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Subseries 1: General Files, 1949-2004.

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Box  
65

Folder  
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Peres, Shimon. 1979-2004.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the  
American Jewish Archives website.

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The David and Goldie  
Blanksteen  
Lectureship in  
Jewish Ethics  
of Yale Hillel

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# Shimon Peres

*What Risks Must a Nation  
Take for Peace?*

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Battell Chapel  
February 11, 1997

Co-sponsored with the  
**Chubb Fellowship**  
of Timothy Dwight College

Peters at Battell Chapel - Yale  
with Blankstein - CHTB3 auspices  
overflow crowd  
tremendous applause

Pres. Levin introduced, with story of his youth in San Fran synagogue counting light bulbs + learning Micah's justice, mercy, humility.

Powers - what makes a nation strong is not size - of territory or population but the system by which the nation is run. With science, technology, communications, etc. borders have no meaning.

The world has changed.

For 50 years we fought our neighbors as the real danger. But the danger is an idea - i.e. Islamic Fundamentalism.

This idea is growing - and jumps borders.

We feel we needed to change our strategy strategy vis-a-vis the Arabs. We must free ourselves from physical confrontation and start to make peace.

It requires compromise.

Not like a credit card, where you acquire the commodity and pay later. In peace-making, you pay first and will only get the item later (possibly).

People have to get used to this new approach. They called Rubin a traitor, and he despaired that we were trying to force a peace policy which the people didn't want.

Description of Rubin assassination.

After, I asked myself what should I do?

The Arabs started the term -  
but bombings  
The people should - why are  
you (the leaders) doing this to us?  
Is this peace? I could feel  
that already the elections  
elections were lost.

We lost by 16,000 votes  
My heart was full of sadness -  
but my mind was clear - we  
had to continue on the peace  
path for the sake of the future.

In spite of the loss of elections  
peace is winning. The other  
party lost their ideology.

The Americans never forced,  
but assisted, in an unbelievable  
odd role, the two sides to  
make their compromises.

American Constitution is the  
source of American strength.

America chooses freedom and peace  
as its objectives. And asked  
nothing for itself after the victory  
of WW II - gave Japan and  
Germany back their lands and  
helped them rehabilitate themselves.

Armies cannot conquer  
wisdom + knowledge.

Education, science, technology,  
economics + political freedom  
are the sources of future strength.

2.11.97

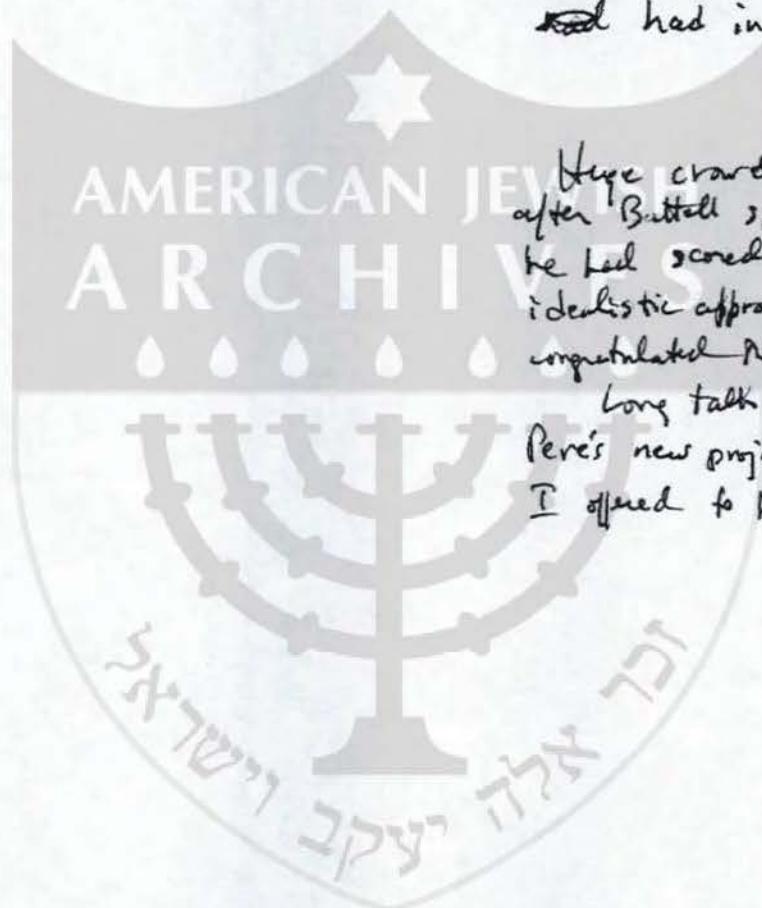
In small gathering in  
Peres' suite in Colony Inn,  
he asked me what I was  
doing there. I said I had  
made special trip to New Haven  
just to hear him speak.

He said, for all to hear,  
that I was one of the greatest  
orators the Jewish people & Israel  
~~had~~ had in this century.

Later

Huge crowd at Sifra Center  
after Bettell speech. I told Peres  
he had scored a "Bull" with his  
idealistic approach. And I  
congratulated the Blanksteins.

Long talk with Avi Gill regarding  
Peres' new project (Institute for Peace).  
I offered to help. He was pleased.



716103

Jerusalem, 6 September 1993

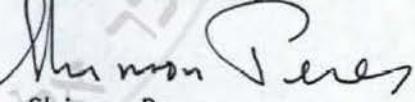
Dear Herb,

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

Thank you for your encouraging words of support.

Best wishes and שנה טيبة.

Yours Sincerely,

  
Shimon Peres

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman  
The Wexner Heritage Foundation  
551 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10022

83410

Jerusalem, 24 August, 1994

Dear Herb,

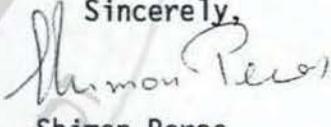
AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

Thank you ever so much for your kind letter and warm words of encouragement.

I greatly appreciate your support which gives me the strength needed to face the tasks that lie ahead.

Wishing you all the best and "Shana Tova".

Sincerely,



Shimon Peres

Shimon Peres

Mr. Herbert A. Friedman  
The Wexner Heritage Foundation  
551 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10022

83515

Jerusalem, 16 September, 1994

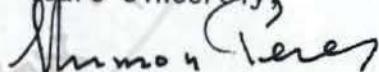
Dear Mr. Friedman,

Further to our telephone conversation, I am pleased to enclose a copy of the project on "Leadership Initiative" which was forwarded to me by the Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. Abdel Salam Majali.

I have asked Consul-General Colette Avital to arrange a meeting between Mr. Wexner and myself during my upcoming visit to New York and I would be grateful if you would pass on to him the enclosed material, which will serve as a basis for our discussion.

I thank you in advance for all your assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Shimon Peres

Mr. Herb Friedman  
Wexner Foundation  
551 Madison Avenue  
New York  
N.Y. 10022

The Wexner Heritage Foundation

551 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
212 355 6115  
Fax 212 751 3739

September 20, 1996

Hon. Shimon Peres  
Knesset  
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Shimon,

I read recently that you have decided not to run for party leader in the next Labor Party election, and therefore not as candidate for Prime Minister in the next general election.

If that information is accurate, I hasten to send congratulations! It is a very wise decision. You have done your work, from an historic point of view. Exactly forty years ago you put Israel on the path toward military strength and deterrent capability. Three years ago, you put her on the path toward ultimate peace. This closes the circle.

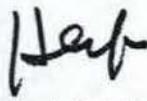
The back-ward looking, Shamir-type of foot-dragging, manifested by Likud and Netanyahu is not a policy which will last long. Your dream of the Middle East, with all the compromises which are required to bring it about, will triumph and become acceptable to the great majority of Israelis.

Then, from your position as a senior voice for reason, you will continue to be heard, both in Israel and in the world at large. You can roam the biggest stage, offering sage advice, and also working behind the scenes influencing your successors who will head the next Labor government. This might be the most important thing you can do, in the near future, because not one of the people pushing themselves forward today, has your wisdom or experience. Somehow you must obtain their confidence, so that they will automatically turn to you for advice and suggestions.

Assuming that your health permits, the next ten years might turn out to be the most fruitful period of your entire public career. The Likud leadership will crumble internally and disintegrate. Then its government will fall. Your task will be to insure that Labor's next top leadership is imbued with your idealism and vision and goals. No longer burdened by the daily details and crises of active leadership, you can do your best work through speaking, writing, mobilizing support from all the world leaders who know you.

My best regards for a healthy and successful New Year and New decade.

With warm friendship

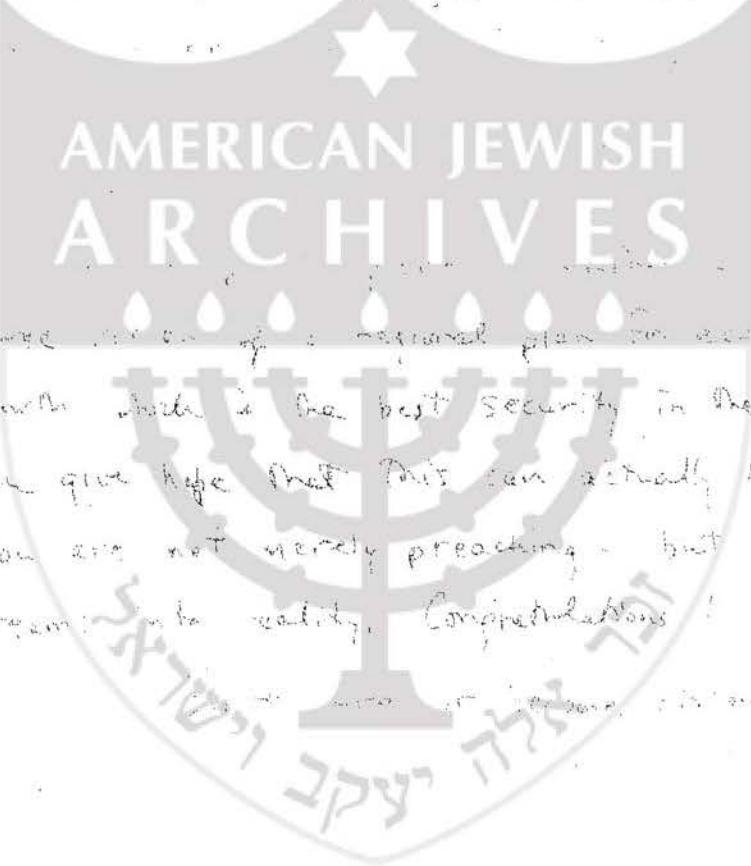
  
Herbert A. Friedman

Herbert A. Friedman

8/8/94

Dear Shimon,

As the hectic pace of the years  
work slows down, I am finding time to catch up  
on reading, and I just finished your newest



## AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

work. One of a regional plan for education,  
growth which is the best security in the long run,  
for give hope that this can actually happen.

You are not merely preaching - but translating  
your vision to reality. Congratulations!

With much for the ultimate success for education  
in your lifetime and mine

As ever,

Herb

The Wexner Heritage Foundation

551 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Huntington Center Suite 3710  
41 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

212 355 6115 New York  
614 464 2772 Ohio

H.E. Shimon Peres  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Jerusalem, Israel

20 June 1995

Dear Shimon,

Two hours after your speech in the stadium at Ohio State University, while you were visiting the new Hillel House, I received a telephone call from the assistant to the President of the university. He was lavish in his praise of you, commented on the unusual applause in the middle of the speech, described your appearance as a "home-run" for both you and the university. You should take great satisfaction in the fact that this large audience of middle America responded so well to your words and ideas. You won the average non-Jewish American to Israel's side. Ohio is not cynical sophisticated Washington. The heartland of this nation was approving of your position and you.

On a personal note, I've just finished "Battling for Peace" and loved it. It reads like a novel in many places, for events are described in an exciting style, briefly, and even with suspense - although the outcome is already known to the reader. (This last clause will not apply to readers in 2025.) I liked the honesty with which you noted your relations with Yitzhak, Golda and other key players, as well as the directness, but not boastfulness, with which you took credit for achievements which were rightfully your work - nuclear power, Entebbe, Oslo, etc. I've read everything you have written, and this book is the best.

The Wexner Heritage Foundation

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Columbus, Ohio 43215

212 355 8115 New York  
614 464 2772 Ohio

Because I know your desire for accuracy, I hope you will not mind my pointing out what I think are two small errors:

1. On page 59, and repeated on page 257, you wrote that Ben Gurion "revisited the Jewish displaced persons' camps in Europe, accompanied by the Allied commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower...". To the best of my knowledge that is not accurate. The war ended in May 1945 and Eisenhower left the European Theatre in September. In those few months Eisenhower did visit a D.P. camp, but I don't think Ben Gurion visited Germany, let alone revisited, during that period.

Ben Gurion did visit a D.P. camp, Babenhausen, in the fall of 1946, en route to the first post-war Zionist Congress in Basle. I obtained his entry permit into the U.S. Occupation Zone of Germany, and accompanied him to that particular camp which suffered from low morale. He was attended by Mordecai Surkis. There were 6000 persons in the camp, and the entire population was standing in a large garage. He spoke, with feeling and empathy, assuring them that the American Army and the world Jewish organizations would protect and care for them, that the Yishuv was waiting for a political solution which would enable them to join the homeland. He finished with these words: "I come to you with empty pockets. I have no certificates, but I do have hope that we will bring you to Palestine. Let us sing the song of hope - Hatikvah." As he stepped down from the platform he was crying.

2. On page 78, you wrote that "Yehuda Arazi...was captain of the *Exodus*...who led his refugee passengers in their headline-making hunger strike while anchored off Naples..." Yehuda was a wonderful man and one of the senior officers of the Aliyah Bet, but he was not the captain of the vessel.

That person was Ike Aronowitz, still alive in Israel, I think. And the hunger strike took place off the French coast, near Marseilles at the small Port du Bouc from which the ship had originally departed, loaded with 4000 persons. I had helped bring many truckloads of them to a holding camp in the hills behind Marseilles.

There is a man living in Tel Aviv for the past 40 years who was a crew member of the *Exodus* - an American by the name of Murray Greenfield. He might be an interesting guy for you to spend 10 minutes over a coffee. He has co-written a book on the Aliyah Bet. Ask him to bring you a copy\*

On the main subject - keep going - your plan is right. Don't worry about the '96 election. Labour will win, if you and Yitzhak remain on the same wave length, if Shabak and Mossad keep the Iranian gangs under control, and if Likud remains in disarray. The Third Way will not achieve much, and Sharansky's seats will come into your coalition. So you will remain in power, with several more years to complete your work. You will see the final handshake with Syria, and then you can think of retiring.

With best wishes,

\*Greenfield's address is:

Murray Greenfield  
2 Shamir St.  
Tel Aviv 69693

tel. 3 - 414563  
fax. 3 - 6427588

FAXED 2/21/95

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551 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
212 355 6115  
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41 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
614 464 2772

February 21, 1995

Dear Shimon,

Thanks again for telephoning me concerning the invitation from Ohio State University. It was very kind of you, in the midst of all your meetings in Washington.

This university is located in Columbus, Ohio, which is Les Wexner's hometown. So he is very eager for you to accept that invitation. The date is June 9th. They give you an honorary degree, and you have an opportunity to give a speech outlining your ideas for a New Middle East policy. By now you have seen the formal invitation from the president of the university. Please fax either Les or me.

His fax number is: (614) 476-7214

My fax number is: (212) 751-3739

Best regards,

*Herb Friedman*

551 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
212 355 6115  
Fax 212 751 3739

March 28, 1996

Prime Ministers Office  
Jerusalem, Israel  
Via Fax: 011-972-2-664838

Dear Shimon,

Just a quick note to report that I saw you last night on CNN (Larry King) and thought your presentation was excellent.

You were cool, patient, compassionate, determined, strong. Your message came across clearly: you want peace and you want security.

You did look a bit tired - so, my friend, since your health is crucial, take an hour in the afternoon for a nap. I am five years older than you, so I can presume to give you this advice.

Your humble servant,



Herb Friedman

**Herbert A. Friedman**

The Wexner Heritage Foundation

551 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

212 355 6115  
Fax 212 751 3739

4 August, 2000

Dear Shimon,

My heart is with you at this moment, and even more for Israel as a whole. A few mean-spirited politicians and religious leaders have badly served the nation with their childish pettiness

For six decades you plowed every field and your fruits gave the country strong weapons, great dreams, many allies on all continents, and above all, the concept of a region-wide peace which must begin with peace-making on its own territory with its most immediate fellow-inhabitants.

What a great president you would have been! World leaders, all of whom know you, would have welcomed you everywhere, listened to you, and through you the name of Israel would have glowed.

But rather than dwell on these hopes for a presidential term of which you and Israel have been deprived, I would beg you to forge ahead as the powerhouse you are, pushing for all the goals you have articulated all your life. There is a strong possibility that your freedom as "Citizen Peres" will be more powerful than the circumscribed role which "President Peres" would be obligated to follow.

The poetry that lies in your soul and the intellect of your brain will shape Israel's future in the next decade of your service more than would be possible in the ceremonial ritual of president.

I write this letter, Shimon, because of the deep personal feeling I have for you, second only to Ben-Gurion, accompanied by my love for Israel now entering a frightening period.

Overcome your sadness or disappointment. Rejoice in your health, vigor, and capacity for idealism. Your dreams will prevail. I have no doubt.

With respect and affection,

Jerusalem, 1 November, 1993  
81463

Mr. Herbert A. Friedman  
The Wexner Heritage Foundation,  
New York  
Fax: (212) 751-3739

Dear Herb,

## AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

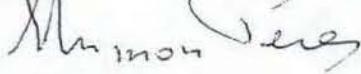
Thank you for your letter of 25/10/1993 regarding the establishment of the committee on Israel-Diaspora relationship.

I need hardly reiterate to you how strongly I feel about this subject which must remain uppermost in the minds of Israeli and Jewish leadership especially in light of the recent developments in the peace process.

I understand that Uri Gordon will be contacting you in New York in the next few days.

In the meantime please accept my warmest wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Shimon Peres

The Wexner Heritage Foundation

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New York, New York 10022  
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Fax 212 751 3739

Huntington Center Suite 3710  
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Columbus, Ohio 43215  
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October 25, 1993

The Honorable Shimon Peres  
Foreign Minister  
Jerusalem, Israel

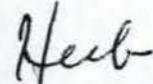
Dear Shimon:

I read an announcement in the JTA Daily News bulletin that you had appointed Uri Gordon to head a new committee to prepare for a changing relationship between Israel and Diaspora Jews. You were quoted as saying there will be "many new opportunities for economic and spiritual cooperation." Gordon was quoted as saying "I am talking about a new conception, a completely fresh look at the problem, but without connection to the WZO or The Jewish Agency."

I loved the statement you made in New York earlier this month concerning the need for American Jews to preserve their identity, to teach their children Jewish history and the Hebrew language. My thinking is exactly along those lines. I have some unconventional ideas which I would like to share with you and Gordon. I do not want to put these ideas on paper and send them through open channels which everyone can see. I am beginning to discuss these ideas very privately with communal leaders, one person at a time.

Is Uri coming through New York in the month or two? Are you? I have no plans to come to Israel in the next few months. What do you suggest?

As ever,



Herbert A. Friedman

HAF/jf

Fax number for Wexner Heritage Foundation  
212-751-3739

The Wexner Heritage Foundation

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New York, New York 10022  
212 355 6115  
Fax 212 751 3739

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Columbus, Ohio 43215  
614 464 2772

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August 30, 1993

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres  
Jerusalem, Israel

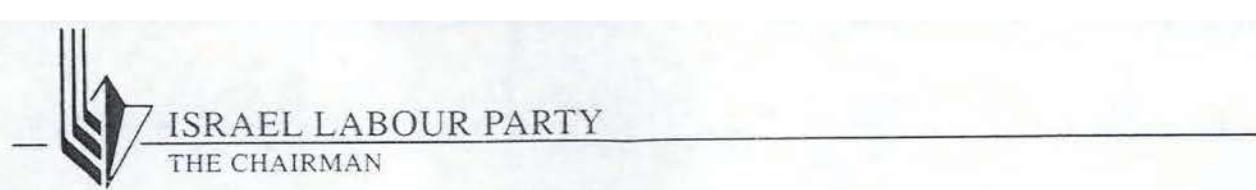
Dear Shimon:

Very favorable reaction here to New York Times front page stories Sunday and Monday on potential Gaza-Jericho Agreement and Israel-PLO discussions. I know how hard you have been pursuing this track. Congratulations. Keep up the good work and watch your health.

Best personal regards,



(Rabbi) Herb Friedman



1-AUG-1991

Mr. Herbert A. Friedman  
The Wexner Heritage Foundation  
551 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Herbert,

## AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

I received your letter introducing Evan Muney and his interest in a position as Parliamentary assistant and your sincere recommendation.

At the moment the Knesset is out for summer recess.

However, if he can contact my Tel Aviv bureau, it would be my pleasure to talk to him and to help him in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Shimon Peres

VICE PREMIER  
AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ממלא מקום ראש הממשלה  
ושר החוץ

Jerusalem, November 27, 1988  
Ref.: 917

Mr. Herbert A. Friedman  
500 East 77 Street, Apt. 2519  
New York, N.Y. 10162

Dear Herb,

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

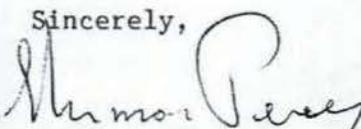
Thank you for your letter of November 16, 1988.

I have already been in the opposition, and am not frightened by it. What does concern me deeply is the future of Israel -- as you so aptly put it at the end of your letter.

The problem, of course, is not only the Law of Return, but also the peace momentum. I am afraid that in light of the results of the elections (which gave the religious parties the casting vote), we will remain without the Law of Return (the present Knesset may well produce a majority for its amendment) and without a peace process. Four years ago we lost the chance to form a government because we refused to meet the religious parties' demand for such an amendment. This time, we will probably lose it again -- and remain without both: without the Law of Return and without the peace process.

But this, apparently, is our fate. And even in such circumstances we will not change our colors or compromise our principles.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,  
  
Shimon Peres

HERBERT A. FRIEDMAN  
500 EAST 77 ST. - APT. 2519  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10162

November 16, 1988

Mr. Shimon Peres  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Shimon:

In all the decades we have known each other, I have never once presumed to offer you any political advice, or even to express my own political opinions to you.

But now I must, for I fear that the Likud government-in-formation will establish policies which will utterly change the nature of the State of Israel, and thus alter its future. These policies may even uncouple Israel from the Jewish Diaspora and the United States government.

I am urging you to adopt two basic principles:  
both ? ? :

1. Stay out of any so-called unity government with Likud and its ultra-right wing partners, nationalist and religious. That is not where Labor belongs. You will have no influence in such a coalition; you will not modify the other points-of-view; and you will slowly wither (as L"3 did when it joined Begin in 1977).
2. Do not invite the religious parties to join you, if Labor is offered the opportunity to form the government. The logic which prompted Ben Gurion to form '196'א נ'ג' is not applicable today. Three of the religious parties do not even recognize the State as an authority. How shabby that they should demand such an exorbitant price for their seats. Don't cheapen yourself by dealing with them.

Now, as to one positive principal:

1. Become a fighting opposition, staying "in the political wilderness" as Churchill called it - trying your best to bring the Likud government down. It might not be as hard as you think. Much of the population of Israel regrets the election, and, if given another chance, might

vote differently. Anyhow, whether you succeed in bringing them down, or not, at least your hands will be clean, and historically you will remain true to the ideals of classical Zionism, centrist Judaism, and true democracy. In the long run this will enable you to gain the respect of the young. When they come to your side, you will once again control the political scene.

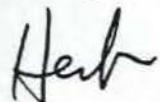
Last word: American Jews and Americans in general are totally committed to the absolute separation of church and state. There are dozens of Supreme Court cases on this issue. Everyone recognizes that this separation is harder to achieve in Israel, because Judaism possesses both a faith and a polity. But no one has patience with theocratic tendencies in the 20th century.

Further, when Shamir adds fundamentalist religion to almost-fascist super-nationalism, he has created a witch's brew which will explode in his face. It will simply be impossible to live with. At least 50% of Israeli Jewry; 90% of Diaspora Jewry and 100% of the American government and public will become alienated from an Israel acting on the basis of annexation, "transfer", settlements and theocracy. People will simply desert such an Israel.

You must not join it - rather should you stay far away from it - and let it destroy itself, preferably with some help from you. Then Israel can reform its electoral system, and start to rebuild on a better track.

The first 40 years have been very successful, generally speaking, in terms of what has been achieved in many fields. Israel has built a strong and secure base. In the future, there are few limits to the height which Israel can climb - in knowledge, technology, human welfare and a model government, based on justice and mercy. Get past the anachronistic episode of this election, which is a left-over from 19th century out-moded definitions of nationalism and religion. Then go forward to the 21st.

In friendship,



HAF/jf  
Enc.

# Shamir Is Asked to Form Cabinet; Religious Right Is Supporting Him

By JOEL BRINKLEY  
Special to The New York Times

JERUSALEM, Nov. 14 — President Chaim Herzog formally invited Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir today to form Israel's next government. The move came after leaders of two rigorously Orthodox parties advised the President that they had decided to support Mr. Shamir's Likud party.

As he accepted President Herzog's invitation today, Mr. Shamir publicly pledged to work for a new coalition government in which the Labor Party would be a junior partner, but not share power as it has for the last four years.

"I turn to all of parties who will agree to participate in a government under my leadership, including the Labor Party," he said. "I believe such a government today can answer the problems of the nation." Later he said he would call Labor Party leaders for a meeting in the next few days.

Likud and Labor have shared power equally the last four years; they have rotated the prime ministership, each party holding it for 25 months. But the shared-power arrangement has caused a deadlock on most issues and bitter feelings from both sides.

## 'Two Voices'

If a national unity government is formed again, "there has to be a change in the current arrangement," Mr. Shamir said. "Israel can't have a government that speaks in two voices."

Labor Party figures were divided on whether they would be willing to join Mr. Shamir's government as a junior partner. At a meeting of Labor Party officials today, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin offered the view that Labor should try at any price to prevent the establishment of a narrow government of right-wing and religious parties, the army radio reported. For that reason,

Mr. Rabin said, Labor should be willing to join a national unity government.

Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, on the other hand, was "dubious about dealing with Likud," a Labor official said. No decision was reached.

In the elections on Nov. 1, Likud and its allied right-wing parties won 47 seats in the 120-member Parliament. The four religious parties won 18 seats, giving them a kingmaker's role if they join in a coalition to produce a 61-seat majority.

In inviting Mr. Shamir to form a new government, Mr. Herzog said, referring to the Israeli Parliament, "It has become clear to me without a doubt that the parties which comprise a majority of the Knesset today support giving the job of forming a government to the Prime Minister, Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud's candidate."

Under Israel's election law, Mr. Shamir now has 21 days to reach formal agreement with six small parties that have thus far only stated a preference for Mr. Shamir without actually agreeing to join his government. Politicians and analysts said reaching those agreements — reconciling the many competing interests among the seven parties involved — was far from

In return for their support, Mr. Shamir has promised the religious parties control of four cabinet ministries — Interior, Housing, Education and Religion — and subordinate positions in other ministries as well, including Labor, Welfare and Treasury.

He also promised the parties that he would assure passage of laws to restrict public activities on the Jewish Sabbath and redefine who is Jewish under Israel's Law of Return.

The three rigorously Orthodox religious parties had stated a preference for Likud from the outset, but since the elections they have hinted they might join Labor instead. Late Sunday night the two largest of them, Shas and Agudat Israel, finally committed themselves to Likud, even though "Labor offered us more," as Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, head of the Shas party, said.

In many Israelis' minds, that seemed to confirm the speculation that the parties had been flirting with Labor these last two weeks only to wrest more concessions out of Likud.

Tens of thousands of Israelis have been protesting the inclusion of the religious parties in the next government; more than 20,000 people attended a protest rally in Tel Aviv on Saturday night, calling for reform of the electoral system to insure that a small bloc like the religious parties can no longer be kingmakers.

And even as President Herzog offered Mr. Shamir the chance to form a new government today, he too called for reform of the nation's electoral system, which he said "should be adapted to the 20th century."

Late Sunday night, David Levy, a Deputy Prime Minister, quit as head of the Likud negotiating team, saying he was disgusted that Likud had continued to yield to pressures from the rigorously Orthodox.

Even the National Religious Party, which is Orthodox, not ultra-Orthodox, called for a national unity government today. Zevulun Hammer, a member of Parliament from the party who is Minister of Religious Affairs, said the protracted negotiations up until now "demonstrated that it's possible to pressure the Likud and get things out of them through force and all types of tough pressures."

As a result, he added, "we think there's a need to create a much more stable kind of government than the narrow coalition that has been formed."

Mr. Hammer's party is at odds with the rigorously Orthodox parties — Shas, Agudat Israel and Degel HaTorah — that are considered "non-Zionist," meaning they do not accept the Israeli Government's right to govern the country. Inter-party conflicts like that are part of the reason Mr. Shamir's job in the next three weeks is not expected to be easy.

But Mr. Shamir is also facing unusually harsh protests from American Jews, who are angry about his promise to the religious parties that he would insure enactment of the amendment that would recognize only Orthodox conversions, not Reform or Conservative ones.

Videotaped interview  
in Israel  
Feb 2, 87

1. At center of Israel's defense affairs most of his adult life.
2. Head of Navy Department at Defense Ministry when 26.
- 2a. Head of Israeli Supply Mission in U.S. - 1950 - age 27.
3. Director-General of Defense Ministry at 29.
4. Architect of Franco-Israel policy 1955-56.
5. Deputy Defense Minister under B.G. and Eshkol 1959-1965.
6. Rafi Party, Secretary-general.
7. Minister for the Administered Territories under Golda.
8. Minister for Immigrant Absorption.  
" of Communications
9. Minister of Defense
10. Prime Minister
11. Foreign Minister

1a. You have been concerned with military affairs & defense almost all your life. You built the French connection - and strengthened the American connection. How do you view Israel's military posture today?

QUESTIONS FOR PERES

1b. But there is another, perhaps deeper side of you - the ethical and philosophical. You said, in "David's Sling", (p. 257) p. (1)

1c. Do you still believe that Israel feels the moral imperative

to help other states? (See your statement Page 291) (p. 4)

in Africa, Asia, So. America. Does this reflect the mood of Israel's people and government?

2. Are you discouraged to realize that Israel is still an occupation power after 20 years? Should Israel adopt a policy of unilateral withdrawal from a disarmed West Bank, as Dayan suggested?

4. Do you think there is any real possibility of Israel becoming a university center for the Jewish people? ~~How~~ What would you do to achieve this (See your statement - page 298) (p. 7)

5. How do you see the solution of the internal religious conflict? While there probably cannot be separation of church and state in Israel, can there be separation of religion and politics? It is absolutely crucial. Pluralism is necessary.

6. What practical things can Israel do--what policies can she consistently follow - to open up another chapter in the emigration of Soviet Jews?

3. You once spoke of "integrated economic activities" between the Israeli + Arab communities. Otherwise the Arabs will become "hewers of wood and drawers of water." Is this still, in fact, what has happened?

7. Do you see the possibility of electoral reform, so that coalition government will not be at the mercy of minority religious parties?

8. What do you believe about <sup>man kind</sup> man, in general, and the Jewish man <sup>woman</sup>, in particular. Do you have faith in goodness + progress?

SHIMON PERES

WHO RULES ISRAEL?

Elizur and Salpeter

P.39        The whole complex of Israel's relations with France, her main military supporter and unofficial ally, was under the control of the Ministry of Defense. This seems to be the root of Mrs. Meir's deep resentment of Shimon Peres, then Deputy Minister of Defense, and Ben Gurion's close collaborator.

P.77ff        Born in small town in Poland in 1923 - came to  
Palestine in 1934.

Came to Ministry of Defense as assistant to Eshkol, then D-G. Meet Ben Gurion, who appointed him in 1950 (age 27) to be head of Israeli Supply mission in U.S. Upon return to Israel in 1952 - became D-G.

He expanded military industries - and developed  
relationship with French to buy things Israel didn't make - tanks, etc. Later he was decorated with Legion of Honor.

He served as deputy secretary-general in enlarged Maarach party (when Mapai, Rafi and Achdut Avda all merged) - finally made it into Cabinet in 1969 as Minister of Immigrant Absorption. In 1970 became Minister of Communications.

DAVID'S SLING

by Shimon Peres

249 Two basic factors in Israel's development.

1. Keep one hand on the defensive sword.
2. Adapt the other hand to the scientific or technological revolution.

~~240dd~~ Arab analogy of Zionism and Crusades is false:

1. Crusades were a religious movement, not intended to resettle a country; mostly males, never more than 50,000 at any one time, and soldiers who intended to return home to Europe.
2. Zionism is a national-political movement to develop a homeland, with millions of people, who had no other.

250ff 254ff The other analogy of Israel with Sparta is also false:

1. Sparta considered itself a military elite state.
2. Israel has no military class - it has a civilian army.

257 "If Israel were free of threats, she would devote all her creative energies to raising her own living standards and to helping her neighbours improve theirs - neighbors who gained their independence roughly at the same time, and whose real enemies are not Israel, but poverty, chronic disease and illiteracy. Is there no hope of changing the situation, not by violence but through peaceful means? That is the question which nags us all in Israel."

\* I think that both the desires and the experience of Israel call for a policy based on the following principles:

1. The Arab community under Israel control should not be cut off from the Arab world. Dayan instituted the "Open Bridges" policy.
2. The Arabs who live under Israel authority have all the rights of a group with its own specific identity - language, schools, newspapers, Jordanian currency and passports, etc.
3. The Israeli presence in The West Bank has a historic basis - far greater than that of Jordan. Control of the territory is not designed to control the lives of the inhabitants.
4. Israel recognizes her obligations to offer the same religious facilities to the Arab Christians and Moslems in The West Bank as she affords to all the inhabitants in the rest of Israel. Access to all the Holy Places is free and undisturbed.
5. As an Israeli, I am concerned with the refugee problem principally from the moral aspect and would wish to see it solved; but I doubt whether solving it would automatically bring peace to the Middle East. The refugee problem was created by Arab leaders and a solution could have been found long ago in the vast territories at the disposal of the Arab States, but the Arab leaders are cruelly indifferent to the fate of their own people.
6. Integrated economic activities between the Israeli and

Arab communities should be encouraged. This should be carefully planned, to avoid the creation of two economic classes, demarcated along national lines. Otherwise, the Arabs will become the "hewers of wood and the drawers of water."

7. The immediate contribution of the Israel presence in the West Bank should be expressed in improved public services. The school network should be extended, colleges set up, and even an Arab university established in the territory, if the Arab community wanted it, with Israel's help. Hospital and sanitation services should be widened, and social welfare facilities granted to the most needy. Electricity and running water should be brought to the villages and townlets, the telephone system developed and more roads and communal buildings constructed.

---

#### Summary

- 279 "Practical cooperation between the two communities may well be the background against which a bridge can be built, however, long and narrow. In time, this may replace the heavy barrier of hatred and violence which has tragically and uselessly kept the two nations apart for the last 20 years. When that day comes, the bridge will be given a political name. After all, children are given their names only after they are born."

- 
- 288-9 "Israel should be considered not only a Middle Eastern but

also a Mediterranean state. There is no cause for a military clash between the north African States and Israel. There is room for cooperation and mutual projects in many fields, between us and them. Also, Israel is closer to Greece, Italy, Turkey and France than to Saudi Arabia or Yemen, both culturally, economically and even geographically."

---

291 "With all Israel's military victories and the high reputation of her army, the true ambition of Israel is to be known for her social development in health, education and welfare, and to be a giver - to contribute to the improvement of the lot of man and his surroundings.

This philosophy, combined with experience and technical aid, is what prompts and enables Israel to help other States to fashion their own society — states who are willing to benefit from the lessons learned by our country who was herself the recipient of aid and who progressed to a position from which she could extend aid to others."

---

295-6 "To leave this metaphor, the parents of the present Jewish generation spent much of their time at the synagogue. The sons of the present generation go to university. In the synagogue there were only Jews. In the university there are also Jews. In the synagogue they came to pray. In the university they come to learn. The earlier generation yearned. The new generation plans."

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"Nor is Judaism embarrassed in its encounter with modern science. Judaism had no need to rehabilitate Galileo, for it had never condemned him. Judaism never found the truths of the new sciences a challenge to its own. This is no doubt because Judaism by its very nature was not really a religion in the generally accepted sense. Indeed, the Hebrew for religion is 'dat', but it is not an accurate translation. The word 'dat' means 'law', and Judaism is a code of ethics and a body of commandments governing a way of life based on a comprehensive faith which was both monistic and pluralistic, national and universal. This is a philosophy of the world built on a homeland, a language, a history, and ethical guide and belief in one God. It emerged from the innermost depths of a nation which sought to become an example of moral distinction for the human race.

In Judaism, there is no mediator between God and man, and there is thus no moral or clerical hierarchy. Every man is created in the shadow of God, and the human species is varied, as are the dimensions of God. There is thus no essential contradiction between Jewish tradition and the new implications of the modern pillars of wisdom.

The confrontation between the Jews and their past and the meeting under one patch of sky of men with diverse immediate backgrounds rouses anxieties and questions. What will the Jew do with his renewed vigour and in these new circumstances? Will he follow the ancient road to Jerusalem, to Babylon or to Greece? Jerusalem represents the spiritual and geographic

concentration of Jewry in the State of Israel. Will this process continue, impelled by Zionist ideology? Will the Jews prefer Babylon, consolidating their Jewish life wherever they find themselves in the Diaspora and making of this a new ideology? (America's Rabbi Soloveychik once said that a young Jew who studies a page of Talmud in Boston is serving his people just as the young Jew who stands guard on the Walls of Jerusalem.) Or will they be dazzled by Greece, moving towards assimilation where again there will be nothing Jewish about their geography, their philosophy or their pattern of life? Each of these three trends has been reflected in the life of the Jewish people.

I believe there is no substitute for the continued and enlarged concentration of the Jewish people in their own land, and I believe this is essential for the strength and vitality not only of Israel but of Jews everywhere. I said earlier that there is not necessarily a contradiction between Judaism and modern science and thought, but this does not mean that Judaism has found its function in modern life. The powerful spiritual experience of the Jewish nation still needs to be expressed, and I think it can find its most articulate and complete expression only in Israel. But Israel must put its mind to it, and so must the Zionist Movement, and both must be prepared to change their functions and solutions to meet the changes in the problems and structure of the Jewish nation."

"Israel, for her part, should strive to become the university centre for the Jewish nation. What tremendous achievements could flow from the establishment of universities in Israel where Jews from Israel, America, Britain, Argentine, France, South Africa and other lands would study. Each group could follow its own curriculum; but all would now find three added dimensions, those of a single nation, a single country and a common language. These students would bring with them the spirit of the new age and would impart to the Israelis the latest developments in modern learning. The young Israelis would teach their friends from overseas how to live a day-to-day life as a Jew without complexes and with new creative possibilities.

The fields of study at such universities should embrace not only science and technology but also economics and social science, Judaism, philosophy and the arts. However, a university is not only a place of learning. It is also a society of young people with their special moods and energies and atmosphere, people who think and experiment, and add something creative to the world.

If Israel could become such a university centre, this would also have a practical impact on Israel's development. At today's university one learns how to develop a modern economy and how to raise productivity - there is a direct correlation between the scale and standard of education and the national standard of productivity. Moreover, the university has become a centre of research and development. The new

economics and the new sciences are taught there - and are also created there. Thus the university is not only a college which produces degrees, but also a laboratory for developing the economy, advancing the scientific potential and moulding the character of society.

Turning Israel into an academic centre for the young Jews of the Diaspora would mean the reorientation of the structure of Israel's economy, geared to the new directions of today. The problems are immense. Would we be able to secure suitable professors and lecturers who could ensure the high standard of such universities? I am convinced that if the students came to Israel, the teachers would follow - and the reverse might be equally true. The readiness of academicians to immigrate into Israel is surprisingly great, particularly since the Six Day War. What of the funds required to establish and maintain these universities? The initial burden would be heavy, but it should and could be borne. Education is becoming more and more a central branch of the modern economy, and it is as essential to invest in human beings as it is in machinery. I have no doubt that the Jewish nation has the means to finance the education of its children here in Israel. Moreover, to travel abroad to study has been a tradition with our people, and living in other places has usually contributed to the maturity and self-confidence of the student and broadened his studies."

Shimon Peres "from THESE MEN"  
"Seven Founders of the State of Israel"

"I am not unaware of the theory which claims that the heart of man is essentially evil.

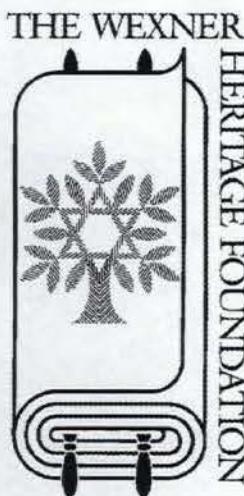
But I am convinced that Israel is the story of man at his best.

This belief is the torch that guides our footsteps and illuminates our path, we who walk like men and with men."

March 1979

8

12/29/2003



551 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
(212) 355-6115  
(212) 751-3739 Fax

**TO:** Tali  
**FROM:** Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman  
**RE:** Request for Shimon Peres

Dear Tali:

This is what I said in my first telephone call with OFRA in first week of December.

1.) I am a lifelong friend of Shimon. We first met in the early 1950's, when I was the director of the United Jewish Appeal UJA (Magbit Artzi) and he was the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Sar Ha Chutz). We have met hundreds of times during the last 50 years.

I am asking Shimon a favor. One of the oldest (age 88) leaders of the UJA is Mr. Albert (Allie) Adelman of Milwaukee. He has written an autobiography, and his deepest wish while he is still alive would be for Shimon to write a few lines that would be printed on the book cover of the book.

2.) Then there were many telephone calls, and now you are kind enough to say that Shimon will give me an answer tomorrow.

3.) On Dec. 23 we sent you a fax containing the suggested lines that Shimon could authorize over his signature.

*ack  
blue yan of acc and my dr ac p.  
Oran.*

12/29/2003

The text of that fax is as follows:

"The author of this autobiography was one of the strongest supporters of the young State of Israel, in bringing missions of U.S. Jews, raising funds through the UJA, and educating many other leaders. His story is worth reading."

*or if Shimon has a diff. text*

- 4.) If Shimon agrees, please fax to us and we will give the text to the publisher, and Allie Adelman will be the happiest man in America.



Dear Shimon  
+ali

that I said in  
This was my first telephone call with OFRA in first week of December

- 1.) I am a life-long friend of Shimon. We met in the early 1950's, when I was the director of The ~~the~~ United Jewish Appeal UJA - and he was the ~~for~~ Minister ~~of~~ for Foreign Affairs. (See Ha'chitz) We have met hundreds of times during the last 30 years.

I am asking Shimon for a favor. One of the oldest (age 88) leaders of the UJA is our Mr. Albert (Allie) Adelman of Milwaukee. He has written an autobiography while he is still alive, and his deepest wish is that it would be for Shimon to write a few lines that would be printed on the back cover of the book.

P.S.

- 2.) Then there were many telephone calls, ~~but~~ and now you are kind enough to say that you Shimon will give me an answer, which will be tomorrow.

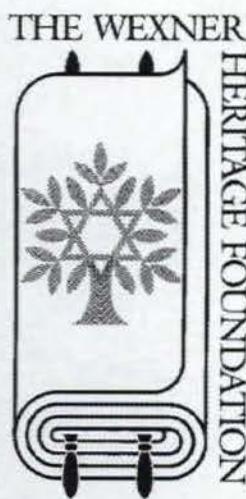
- 3.) On Dec. 23 we sent you a fax containing the suggested lines that Shimon could ~~with~~ authorize over his signature. ~~The fax follows~~  
~~Please send us a fax +~~  
The text of that fax is as follows:

"

"

4. If Shimon agrees, please fax to us and we will give the text to the publisher, and Allie Adelman will be the happiest man in America.

12/23/2003



551 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
(212) 355-6115  
(212) 751-3739 Fax

**TO:** Ofra  
**FROM:** Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman  
**RE:** Suggested Lines for Shimon Peres

## AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

The author of this autobiography was one of the strongest supporters of the young State of Israel, in bringing missions of U.S. Jews, raising funds through the UJA, and educating many other leaders. His story is worth reading.

12/29/2003

THE WEXNER  
HERITAGE FOUNDATION



551 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
(212) 355-6115  
(212) 751-3739 Fax

**TO:** Tali  
**FROM:** Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman  
**RE:** Request for Shimon Peres

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

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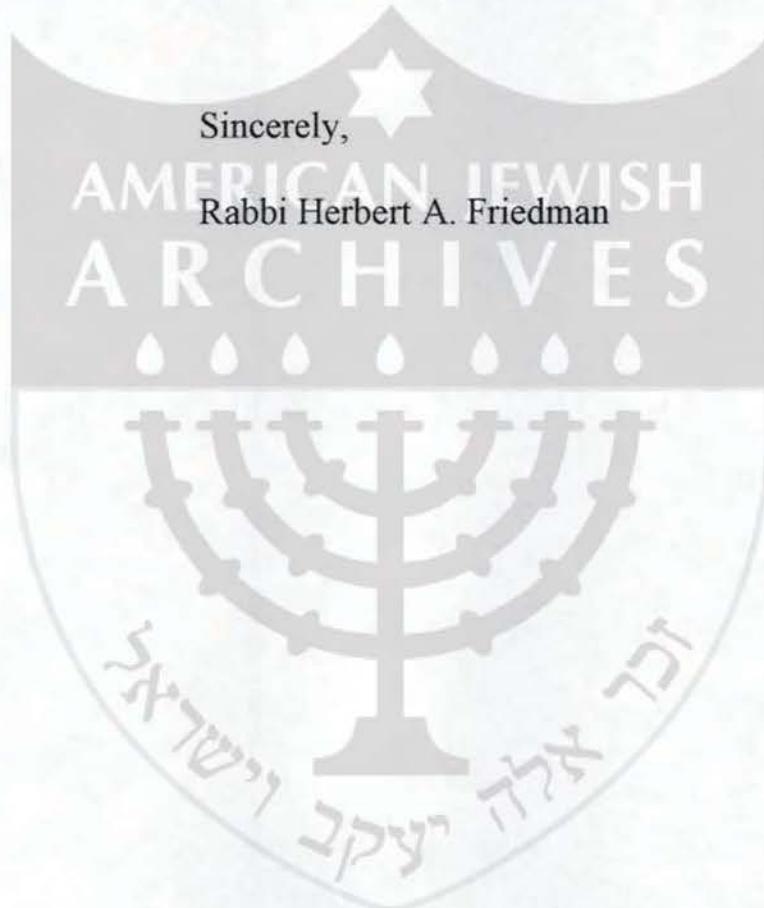
3.) On Dec. 23 we sent you a fax containing the suggested lines that Shimon could authorize over his signature.

12/29/2003

The text of that fax is as follows:

"The author of this autobiography was one of the strongest supporters of the young State of Israel, in bringing missions of U.S. Jews, raising funds through the UJA, and educating many other leaders. His story is worth reading."

4.) If Shimon agrees or if Shimon has a different text, please fax to us and we will give the text to the publisher, and Allie Adelman will be the happiest man in America.



MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION

START=DEC-29 13:09

END=DEC-29 13:10

FILE NO.=052

STN NO.	COMM.	ONE-TOUCH/ ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/EMAIL ADDRESS/TELEPHONE NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK	*	01197236954156	002/002	00:00:35

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\*\*\*\*\* -WEXNER HERITAGE - \*\*\*\*\* 1 212 751 3739- \*\*\*\*\*

12/29/2003

THE WEXNER



551 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
(212) 355-6115  
(212) 751-3739 Fax

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

TO: Tali  
FROM: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman  
RE: Request for Shimon Peres

Dear Tali:

This is what I said in my first telephone call with OFRA in first week of December.

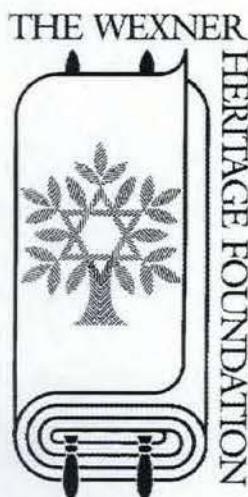
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12/2/2003



551 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
(212) 355-6115  
(212) 751-3739 Fax

**TO: H.E. Shimon Peres**  
**FROM: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman**

Dear friend Shimon,

I had a lovely conversation today with your assistant OFRA, and she suggested I should fax to you, explaining my request:

One of the leaders of the UJA in the old days, who worked hard for many decades raising money and bringing missions to Israel, is Albert (Allie) Adelman. He knew you well, and you are a hero in his memory.

He is now 88 years old and has written an autobiography. He would be thrilled if you would write a few lines of testimonial for the back cover.

The title of the book is:

“ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE”

and the subtitle is

“Those who say it cannot be done  
Are usually interrupted by someone else doing it.”

If you are willing to do this, it would be one more mitzvah.

12/2/2003

Fax or call me:

Fax: 212-751-3739  
Phone: 212-355-6115

Congratulations on the position you are taking. You are 80, I am 85, and we are still pushing.

With fond memories of our friendship and best wishes for your good health.



FAX To H.E. Shimon PERES

011 972 3 695 4156

Dear friend Shimon, I had a lovely conversation today with your assistant OFRA, and she suggested I should fax to you, explaining my request:

One of the leaders of the UJA in the old days, who worked <sup>hard</sup> for many decades raising money and bringing missions to Israel, is Albert (Allie) Adelman. He knew you well, and you are a hero in his memory.

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Fax or call me

Fax:

Phone:

Congratulations on the position you are taking

You are 80, I am 85, and we are still pushing.

With fond memories of our friendship  
and best wishes for your good health,

I am, as ever,

Herb Friedman

## FAX TRANSMITTAL



551 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 355-6115  
(212) 751-3739 Fax

DATE: 12/30/03

TO: OFRA, Tali, and Raly

FAX #: 011-972-3695-4156

Number of Pages (*including cover sheet*): 1

FROM: RABBI HERBERT FRIEDMAN

Message: Dear Ladies, I thank you for your help  
in arranging for Shimon to perform a mitzvah for  
Mr. Adelman, who is 88 years old, and just had a serious  
heart surgery. Adelman will live longer, due to Shimon.

Please give Shimon my deepest thanks for his  
kindness and understanding. He knows my feeling for him.  
I have always felt, since the early days of the Labor  
Party and all the offices he has held, that Shimon Peres  
was one of the strongest persons responsible for the  
success of Mekinat Yisrael. He is sincere, intelligent,  
and the very best example of an idealistic Zionist,  
responsible for kibbutz Israel alive.

Sincerely,  
Herb Friedman

-COMM. JOURNAL- DATE DEC-30-2003 TIME 13:52

MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION

START=DEC-30 13:50

END=DEC-30 13:52

FILE NO. -961

STN NO.	COMM.	ONE-TOUCH/ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/EMAIL ADDRESS/TELEPHONE NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK	a	01197236954156	001/001	00:00:22

-WEXNER HERITAGE FOUN

-WEXNER HERITAGE - 1 212 751 3739- \*

**FAX TRANSMITTAL**



551 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 355-6115  
(212) 751-3739 Fax

DATE: 12/30/03

TO: OFRA, Tali, and Rely

FAX #: 011-972-3695-4156

**Number of Pages (including cover sheet):** 1

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Sincerely,  
Herb Friedman

MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION

START=DEC-02 15:58 END=DEC-02 16:00

FILE NO.=929

STN NO.	COMM.	ONE-TOUCH/ ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/EMAIL ADDRESS/TELEPHONE NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK	*	01197236954156	002/002	00:01:02

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\*\*\*\*\* -WEXNER HERITAGE - \*\*\*\*\* 1 212 751 3739- \*\*\*\*\*

12/2/2003



551 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022  
(212) 355-6115  
(212) 751-3739 Fax

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

TO: H.E. Shimon Peres  
FROM: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

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"Those who say it cannot be done  
Are usually interrupted by someone else doing it."

If you are willing to do this, it would be one more mitzvah.

Albert Adelman  
Adelman Travel Group  
6980 N. Port Washington Road  
Milwaukee, WI 53217  
(414) 351-8083 direct  
(414) 332-5947 fax

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Rabbi Herb Friedman

FAX NUMBER: 212-751-3739

FROM: Albert Adelman

DATE: April 2, 2004

COMMENTS:

Herb, I hope that you and Francine are fine. When I get to New York, I will thank you in person for getting the testimonial from Shimon. When I get to Israel, I will thank him personally.

My publisher and editor asked if we could somehow personalize Shimon's testimonial as follows.

Delete: "The author of this autobiography"

And Substitute "Ollie Adelman"

This does not change the meaning in any way. What do you think?

Kindly advise.

Number of Pages, including this sheet: 2

**Statement by Peres:**

**"The author of this autobiography was one of the strongest supporters of the young State of Israel, in bringing missions of U.S. Jews, raising funds through the U.J.A., and educating many other leaders. His story is worth reading."**

**Shimon Peres, former Prime Minister of Israel**

**Proposed change:**

**"Ollie Adelman was one of the strongest supporters of the young State of Israel, in bringing missions of U.S. Jews, raising funds through the U.J.A., and educating many other leaders. His story is worth reading."**

**Shimon Peres, former Prime Minister of Israel**