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Shazar Officially Names Mrs. Meir As Premier And Asks Her To Form A Government

JERUSALEM, March 11 (JTA) -- President Zalman Shazar today officially named Mrs. Golda Meir, 70, Israel's fourth Prime Minister, wished her luck and long life and observed that she enjoyed greater support in the Knesset (Parliament) than any of her predecessors. Mrs. Meir visited the President to accept his letter of appointment as specified by Israeli law. Mr. Shazar noted that eight political factions commanding 106 votes in the 120-member chamber had agreed to endorse a cabinet headed by her. He added the hope that a peace treaty with the Arab countries would be signed during Mrs. Meir's tenure. She immediately began forming a coalition government.

Mrs. Meir said that the large parliamentary majority prepared to vote its confidence in the next cabinet demonstrated Israel's consciousness of the need for national unity. She also expressed the hope that peace with the Arab countries would come in the near future.

Mrs. Meir's accession to the Premiership of Israel came about as a result of the sudden death of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol on Feb. 26. A former Foreign Minister of Israel and once this country's Ambassador to Moscow, Mrs. Meir had retired from public life though she remained a powerful figure in the inner circles of Israel's dominant Labor Party.

It was the Labor Party leadership which selected her to succeed Mr. Eshkol. She was regarded as the only political personality capable of forestalling a bitter intra-party struggle for the succession between Israel's popular Defense Minister, Gen. Moshe Dayan, and Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon who served as Acting Prime Minister from Mr. Eshkol's death to Mrs. Meir's appointment today. Mrs. Meir is expected to hold the Premiership at least until Israel's national elections next Oct. 28.

Labor Party circles expressed the hope today that Mrs. Meir could present her new cabinet to the Knesset for approval by Thursday. But differences have cropped up between the Labor Party and Gahal, the Herut-Liberal Party alignment, which is the second largest faction in the coalition government. Gahal insists that the government's basic platform document be redrafted to reflect the cabinet's decision that the present cease-fire lines remain Israel boundaries until a peace treaty is signed with the Arabs. The document is the contractual agreement on which the cabinet bases itself when it seeks the Knesset's confidence. In its present form it refers only to the armistice lines which existed prior to the June, 1967 Six-Day War. Labor Party leaders have suggested that it remain as is and that the changes demanded by Gahal be made orally in a statement to the Knesset by the Prime Minister-designate. A cabinet committee representing the full coalition has been set up to deal with the dispute.

Mrs. Meir said in a radio speech that "I can only express my sorrow that Egypt and its leaders have not learned...that war is not a solution and that, if we are attacked, we are capable and ready to defend ourselves."

Fierce Fighting Breaks Out Anew At Suez Canal, Equalling Weekend's In Intensity

TEL AVIV, March 11 (JTA) -- A new, fierce artillery, tank and mortar battle erupted along the Suez Canal today after a morning of intermittent small arms clashes between Israeli and Egyptian forces facing each other across the 150 yard-wide waterway. Both sides were reported to be massing troops and rushing reinforcements to the area as cries were sounded in Cairo to avenge the death of Egypt's Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Abdel Moneim Riad, killed during an artillery duel Sunday.

The new eight and one-half hour clashes were described as "at least as heavy" as Saturday's and Sunday's artillery duels which cost Israel three dead and 14 wounded and destroyed parts of the Egyptian oil refineries near Port Suez. Israeli sources said today's battle, in which two soldiers were wounded, developed as a result of Egyptian sniping which escalated into an exchange of automatic weapon and machine-gun fire. By late afternoon, big guns on both sides were brought into action from Port Suez in the south to Qantara in the north. Israeli officials said Egypt had rejected one cease-fire request from United Nations observers before accepting a second one.

During a lull in the fighting yesterday, Israeli positions along the canal were inspected separately by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Yigal Allon who was Acting Prime Minister of Israel until the appointment of Mrs. Golda Meir to the Premiership today. Both were accompanied on their tours by Maj. Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev, Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces. Mr. Allon declared later that "if Egypt renews its aggression" along the Suez Canal, Israel "will reply in strength." The Israeli fortifications were reportedly far stronger than they were last Oct. 26, the occasion of another Egyptian artillery barrage that took 15 lives.

(The semi-official Cairo daily Al Ahram reported today that "troops were being massed and new military preparations made." The paper referred to "a state of maximum alert" and said new fighting could break out momentarily.)

Max M. Fisher Asked By President Nixon To Serve As Adviser, Liaison With U.S. Jewry

WASHINGTON, March 11 (JTA) -- The White House made known today that in keeping with President Nixon's desire to perfect close relations with the American Jewish community, the President has decided to rely upon Max M. Fisher of Detroit as an informal adviser and liaison link with United States Jewry. Mr. Fisher, a leader of the United Jewish Appeal, United Israel Appeal, and the American Jewish Committee, is also a prominent Republican who played an important role in the recent election.

Following the President's press conference which dealt, among other things, with the Middle East, a White House spokesman clarified the Nixon-Fisher relationship. The spokesman described Mr. Fisher as "a very close friend of the President" who would serve as a "conduit" linking Mr. Nixon with the Jewish community.

The President will rely upon Mr. Fisher for a consensus of Jewish thinking. Also, White House views would be disseminated through Mr. Fisher, according to the spokesman. It would be "a two-way street," he said.

Mr. Fisher would not be an adviser in the formal sense, it was explained. His advisory role would differ from that of Myer Feldman, who served Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, or Maxwell Rabb, who worked for President Eisenhower. Mr. Fisher would enjoy a wider latitude, free from the disciplines of the official staff.

The White House cited the designation of Mr. Fisher as a member of the official party that represented the President at the funeral of Israeli Premier Levi Eshkol. This was taken to indicate that he would enjoy both an official and private capacity in his informal role as the President's confidant on matters of Jewish interest.

Mr. Fisher has meanwhile aided Secretary George Romney, of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, on urban problems. The Jewish leader was designated by Mr. Nixon during the campaign to advise on urban affairs. He also headed the "Concerned Citizens for Nixon" and other political groups.

It was pointed out that President Nixon has already consulted in detail with Mr. Fisher and Congressional leaders friendly to Israel as American policy on Israel is formulated. Further meetings, to include various American Jewish leaders, are anticipated in the near future.

Eban Arrives in Washington For Talks With Nixon And Rogers On Mideast Policy

WASHINGTON, March 11 (JTA) -- Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban arrived here today from London for talks with President Richard M. Nixon, Secretary of State William P. Rogers and other government leaders to ascertain emerging United States policy on the Mideast. He stated on arrival, in response to newsmen's questions about the latest eruption along the Suez Canal, that "our policy is to maintain the cease-fire and to restore it when broken." Mr. Eban cited United Nations reports blaming Egypt for the latest outbreak of violence. He expressed belief that incidents such as the Suez exchange of fire could be restricted and isolated. Mr. Eban said that neither Israel nor Egypt wanted a general war.

During his visit here, Mr. Eban said, he will exchange views on a whole range of issues and stress that peace and security remain uppermost in Israel's mind. Commenting on the issue of an "imposed peace," Mr. Eban said he found in President Nixon's recent statements an indication that Mr. Nixon himself did not accept the imposition of peace by the major powers. Mr. Eban told airport newsmen that if peace were "imposed," that would mean the Arab-Israel problem was not settled. He disclosed that Prime Minister Harold Wilson of Britain, whom he met yesterday, said to him that any agreement must have the mutual consent of the parties directly concerned.

He said he came to Washington to ask for understanding of Israel's position." Asked if there had been any indication of a change in U.S. policy, he replied that the object of his visit was to ascertain the basic ideas of the Nixon Administration. Mr. Eban will meet Secretary of State William P. Rogers tomorrow and President Nixon on Thursday. He will speak at the National Press Club on Friday and will appear on the "Meet the Press" television program on Sunday. He will address United Jewish Appeal meetings in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. He will also confer with UN Secretary-General U Thant on Saturday. While in Washington he will confer with Congressional leaders including Sen. J. W. Fulbright, Arkansas Democrat, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

(The U.S. was not seeking the opening of Four Power talks on the Mideast in the next fortnight, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said today. Newsmen questioned him about reports from London and elsewhere that current U.S., Soviet, French and British bilateral UN talks had progressed to the point where a full conference would open within two weeks. Mr. McCloskey said Washington was not seeking at this time a specific, early date. A London report said the U.S. was understood to be clearing up major points with the USSR.)

(The Zionist Organization of America's national executive committee said here today in a resolution that "American statesmanship will not be entrapped by Soviet diplomatic maneuvers aimed at compelling Israel's withdrawal from the cease-fire lines only to strengthen the Soviet's Arab clients and enhance the Kremlin's design for complete dominance of the Mideast.")

Goldberg Interprets UN Resolution: A Clear Call For An Overall Settlement

LONDON, March 11 (JTA) -- Arthur J. Goldberg, the former U.S. Ambassador to the UN, declared today that the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 Mideast resolution which he helped draft was a clear call for an overall peace settlement between the parties concerned, not for a piecemeal settlement to be carried out before Israel and the Arab states reached a contractual agreement on secure, recognized frontiers and other items contained in the resolution.

Mr. Goldberg, who is president of the American Jewish Committee and is visiting here on its behalf, gave his interpretation of the resolution at a press conference and in an address before the Institute of Jewish Affairs of the World Jewish Congress. On both occasions he stressed that the resolution's letter and spirit left no doubt that "the parties to the conflict should be the parties to peace. Others can and should help," he said referring to the proposed Four Power talks, "but their contribution should be to support Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring's mission which is to promote agreement and assist efforts for peace." He said the resolution which established the mission assigned to Dr. Jarring made it clear that his role was to bring the two sides together, not to act as an arbitrator between them.

Mr. Goldberg's interpretation of the resolution, which most diplomats regard as the cornerstone of peace, carried the authority of a man who was, in large measure, responsible for its text and its unanimous acceptance by the Security Council. He noted that other proposals offered at the time by Russia and Yugoslavia were rejected. "The resolution must be viewed as a whole," he said. "The idea and proposition on the withdrawal by Israel to the former armistice lines was defeated."

As for the limits of an Israeli withdrawal, Mr. Goldberg said, "This is covered by the insistence of the resolution on an agreed and accepted settlement on both sides and on secure frontiers." He said the resolution clearly left the implementation timetable to be worked out by the parties. "It is common sense to assume that some problems such as the opening of the international waterways of the Suez and the Straits of Tiran are bound to take less time in their implementation than others such as the Arab refugees."

Mr. Goldberg said that in his view diplomacy was the only path to a settlement, which is bound to come sooner or later. "The UN charter requires that each nation in the area must accept the right of the others to live. The Arabs must renounce any state or claim of belligerency which the Security Council has found inconsistent with peace as far back as 1951. The Israeli withdrawal must be within the context of a peace settlement as agreed between the parties."

He said that Israel's casualties during the Six-Day War in proportion to its population equalled all the casualties suffered by the U.S. to date in Vietnam and that Israel's casualties since 1948 amounted to more than 8,000 persons killed and were proportionately greater than U.S. casualties in World War II.

Stewart Tells Fawzi That Britain Reserves Right To Sell Arms In Mideast

LONDON, March 11 (JTA) -- Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart informed an emissary of Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser yesterday that Britain reserved the right to supply arms to any country in the Middle East, including Israel, unless and until an arms embargo is placed on the region by the Big Powers. Mahmoud Fawzi reportedly warned that any major arms sales would hurt Britain's relations with the Arab countries. He reportedly urged a step-by-step implementation of the UN Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 Mideast resolution. This method would require Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territories before any other parts of the resolution became operative.

Israel, USSR Clash In UN Rights Unit Session On Issue Of Treatment Of Soviet Jews

GENEVA, March 11 (JTA) -- Israel and the Soviet Union clashed in the Human Rights Commission here yesterday over the question of the treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union. The Commission was considering a report on the prevention of discrimination against minorities. The Israeli representative, Judge Zeév V. Zeltner of Tel Aviv, charged that "anti-Zionism" in the USSR was a euphemism for attacking "whatever Jews stand for." He warned the Soviets to "beware of anti-Semitism, draw the line and draw it now before it is too late and before latent emotions come to the open and disaster strikes." He said that if Soviet Jews were not to be allowed to live as Jews, "at least let them find a haven elsewhere."

The Soviet representative, Nicolai Tarassov, characterized Judge Zeltner's remarks as "attacks" on the multi-national society of the Soviet Union which were absolutely groundless. He denied the Israeli contention that Russian Jews were the only national minority not permitted to study their own language and practice their own culture. Compared with other nationalities in the Soviet Union, Mr. Tarassov claimed, the Jews occupied a privileged rather than inferior position with respect to education, material and social status.

He said there were not many Soviet Jews who wanted to go to Israel and many of those who had gone had returned. He also declared that Israel had no right to speak for the citizens of another nation. Petr Nedballo, the Ukrainian delegate, supported Mr. Tarassov's assertions and condemned Zionism as "a racist theory based on the superiority of one nation over others." Israel was also condemned by the Egyptian representative.

Mrs. Rita Hauser, the United States representative, said minorities in her country were granted all rights and she wished the Jewish community of the Soviet Union enjoyed their rights to the fullest extent. She called on the Soviet Union to grant its Jewish citizens the right to emigrate if they wanted to.

Kiesinger Said To Disagree With Benda On Banning Of NPD As Unconstitutional

BONN, March 11 (JTA) -- West German Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger indicated today that he did not share the view of Interior Minister Ernst Benda that the government should act to have the extreme right-wing, reputedly neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD) banned as unconstitutional. Dr. Kiesinger implied that he did not regard the evidence uncovered in an exhaustive investigation by the Interior Ministry as sufficiently concrete to prove that the NPD intended to destroy the Constitution.

Hillel Commission May Consider Aid To Youth Who Reject Military Service In Vietnam

WASHINGTON, March 11 (JTA) -- The national commission of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation may try to work out ways to implement a proposal to support young men who refuse to be drafted for military service in Vietnam. That proposal was one of several that emerged in resolutions adopted at a three day conference which brought together 60 Jewish student leaders representing 34 college campuses around the country and the representatives of 27 major American Jewish organizations. The conference, which closed yesterday, was described as the first significant confrontation between American Jewish youth and the leaders of the so-called Jewish "Establishment." It ended with agreement by the Hillel Foundation, which sponsored the gathering, to student demands for an active campus voice in its policy-making ranks.

The Vietnam proposals were the most startling, observers said. The resolution adopted by the students and their elders said, "We support the young men who have chosen jail or exile by refusing the draft and those GIs who refuse service in Vietnam. We regard the jailing of those young men and many of their supporters as political incarceration and urge that they be granted amnesty." The resolution called on the national Hillel office to "provide program material to local chapters regarding draft resistance, specifically on the historical, cultural and Halachic Jewish background for conscientious objection and resistance to war"--if a majority of Hillel chapters adopt the same or similar resolutions.

Other resolutions assailed Negro anti-Semitism as a "ploy" by interested parties to deflect the Negroes' struggle for equal rights; demanded an increase over the current 80 departments of Jewish studies in colleges across the country; demanded improvements in the content of elementary Jewish education; urged Jewish institutions to support Israel and the idea of Jewish voluntary service to that country; and called on Jewish organizations to provide "information" for Jewish students to counteract Arab propaganda on American campuses. The resolution pertaining to the establishment of additional departments of Jewish studies noted pointedly that "sit-ins," demonstrations and all ways of bringing public pressure to bear on university administrators might be needed.

The conference heard frank and sometimes angry criticism by the student leaders of what they considered to be rigid and self-serving aspects of organized Jewish life in this country. The youngsters who represented members of tradition-oriented Jewish campus groups as well as activists of the New Left charged specifically that the Jewish "Establishment" neglected ethical issues such as the Vietnam war, poverty and the Negro struggle, and were preoccupied with budgets and institutionalized rituals.

Dean Marver H. Bernstein of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, who was elected chairman of the Hillel Commission, said the students would have "a partnership role" in the planning of future conferences. Discussing the conference at a Hillel Commission meeting, he urged that the college generation be given its "rightful say" in determining priorities in the allocation of community funds. "Students have demonstrated that they evaluate Jewish institutions in terms of their contribution to the improvement of Jewish education, to the development and financing of programs to improve the quality of Jewish life and to the support of the democratic growth of Israel," Dean Bernstein said. "Using these criteria, they have the courage that many of their elders lack in highlighting the inadequacies and self-serving interests of organized Jewish life."

United Hias Will Resettle More Than 6,300 Refugees And Migrants This Year

NEW YORK, March 11, (JTA) -- The United Hias Service, an agency which aids Jewish immigrants the world over, plans to resettle more than 6,300 Jewish refugees and migrants in 1969, according to Gaynor I. Jacobson, executive vice president. Mr. Jacobson reported on Hias' activities at its 85th annual meeting here. He said the refugees to be resettled include some 1,800 from Poland, 650 from Czechoslovakia, 1,000 from Morocco, 800 from Tunisia and 850 from Middle East countries. Mr. Jacobson said "more than 2,000 other refugees were helped by our agency to find new homes in Canada, 1,896 in Western Europe, 225 in Latin America and 181 in Australia." He urged the U.S. Government "in line with its traditional policy of humanitarian concern, to waive the labor certification provision of our immigration law in certain instances to facilitate USSR family reunion." Carlos L. Israels, president of the organization, reported that during the past year it had aided more than 56,000 Jewish men, women and children including 6,423 who were helped to resettle in Western countries.

A message of greeting from President Richard M. Nixon was conveyed to Hias by Ambassador Graham Martin, special assistant to the Secretary of State. "The need to provide rescue and resettlement assistance to Jewish refugees and migrants throughout the world is more pressing than ever, and your reputation is a fitting mandate for your continuing contribution to a challenge that concerns us all," the message said. "The scope of your accomplishments is best measured by the new hope and opportunity you have brought into the lives of the millions who have benefited from your efforts."

Dr. Wilhelm Kleeman Dies; An ORT Leader Since 1920s And Former Head Of Berlin Jewry

NEW YORK, March 11 (JTA) -- Dr. Wilhelm Kleemann, a leader of ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation through Training) organizations in Europe and the U.S. since the early 1920s and former head of the Jewish community of Berlin, died yesterday at the age of 99. Dr. Kleeman was born in Forchheim, Germany, and was educated in Berlin. He became director and later the president of the Dresdner Bank of Germany and was an active member of the Central Committee of German Jewry. In 1927 he became president of the Jewish Community of Berlin. He came to the U.S. in 1934 and presented one of the earliest reports on conditions of Jews under Hitler to leaders of American Jewry. He was the first president of ORT in Germany in 1924. In 1941 he was a charter member and vice president of the American and European Friends of ORT and was later its honorary president. He was a member of the American ORT Federation board of directors. Funeral services were scheduled for tomorrow.