

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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PARTY LEADERS TO MEET WITH WEIZMANN THIS WEEK-END ON CABINET CRISIS; NEW ELECTIONS SEEN

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- President Chaim Weizmann today summoned leaders of the Mafai Party, the Mapam and the Religious Bloc, to meet him in consultations Sunday to discuss a solution of the government crisis following the resignation yesterday of the Ben Gurion coalition cabinet.

Leaders of the Herut, General Zionists, Progressives, Sephardi and Communists were summoned to meetings with the President on Monday afternoon.

If Dr. Weizmann is unable to secure speedy agreement on a new government commanding a Knesset majority, it is expected that Premier David Ben Gurion will go before the Knesset next week and ask for general elections.

It was reported today in circles close to Mr. Ben Gurion that he would refuse the task of forming a new government and it appeared doubtful that in the event of his refusal any other member of his party, the largest in the present Parliament, would assume the task.

The General Zionists, the centrist group which scored sensational advances in the municipal elections recently, has decided not to participate in an interim government, it was learned today, and will press for early elections.

Meanwhile, the Ben Gurion cabinet is continuing to function as a "caretaker" regime. It held its regular meeting today at which the government crisis was discussed and decisions taken on several current problems.

Speed Action on New Election Law

The Ministry of Justice today began speeding up preparation of an election law in anticipation that elections will be called for. Mafai leaders told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that they would not agree to a clause in the law under which the Minister of the Interior would conduct the elections. (The present Minister of the Interior is Moshe Shapira, a member of the Religious Bloc which voted against the government on the resolution which brought about the government's resignation.)

They will press, they said, that the Minister of Justice be entrusted with the conduct of the elections. (The present Minister of Justice is Pinchas Rosen, a Progressive).

While the morning newspapers here generally are in favor of holding elections, the evening newspapers headed by Maariv, an independent, oppose them. Maariv warned today that elections "would be a calamity for the State in the face of the internal

political and economic situation as well as the international tension." It advocated renewal of the old coalition.

A Mapai leader today bitterly blamed the Religious Bloc for precipitating the crisis and charged that it had done so for internal political reasons. He charged that the Religious Bloc had acted out of fear of losing a monopoly on education in Israel.

Rabbi I.M. Levin, spokesman for the Religious Bloc, charged the Labor Party with responsibility for breaking its agreement with the Religious Bloc on education in the immigrant camps. He asserted that despite the agreement, thousands of children of religious families had been compelled to receive secular education. He asserted that the bloc would continue to "fight for the principle that religious parents were entitled to educate their children according to their will."

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, American Zionist leader, said today that there was "no reason for alarm." He expressed regret that the Progressive Party had not yet responded to appeals to unite with the General Zionists to form a liberal center movement.

KAPLAN SEES ISRAEL CABINET AS "NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF DEMOCRATIC REGIME"

LONDON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Israel Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan, prior to his return tonight to Israel, told newspapermen here that the Israel Government crisis was "a natural consequence of a democratic regime especially when that regime was based on the proportional election system which needs coalitions."

Emphasizing that he was expressing a personal view, Mr. Kaplan, describing the government resignation as inevitable after the non-confidence vote, said that would be "a good lesson for all, including the members of the Knesset."

He said that he believed there should be elections and that they should be held as soon as possible. There were at this time no questions of financial or economic policy involved, he declared, and objected even to the term "religious issue" as cause of the conflict. The government as a whole, he said, acknowledged the right of religious elements to have their children educated according to their wishes.

The Israeli Finance Minister declined to discuss the nature of his talks with the British Chancellor of the Exchequer and with the President of the Board of Trade. "Relations between the two countries are such," he commented, "that people here are glad to meet Israelis and discuss with them various problems."

DR. GOLDSTEIN FAVORS ISRAEL ELECTIONS; SEES CRISIS AS INDICATION OF DEMOCRACY

NEW YORK, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Commenting today on Israel's Cabinet crisis, Dr. Israel Goldstein, chairman of the World Confederation of General Zionists, declared that new general elections in Israel will demonstrate the electorate's feelings on the religious education issue, which caused the fall of the government. He stated:

"I believe that new elections in Israel will clear the air, will demonstrate how the electorate feels about the issue which has precipitated the crisis and will provide a current basis for forming a coalition government. Properly viewed, these occurrences are an indication of Israel's democratic credentials and political stability, namely, the ability to resolve political issues not by violence or dictatorship but by the democratic process of elections registering the will of the people."

ISRAEL AND JORDAN MILITARY LEADERS AGREE ON MEASURES TO HALT BORDER VIOLATIONS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Agreement between military representatives of Israel and Jordan on measures to suppress the border incidents which in recent weeks have created considerable tension between the two countries was reached today.

A meeting between Brigadier-Mordecai Makleff, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Israel Army of Defense, and Lieut. Gen. Abdul Kadir Pasha el Jundi, deputy commander of the Arab Legion, held under United Nations auspices here today, resulted in agreement on concerted measures to prevent marauders from crossing the frontier. Direct communication between commanders on both sides was provided for to enable speedy action to prevent border crossings. It was also decided to take steps to exchange prisoners now held by both sides.

A meeting of a sub-committee of the Mixed Armistice Commission, also held today, agreed on the deletion of 107 complaints from the commission agenda. Another meeting tomorrow will, it is expected, eliminate another hundred pending complaints. The sub-committee also decided to re-issue orders against violation of airspace by planes of both countries.

A communique issued subsequently by the Israeli authorities made it clear that compensation claims for stolen or destroyed property would not be affected by elimination of the complaints from the M.A.C. agenda.

In a comment on the agreement reached yesterday on the Wadi Araba dispute, the Israeli authorities pointed out that only one-third of the disputed stretch of the Beersheba-Eilat road became Jordan territory and that two-thirds remained in Israeli hands. It is expected that the Israelis will start immediate construction of a detour road bypassing the Jordan-held territory.

Only a few hours after the Mixed Armistice Commission came to agreement over its major dispute and over the numerous border "incidents" of the last two weeks Jewish workers prevented a serious rail disaster planned by Arab infiltrators from the "triangle" area of central Palestine.

The workers noticed the fuse of a hidden landmine on the tracks of a rail bridge in the Benjamin area, near the Jordan-held "triangle." They warned the engineer of an approaching train, then removed the mine. Tracks from the scene led to the Jordan territory. Israel has placed a new formal protest with the Mixed Armistice Commission.

ELIASHEV NAMED ISRAEL MINISTER TO MOSCOW; WAS FORMER MINISTER TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- The appointment of Dr. Shmuel Eliashev as Israel Minister to Moscow, was announced here today. Dr. Eliashev, former head of the Eastern European Division of the Israel Foreign Ministry and Minister to Prague, is expected to proceed to Moscow soon to assume his new post.

ISRAEL CABINET CONTINUES TO FUNCTION PENDING SOLUTION OF GOVERNMENT CRISIS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet, at its regular weekly meeting today voted to establish a priority schedule in government construction.

It confirmed the appointment of Joseph Efrati as Deputy Minister of Agriculture and voted to instruct its legal committee to speed up its decision on the question of whether the death penalty should be provided for in Israel law. The Cabinet is continuing to function pending solution of the government crisis.

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE OPENS NATIONAL CONFERENCE AT ATLANTIC CITY TODAY

ATLANTIC CITY, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- A three-day conference of the national executive committee of the Jewish Labor Committee will open here tomorrow evening. The conference will review the work of the Committee in this country and abroad, with special emphasis on its work in countries of Eastern Europe.

Opening the conference, Adolph Hold, J.L.C. national chairman, will review the rescue activities of the Committee during World War II and will briefly comment on its activities "behind the Iron Curtain." Isaiah Minkoff, executive secretary of the National Community Relations Advisory Council and vice-chairman of the J.L.C., will report on Jewish life in America, including statistical information on the Jewish population changes, on community activities and on fraternal organization membership, as well as the role of Jewish labor in America.

Reports on Jewish life in Israel and in Europe will be presented by Charles Zimmerman, vice-chairman of the J.L.C., and Nathan Chenia, educational director of the Workmen's Circle. During the following two days, the parley will consider the fight against anti-Semitism in this country and Canada and will study the DP and immigration situations. Among the featured speakers will be Harry N. Rosenfield, chairman of the United States Displaced Persons Commission, which is entrusted with administering the DP Immigration Act.

Messages of greetings were received from William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, and Philip Murray, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

FRANKFURT PARLEY WILL ATTEMPT TO REPELITE DP IMMIGRATION TO UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- A concerted effort is getting under way to expedite the flow of displaced persons to this country through a joint meeting to be held in Frankfurt next week to effect the coordination of the Displaced Persons Commission, the State Department's Visa Division, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Voluntary agencies will also participate in the conference.

All Devaney, Assistant Commissioner of Immigration, will leave by air next Monday for Frankfurt. There he will meet with Herve J. L'Heureux, chief of the State Department Visa Division, and John G. Gibson, head of the DP Commission. The three will work together to iron out difficulties with a view to expediting the DP program.

RABBI OFFERS INVOCATION BEFORE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Rabbi Harry J. Kaufman, of Beth Shalom Congregation, Washington, this week offered a prayer of invocation at a session of the House of Representatives at the invitation of the Chaplain of the House. At 28, Rabbi Kaufman is the youngest rabbi, and possibly the youngest clergyman of any faith, to offer a prayer before Congress.

Since 1947, he has been spiritual leader of the largest Orthodox congregation in Washington. A graduate of Mesivta Torah Vadaath of Brooklyn and Columbia University, Rabbi Kaufman is vice-president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America. He serves as an auxiliary chaplain, in a civilian capacity, for Bethesda Naval Hospital.

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