

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in his speech Peres called the Likud the camp of intimidation and said that in the upcoming elections the contest would be between the camp that believes in a peaceful solution and the camp that sticks to a status quo with no way out.

The defense minister also addressed the Central Committee members. He said that had Israel accepted Shultz' initiative Jordan and Egypt would have followed suit, with the Soviet Union joining the process later. Mr Rabin cautioned that Israel would yearn for Shultz' initiative and noted that the next initiative would be far worse.

Peres Coins 'Campaign Motto'

TA241910 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 24 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Shim'on Peres was unanimously elected chairman of the Labor Party today. This was the fourth time Mr Peres has been elected to the post. More than 1,000 members of the Labor Party's Central Committee were asked to hold an open vote by show of hand on the matter.

After the vote, session chairman Knesset Member David Liba'i announced that only one Central Committee member, Gil Livni, voted against Peres. Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports from the session, which was held at Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] ['Azran] The Labor Party elected Shim'on Peres its leader for the fourth consecutive time. This evening the vote was unanimous and was shared by all the members of the party's Central Committee. This time there were no other contenders for the post, and the Central Party therefore endorsed Shim'on Peres as leader of the Labor Party.

In his acceptance speech, Peres coined a new phrase this evening, a phrase that now appears to be the Labor Party's campaign motto: Shim'on Peres said that the people will have to choose between the camp of intimidation and the camp of hope. He claimed that the former, namely, the Likud and the right, are subverting peace.

[Peres] The camp of intimidation first of all scares itself, and then it proceeds to sow fear among others, including neighbors. In the end it intimidates the whole world. Every move generates fear in that camp: fear of launching negotiations, fear of negotiations, fear of an interim arrangement, fear of a permanent solution. Thus, fear and intimidation are spread in all directions. This causes paralysis, yet the paralysis is described as a supreme achievement.

Israel will not be built upon paralysis. Israel should decide and move on.

[Azran] Later on in his address to the Labor Party Central Committee delegates, Shim'on Peres outlined the elements on which he believes there is a party-wide consensus: There should not be a Palestinian state, existing settlements should not be dismantled, we should not return to the 1967 borders, Jerusalem should remain Israel's capital, no foreign army should cross the Jordan River, and the Palestinian problem should be resolved within a Jordanian-Palestinian framework.

Yet to achieve all the above, it is necessary to choose between negotiations with Jordan and negotiations with the PLO. Peres reiterated that the Labor Party supports negotiations with Jordan. This, he said, should be preceded by an international conference.

According to Peres, the camp of intimidation forestalls and rejects all political solutions, while the camp of hope guarantees peace.

This is the message Shim'on Peres is waving as the 12th Knesset election campaign banner. [end recording]

The Likud faction in the Knesset this evening reacted to Shim'on Peres' remarks that the Likud is the so-called camp of intimidation. It said that the Labor Party is panic-stricken over the prospects of the voters' choice in the upcoming elections. The statement says the Likud will continue to strive for direct talks that will lead to peace in the region.

Knesset Approves State Budget, Details Reported

TA241953 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
24 Mar 88 p 1

[Report by Jerusalem economic correspondent Amnon Atad]

[Excerpt] The Knesset plenum approved the state budget of 52.1 billion Israeli shekels yesterday after the second and third readings; its supplementary laws were also approved. The budget was approved by a majority, and with the objection of Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar (Alignment), Ya'ir Tzaban (MAPAM), Ya'aqov Shamay (Likud), and the HADASH faction.

In accordance with the agreement signed by Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, and Finance Minister Moshe Nisim prior to the cabinet's approval, the budget approved by the Knesset yesterday is for the most part similar to the one approved by the cabinet 2 and 1/2 months ago.

Following final approval of the budget the Alignment may take credit for the aid it attained for kibbutzim and moshavim, while the Likud may take credit for the approval of its and the finance minister's position to terminate the collection of a surtax.

Even after 6 hours of deliberations, representatives of the Health and Finance Ministries failed to bridge the differences regarding the health budget. It was decided that the Treasury's Budget Department director and representatives of the Health Ministry would hold another meeting tomorrow to discuss the disputed clauses.

For the first time, the new budget specifies the names of institutions given special allocations and to what extent. In this context, 8 million shekels will be allocated next year to 115 secular institutions from the Education Ministry's budget, and another 14 million shekels will be transferred from the Religious Affairs Ministry's budget to yeshivas and other religious institutions. [passage omitted]