he was graduated from Harvard, served as Richard Koret Professor of Near Eastern and Judaic

Studies at Brandeis University since 1968. He was also a research associate at Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Between 1949 and 1956 he served as director of education and information for the Jewish Agency for Palestine operating out of New York. He has also served Hebrew College as a member of its board of trustees and is former editor of the biweekly *Jewish Comment* and managing editor of *The Jewish Frontier*.

Professor Halpern devoted many years to Zionist activity, serving as a member of (Continued on Page 26)

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Connecticut Temple Fire

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tion following that string of incidents authorities determined that a deranged Jewish teenager had set the fires. For the past two years Shelton, Connecticut (over an hour's drive from West Haven) has been the home of Ku Klux Klan Imperial Wizard James Farrands, according to Feigelson. He confirmed that 15 Klansmen marched around the West Haven downtown green two years ago, raising the American flag and chanting white rights slogans.

"I can't even begin to tie any of this activity together," said Feigelson, "churches and synagogues, by their very nature, are vulnerable." Three days after the blaze occurred, Jewish Defense League members from Boston traveled to West Haven to view the scene. They then gave a press conference outside the burned-out synagogue. JDL director Michael Slomich and eight others were joined by two members of the more militant Jewish Defense Organization, including its leader, Mordechai Levy.

While television cameras rolled, Slomich condemned the arson as a hateful anti-Semitic act which was more appropriate in Nazi Germany or Czarist Russia. Slomich said it wouldn't be tolerated, but stopped short of saying what would be done, besides patrolling the neighborhood. Slomich said he saw swastikas painted on stop signs and on sidewalks in the neighborhood.

The group's appearance set off a storm of anger from New Haven Jewish leaders who then condemned them, saying they were "irrespon-

ble." Arthur Spiegel, president of New Haven Jewish Federation, said they were "exploiting the neighborhood's grief."

Skinheads who have been credited with being the force behind a wave of racist incidents across the country have been in the Yale University (New Haven) area over the past few years, but the fad is apparently wearing thin, according to Lisa Cutler of Cutler's Records and Tapes of New Haven. (New Haven is just outside of West Haven).

"There were more of them two years ago when it became a rage. We don't have too many of them these days. It's a pretty mellow crowd, mostly from Yale," she said.

An outpouring of good will, donations of \$10 to \$1,000, and offers to help have been streaming in, said Cohen. Congregation Sinai held its annual ball at the St. Louis Roman Catholic Church which was donated free of charge. Shabbat services are being held at the West Haven Community, House, compliments of the city.

Israel 40th Thronged

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"This is a show of support," he said, sitting with his wife and children. As he spoke of his memories of Israel, he expressed his desire to return.

"When I hear what's going on over there, I feel I should return. When you're there, you can see the problems in person," he said.

Behind the Chabad stand, where men stood four deep in line to put on tefillin, was Rabbi Shmuel Posner. The bearded rabbi looked out at the thousands of Jews before the Esplanade and smiled.

"The fact that Jews take time out on a beautiful spring day for the purpose of expressing their pride in being Jewish is important. Hopefully, this feeling will carry on. It shouldn't be once a year, but every week," said the rabbi.

Joel Sherman, president of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, and one of the first speakers of the day, said Israel needs

this support from America. Elated at the turnout, he estimated the crowd to be over 10,000.

"It feels terrific," he said. "There's a lot of pride and dignity. Also there's an enormous sense of accomplishment a lot of us can feel good about," he said.

As the ceremonies began, thousands of blue-and-white balloons were released during the playing of Hatikvah, the Israeli national anthem. Students and adult choirs of several Greater Boston congregations and JCCs contributed Israeli songs. Flags flickered, balloons swayed with the wind, mothers danced with their babies, fathers held camcorders, recording everything for the future.

On the other side of the park, camel rides were being provided for children. Parents waved and took pictures of their children, while the kids seemed mesmerized by

the World Zionist Executive, director of the Departments of Education and Information of the Jewish Agency and as secretary general of "Hechalutz." Among his several books are *The American Jew: A Zionist Analysis* and *Jews and Blacks*. He will receive a doctor of Hebrew Literature degree.

Rabb, a founder and current chairman of the executive committee of the Stop & Shop Companies, Inc., is a graduate of Harvard College and its Graduate School of Business Administration. A

the bumpy, shaky ride. Four-year-old Dori Beth Katz, and her younger brother, Adam Michael Katz, descended from the camel into the arms of their parents. "It was fun, I held onto my brother," said Dori Beth.

After the choirs finished, attention shifted to below the Esplanade stage, and to the Tzabar group, Boston's Israeli scout movement, comprised of Israeli youths living in Boston. They were holding their own impromptu concert, singing Israeli songs, dancing the hora, and managing to keep everyone entertained in between acts.

The last act of the day was the Aviv band, made up of local Israeli musicians. They played over two hours of Israeli music, ranging from rock, jazz, and even blues, to soft, haunting Israeli ballads, blending harmonies and words of hope.

The day ended with an encore performance by Aviv, again singing Hatikvah. Then the huge intertwined combination of white-and-blue balloons forming the number 40 was released, rising high into the blue sky, following the path of the Charles. Those who were still there stretched to catch a last glimpse of the number 40. Some remained, talking and laughing with friends. They wished the day would never end.

Zundel Sentenced For Pamphlet

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO (JTA) — District court Judge Ronald Thomas sentenced Ernst Zundel on Friday to nine months in jail for publishing a pamphlet denying the Nazi Holocaust ever took place.

The Toronto publisher and West German citizen was found guilty last week, after a four-month trial, of publishing a pamphlet by a British fascist titled "Did Six Million Really Die?"

Zundel could have received a maximum jail sentence of two years for violating Canada's statutes against spreading "false news." Prosecutor John Pearson had asked for a sentence close to the maximum and a period of probation in which Zundel would be prevented from repeating his claims.

But in denying the probationary period, Thomas declared that "the likelihood of rehabilitation is nil." He stated that Zundel believes in the dogma of Adolf Hitler, is still a follower of National Socialism and will continue to hold his beliefs.

He added: "There was no sign that the community had been tainted by his venom. It is Mr. Zundel who is to be pitied. He has been rejected twice by jurors."

Zundel was previously convicted of the same charges in 1985, receiving a 15-month sentence and a \$5,000 fine. But the conviction was overturned on a technicality and a new trial was ordered.

Addressing Zundel, Thomas said, "Maybe you want to be a martyr and I was tempted to frustrate you." However, the judge said he felt that a message had to be sent out to the public that people "who spread hate in order to foster right-wing beliefs must be punished."

Zundel's lawyer, Douglas Christy, has announced that he will appeal the conviction, based on 31 objections, the major one being Thomas' decision early in the trial to take judicial notice that the Holocaust was a matter of historical fact and could not be disputed in the courtroom.

Degrees

(Continued from Page 1)

past president of Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston and Beth Israel Hospital, he has also served as a trustee for the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for the Aged, Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory, Temple Israel of Boston and the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. He will receive the doctor of Hebrew Laws degree.

Also to be cited at graduation are Carol Ingall, executive vice president of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, who will receive the Sidney Hillson Award; Freda Hamilton, principal of Temple Ohabei Shalom School in Brookline, who will receive the Louis Hillson Award; and Dr. Michael Libenson, associate dean of the college and head of its Prozdor (high school) who will receive the Benjamin Shevach Award.

Ingall was valedictorian of the Hebrew College Prozdor (high school), Class of 1956; Hamilton is a graduate of the College, Class of 1986; Libenson also is a graduate of Hebrew College, Class of 1958.

The Libenson award marks the first time that a mother and son have both received the Shevach award. Mrs. Miriam Gross Libenson of Brighton, who received a bachelor of Hebrew Literature from the College in 1980 and a master of Jewish Education in 1981, received the Shevach award in 1984. Mrs. Libenson formerly taught for 27 years at congregation Mishkan Tefila Religious School in Chestnut Hill.

A total of 11 students will be awarded degrees, nine of them receiving masters. The masters of Jewish Education will be awarded to Shoshana Ben-Horin and Debra Handler, both Brookline; Sarah Klein of Brighton; Chana Leibovitch and Liat Meyerovitch, both Brookline; Narda Oz of Boston and Yigal Tsaidi of Holyoke.

The master of Arts in Jewish Studies will be awarded to Miriam Cohen of Brookline and Debra Rittner of Newton.

Miriam Gerlitz of Brookline will receive a bachelor of Jewish Education and Noga Bechor of Jamaica Plain, a teaching diploma.

Austria's Suffering

By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA (JTA) — Chancellor Franz Vranitzky of Austria rejected the idea that Austrians must bear the burden of collective guilt for the crimes of the Nazi era.

Addressing more than 15,000 persons attending a memorial gathering at Mauthausen on Sunday, the 43rd anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camp by American troops, Vranitzky said more Austrians suffered Nazi persecution than is generally known abroad.

Austria, therefore, ought not accept the thesis of collective guilt, even though Austria was hardly unfriendly to the Nazi regime, said Vranitzky, the leader of the Socialist Party.

He stressed that the suffering of Hitler's victims can be traced back to the guilt of individuals. More than



TRADITION AND TRAUMA — A conference in Judaic Studies at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley was held recently, entitled "Tradition and Trauma," set to coincide with the centenary of the birth of S.J. Agnon, the sole Hebrew writer to receive a Nobel prize for Literature (1966) and the author of numerous works now translated into English. Aharon Appelfeld (shown here) professor at Ben Gurion University, lectured on "The Impact of the Holocaust."



TURNING 80 — Friends of Nathan Buchman, community leader and a benefactor of The Rashi School, the Boston area Reform Jewish Day School, will celebrate his 80th birthday at a dinner dance to benefit The Rashi School. His wife, Jean Rozefsky-Buchman, will chair the Birthday Gala, which will be held on Sunday evening, October 30, at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, and is forming a committee. Call 332-7599.

120,000 inmates died at Mauthausen.

"One can never deal enough with the past," the chancellor said. "We received our identity today through the resistance against the Nazis. The Austrian state is the antithesis of the National Socialist regime of injustice," he added.

But Vranitzky castigated xenophobic tendencies in Austria today, which he called new forms of anti-Semitism.

The memorial gathering was attended by the U.S. ambassador to Austria, Henry Grunwald, and the Israeli charge d'affaires, Gideon Yarden.

Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis presented his cantata, "A Mass for Freedom and Brotherhood, A Cry Against Force and War" which he composed specially for the occasion.

Award from Hebrew U.

(Continued from Page 1)

tuity annual exchanges of medical students and faculty members between the two schools.

Now in its second year, the exchange program has made it possible for five BUSM students to take electives at the Medical School in Jerusalem, while two Israeli medical students have completed rotations in cardiology, nephrology and pulmonary medicine at Boston City Hospital, one of BUSM's major affiliated hospitals.

President of the New England Region of the American Friends of the Hebrew University for the past three years and a national vice president of A.F.H.U., Louis Kaitz has been active in many phases of the life of the Boston Jewish community, including serving as chairman of Major Gifts of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston and associate campaign chairman of Israel Bonds. He is a past president of Congregation Mishkan Tefila and of its Brotherhood.

He is past president of the New England Region of the National Federation of Jew-

ish Men's Clubs as well as national vice president of the group. He is a former vice president of the Synagogue Council of America and has also been involved for many years with the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Solomon Schechter Day School.

Treasurer of the National Lumber Company, Kaitz is past president of the Boston Retail Lumber Association. He received both his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Boston University.

His wife, Charlotte, has been deeply involved in a wide variety of community activities. She is a member of the board of Congregation Mishkan Tefila and serves on the Congregation's Herman H. and Mignon Rubinovitz Museum. A graduate of the Massachusetts School of Physiotherapy, she is a founder and past president of the Community Support Systems of Newton. She is a corporate trustee of the Eunice Shriver Center for Mental Retardation and a life member of the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center.

The Kaitzes have three daughters and five grandchildren.

Peres and Reagan Talk

(Continued from Page 1)

begins May 29.

He told reporters that Reagan promised he would discuss the peace process, the need for Moscow to resume diplomatic relations with Israel and the cause of Soviet Jewry with his Soviet counterpart.

But Peres cautioned that he did not expect an agreement to be reached in Moscow on the peace process, but rather a continuation of the effort by the United States to bring about negotiations between Israel and Jordan.

Peres said that he stressed to Reagan that the peace process is complicated, but that "there is no reason to give up and no reason to feel we have reached the end of the road." He added that "the United States is determined to continue the peace movement and so are we."

Peres said that the Soviets could play a part in the peace process "if they are serious in their support of peace, if they are not enemies of Israel" and if they resume diplomatic relations with Jerusalem.

Noting that Israel and the Soviets have been holding discussions on resuming relations, Peres said, "They have told me what has happened over the last year is almost a drama in the relations between the Soviet Union and Israel, to which I replied, 'Maybe it's a drama, but... it is not dramatic enough.'"

Peres was asked if the Soviet Union and the United States reached an agreement on a peace framework whether Israel could go along, a reference to the split in Israel's national unity government over the wisdom of an international conference, which Premier Yitzhak Shamir opposes.

He replied that there is a consensus for direct negotiations, but since Knesset elections will be held by November, "the people will decide."

In addition to the White House meeting, Peres had five to six hours of talks with Secretary of State George Shultz during his two-day visit to Washington, culminating with a working lunch at the State Department Tuesday.

Shultz is scheduled to return to the Middle East on June 3, after the Moscow summit, to again press his peace proposals. While some experts have called the trip futile, Peres stressed to reporters at the White House that he believes it is necessary for the continuation of the peace process.

He said if Shultz did not go, it would be perceived as an end to the peace process and a return to "the arms race, with the new Chinese toys tempting many immature people," a reference to the Chinese intermediate-range ballistic missiles recently bought by Saudi Arabia. Shultz also stressed the importance of his upcoming trip in remarks

following the State Department lunch.

"The situation is not improving, and the status quo remains unacceptable," he said. "So I am returning to the region to reaffirm our belief that a workable avenue to peace exists."

On Monday night in a speech before the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Foreign Minister Peres sought to assuage American Jewish concern about the deep divisions in Israel over the peace process and other major policy issues.

Quipping that airing differences is one way "we remain Jewish," Peres stressed that pluralism is the strength, not weakness, of a democracy. "The countries that did attack us were united; we were divided. Yet we won the wars; they lost them," he said.

Peres said that Israel's strengths are the ability to unite when necessary and the togetherness of the Jewish people. He stressed that despite their differences, all Israelis are united in their friendship and gratitude to the United States.

While Peres applauded the differences within Israel, two U.S. Senators who spoke at the banquet warned that criticism by Jews and others in the United States may endanger Israel.

"Every criticism saps Israel's energy for dealing with the dangers she faces," Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said. He said there has been an erosion of support for Israel because of the television pictures of Israel's handling of the uprising on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It is not enough for American Jews to support Israel, the rest of our country must as well," McConnell said.

Sen. Sen. J. Bennett Johnson (D-La.) said, members of Congress should keep from pressing solutions on Israel since it is the survival of Israel that is at stake. "It is not up to dilettantes to advise what is the best formula," he said.

Peres did not refer to the uprising in the territories directly, but he said Israel will give Palestinians all their legitimate rights, except the right to attack it. "We shall not censor the minds of Arabs, but we shall not permit anyone to come with a stone, or a knife, or a bomb in his pockets," he said.

The Israeli leader said he was pleased that so many young people were attending the AIPAC conference "to share our mission and our dream and we have to make our mission and our dream clear to them."

Israel has become strong and secure and now seeks peace and security for itself and all of its neighbors, Peres said. "We are determined to keep the State of Israel as Jewish state numerically and as a Jewish state morally," he declared.

Alpert

(Continued from Page 10)

the promotion of peaceful coexistence by greater commercial association between the two groups, and the sharing of various public facilities, thus gradually wearing down the sharp points of difference. But his colleagues, Prof. Yaar, insisted that it is an illusion to think that there is a solution. "We can only work on ways of reducing or easing the tensions. If we seek an ideal solution we shall find none at all."

Those seeking encouragement or promise of a brighter future in the relations between Jews and Arabs in Israel may not have found it in this symposium. The positive element is the fact that such a gathering could take place without animosity.

And perhaps Prof. Baruch Kipnis, of the university's geography department, summed up the situation best

of all. He is an optimist, he said, adding that a pessimist is also an optimist — but one with experience.

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