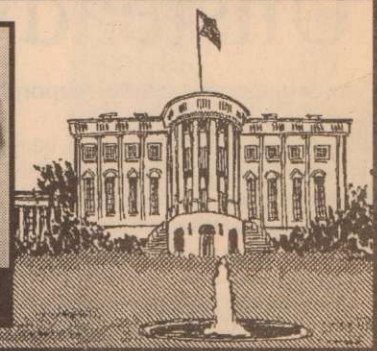


While father Arens is busy on secret missions to China, busy buying and selling arms worldwide, and busy insisting on the deportation of Palestinian activists against universal world condemnation, son Yigal, a research scientist in artificial intelligence at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, is himself busy speaking up against all his father's involvements

From



Mark A. Bruzonsky



Washington

# ONE ARENS VERSUS ANOTHER

TENSIONS within Israel and within American Jewry are considerable these days.

In Israel itself talk of "civil war" isn't heard openly very much -- through President Chaim Herzog did dare to mention the phrase, and did warn of the possibility, in public a few years ago. Still, the Left -- including some establishment personalities -- is becoming more and more alienated; while the radical Right, including some potential successors to Yitzhak Shamir is becoming still more and more fanatical.

Israeli politics is thus today mixing itself into an explosive formula. And this is all the more so as some analysts now foresee basic changes in the US-Israeli relationship; as Israel's economy moves closer to the brink; and as growing social and political tensions become still further exacerbated by the economic difficulties.

Among Jews in the US there's little doubt the established organs of the organised Jewish community are manifest in a new and growing nervousness. The power and clout of the Jewish lobby is more questioned now than in recent years.

Indeed, anticipating the renewal of the debate about \$10 billion of loan guarantees for Israel at a time when the American economy is itself in bad shape, quite a few of the recognised community leaders have begun suggesting -- even in public -- that American Jewry doesn't want to be perceived to be fighting and pushing too hard. And this is a message really being sent to the Israeli leadership: "please work out something with Bush so we aren't caught, once again, in the crossfire".

The political infighting within Jewish and Israeli families is also a very telling sign of the times.

Well-known Israeli operative, and a member of the negotiating team now in Washington, Uri Lubrani, has a daughter living in New York City so alienated from her father's positions that she has pretty much emigrated from the country and is known to consider Israel's government fascist.

But what might be the biggest political schism exists within the Arens family. A possible successor as prime minister to Yitzhak Shamir, Moshe Arens has been blessed with a family which has some members exactly opposite him on the political spectrums.

Moshe Arens' brother, Richard, who died in the mid-1980s, was an American professor who often, vociferously, and eloquently spoke out for Palestinian statehood and against Israeli racism.

While father Arens is busy on secret missions to China, busy buying and selling arms worldwide, and busy insisting on the deportation of Palestinian activists against universal world condemnation, son Yigal, a research scientist in artificial intelligence at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, is himself busy speaking up against all his father's involvements.

With a background, back when he lived

in Israel quite some time ago, with the infamous Matzpen organisation, Yigal has for many years now spoken up in opposition to the very policies his father increasingly has become responsible for.

Yigal often speaks in public at teach-ins, peace rallies, and on talk radio programmes. He is on the advisory committee of The Jewish Committee On The Middle East (JCOME), an organisation comprising thousands of American Jewish academics, intellectuals and activists who are calling not only for a suspension of US aid to Israel but for an end to the "special relationship" with Israel.

But Yigal may be best known in many circles for his profile electronic correspondence.

Using the widespread network of electronic mail conduits -- inter-connecting computer highways that have proliferated extensively in the US in the past few years -- Yigal provides a variety of "services" to those concerned about the Mid-east. He often translate key article from Hebrew. He also answers questions about what's really going on in Israel. And he also often "debates" others in ways that quite literally allow thousands literally scattered all over the world to share in the exchanges.

Take for instance, the current issue -- more expulsions from the occupied territories -- that the UN Security Council unanimously condemned just a few days ago.

Here are two messages recently sent by Yigal Arens about this subject:

**From: Yigal Arens**

**Subject: Some background on Israeli expulsion of Palestinians**

Israel has announced its intention to expel another 12 Palestinians from their homes in the occupied territories. We can safely assume that Israeli spokespeople (official or amateur) will soon be trotting out the usual collection excuses and half-truths on the subject. In preparation, I'd like to present some facts concerning the expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories.

1. Expulsion is not done as punishment for a crime for which the subject was convicted in any court. It is an *administration* measure, simply ordered by some military officer or government official.

2. There is no requirement that the expelled person be told why they are being expelled, nor that there even *be* a reason any more specific than that the expulsion is necessary for "public order" or "state security".

3. The "right of appeal" that is mentioned in connection with expulsion, is thus limited to appeals on narrow procedural grounds, e.g. that the expulsion order was not signed by the right official, or that it was not served in the proper manner. In any case, after hundreds of expulsions, not a single expulsion order has even been overturned.

4. The list of expelled people, this time as well as in the past, is made up

almost exclusively of political activists, labour leaders, student leaders, journalists, and the like. Nobody convicted of, or even merely accused of, major crimes or violence has ever been expelled. Note that Israelis accuse the current collection of people to be expelled of being "inciters".

5. The people to be expelled have no specific connection whatsoever with the recent killings of Israeli settlers. In fact, they are all currently in detention, and were there when the settlers were killed. The expulsion is a form of "collective punishment", where the whole Palestinian community, or some portion of it, are punished for something the Israelis claim some Palestinian did. The political Right in Israel regularly calls for the expulsion of Palestinians (or other form of collective punishment) in retaliation for attacks on Israelis or settlers.

6. Article 49 of the 1949 (Fourth) Geneva Convention on the Protection of War Victims states, among other things: "Individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons (*i.e.*, inhabitants of occupied territory -- YA) from occupied territory to the territory of the Occupying Power or to that of any other country, occupied or not, are prohibited regardless of motive.

Yigal Arens  
USC/ISI

**From: Yigal Arens**

**Subject: Concerning Expulsions**

Recently I wrote:

... I'd like to present some facts concerning the expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories.... 4. ... Nobody convicted of, or even merely accused of, major crimes or violence has ever been expelled.

Well, just to prove me wrong the Israelis go and do things differently. *The Los Angeles Times* today (January 6, 1992) reports that one of the 12 they currently plan to deport is serving time in prison for the killing of a Palestinian collaborator with the Israeli occupation forces.

It is still the case, as I pointed out earlier, that the deportation is in no way judicially related to this conviction.

Yigal Arens  
USC/ISI

Yigal Arens hardly ever mentions his famous father in public. He wants to be involved on his own, not just invited to speak up because of his "family connections". And he seems to manage the balance pretty well.

But there's no getting away from the connection, of course. Just as there's no getting away from the ongoing polarisation, both among Israeli Jews and among American Jews, that may be leading to far greater intra-Jewish tension and conflict than has been the case during previous decades.