

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Mrs. Meir Reportedly Nearing Completion Of New Coalition Government

TEL AVIV, Dec.4(JTA)--Despite a last-minute hitch in the complex negotiations carried on by Premier Golda Meir to put together a broad coalition cabinet, prospects reportedly were good today for a new government, informed sources said.

One key to successful negotiations was persuading the National Religious Party to join by an agreement to give the party the post of deputy Minister of Education, though minus the special powers the Orthodox faction had demanded. Another deputy Minister would be named from the ranks of the Labor Party alignment which will continue to hold the education portfolio. However, Mrs. Meir made her offer of the deputy post contingent on an alignment between the National Religious Party and the Poale Agudat Israel (workers) Party to form a 14-member faction in the Knesset.

It had been indicated that such an inter-religious alignment had been settled but tonight the Aguda workers declared that no agreement had been reached with the NRP. There was also still heavy bargaining remaining with the Gahal (Herut-Liberal) alignment which is to receive six Cabinet posts but only four portfolios. Gahal negotiators rejected the Ministry of Posts as one of the four, demanding a more important portfolio but the Labor alignment wants to hold two portfolios open for its junior partner, the leftist Mapam.

Mrs. Meir met again today with Mapam leaders, urging them to join her proposed coalition. Mapam remains adamant in refusing to join a coalition in which the rightist Gahal will have more representation and influence than it had in the prior government. The portfolios reserved for Mapam, if the party comes to terms, will be in the hands of caretaker Ministers. Mapam leaders indicated they planned a central committee meeting reportedly to seek a formula by which they could retreat from their opposition to joining a government with six Gahal Ministers.

Most political observers foresee new faces in the next cabinet. Although no announcements have been made yet, it appears virtually certain that in addition to Premier Meir, Foreign Minister Abba Eban, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Deputy Premier Yigal Allon will retain their present posts. Other incumbents likely to remain are Labor Minister Josef Almogi, Minister of Justice Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro and Information Minister Israel Galili. Former Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir is considered almost certain to regain his old portfolio, replacing Ze'ev Sharef who will probably be offered another ministry. Mr. Sapir served as minister-without-portfolio in the outgoing government and is secretary general of the Labor Party. A new addition to the cabinet from Labor ranks will be Shimon Peress, leader of the Rafi faction, who is expected to be named minister-without-portfolio.

On the Gahal side, Menachem Beigin, Josef Saphir, Elimelech Rimalt, Yochanan Bader and Arye Ben Eliezer have all been proposed for cabinet posts. Mr. Beigin and Mr. Saphir were ministers-without-portfolio in the old government. The Independent Liberals have named Moshe Kol, presently the Minister of Tourism and Development.

## Israel's Zooming Defense, Absorption Costs Worsened by Inflation, Sapir Says

LONDON, Dec.4(JTA)--The tremendous burden of defense expenditures, inflation and the sky-rocketing cost of absorbing new immigrants constitute the three major fiscal problems facing Israel in 1970, according to Pinhas Sapir, former Minister of Finance and probable Finance Minister-designate in the as yet unformed new Israeli government. Mr. Sapir expounded on those problems in an interview to be published here tomorrow in the Jewish Observer and Middle East Review.

He said the most serious problem was the outflow of dollars for defense needs. In 1970, he disclosed, defense will cost 50 to 60 more times as many dollars as it did in 1951 and that is one reason why Israel has been unable to narrow the gap between its imports and exports. Mr. Sapir said that Israeli exports now amounted to \$1.5 billion a year, a "gigantic" advance for the country. But imports, mainly for defense purposes, consume \$2.4 billion and private imports of such items as irrigation pipes, ships, aircraft and more modern automobiles cost \$200-\$250 million, he said.

He said defense expenditures in Israeli currency make for inflationary pressures which have to be remedied by raising taxes and trying to save on many items. Mr. Sapir said the problem is not only financial but involves the preservation of Israel's existence. In the latter category is the need for immigrants. In 1969, he said, immigration will reach 40,000 and next year 50,000 to 60,000 newcomers are expected. But the cost of absorbing a single immigrant family from Western countries costs five times what it once cost to absorb families from North Africa, Yemen and Iraq. Mr. Sapir said that the contributions of world Jewry to Israel, while very high, especially in 1967, will not be sufficient for 1970 and the years beyond.

## Israeli Jets Hit Suez Positions Again; Two Saboteurs Killed In Clashes

TEL AVIV, Dec.4(JTA)--Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian military installations in the southern sector of the Suez Canal zone today for the sixth consecutive day. An Israeli military spokesman said all planes returned safely but Cairo claimed that an Israeli Mystere fighter-bomber was shot down. Two Arab saboteurs were killed and a third was captured today in an encounter with an Israeli patrol in the suburbs of Gaza. Two of the saboteurs threw grenades when they were challenged. Israeli return fire killed one and wounded the other who was taken prisoner. The third saboteur was killed when he

fired on the patrol from ambush. A search yielded three submachineguns, ammunition and hand grenades. One Israeli soldier received a scratch from a grenade splinter. Several bazooka shells were fired at Israeli military positions near Maoz Chaim and Geshar in the Beisan Valley last night and this morning but caused no casualties. The fire was returned, a military spokesman reported.

### Dayan Warns Gaza Town Councillors On Protest Over Israel Electricity Link

TEL AVIV, Dec.4(JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan read the riot act to the Arab leaders in Gaza yesterday. He reminded the town council members, headed by Mayor Ragid el-Alami, that they constituted a local body subject to central authority and that the legal and lawful authority in the Gaza Strip was Israel. Speaking in fluent Arabic, he told Mayor el-Alami that if the mayor felt under greater obligation to the Egyptian authorities who occupied Gaza prior to the 1967 Six-Day War, Israel was ready to arrange his transfer to Egypt.

The issue that brought Gen. Dayan before the Gaza municipal council was the link-up of the Gaza Strip's electric power system with Israel's national power grid. The switch-over represents a major improvement for the residents of the Strip, whose electric supply has been provided by inadequate local generators. But the Mayor and councilmen objected loudly. They said the power link-up was a political act that changed the status quo. Observers here suggested that their protest was largely a facade to impress the local populace with their refusal to recognize Israeli authority. Most Gaza residents however appeared to welcome the new power system which is far more reliable than the old one. Gen. Dayan told the councilmen that it was necessary for security reasons to have better lighting for streets, highways and installations.

### Israeli Officer Killed In Storming Fatah Machinegun Nest During Lebanon Raid

TEL AVIV, Dec.4(JTA)--Yesterday's Israeli raid on a guerrilla stronghold in Lebanon produced a hero in the person of the late Lt. Shlomo Cohen who was killed in action while storming an El Fatah machine gun nest. The operation was successful although the Israeli soldiers encountered fierce resistance and had to battle on hilly terrain that was advantageous to the enemy. Five members of Lt. Cohen's unit were wounded and were evacuated by helicopter. At least 12 guerrillas were reported killed, many more wounded and their supplies and arsenal of weapons and explosives destroyed.

The target of the attack was Djebel Rus, a village on the south slopes of Mt. Hermon about five miles inside Lebanese territory. The Israeli forces were landed by helicopter and had the initial advantage of surprise. But the guerrillas commanded the high ground and had a network of trenches for defense. Lt. Gohen led his men against a machinegun position which they quickly destroyed, eye-witness accounts stated. He then turned to attack a second machinegun but caught in cross-fire and fatally wounded. The second machinegun position was destroyed by another unit and the guerrilla base was razed.

### Lord Caradon Accused of Expressing Personal Anti-Israel Views At UN

LONDON, Dec.4(JTA)--An Israeli military commentator chided the British government yesterday for allegedly permitting its United Nations Ambassador, Lord Caradon, to exercise his personal prejudices in dealing with Mideastern problems before the world body. Brig. Gen. Chaim Herzog, former military governor of East Jerusalem, address the annual general meeting of the Anglo-Israel Association here.

"It seems that the tail wags the dog as far as the British team at the UN is concerned," he said. "Lord Caradon seems to think that he is still the district commissioner of Nazareth and the British government seems to act accordingly." Lord Caradon, who represents Britain in the Four Power Mideast talks which resumed in New York on Tuesday, has been severely criticized for voting in favor of a Security Council resolution that condemned Israel's activities in East Jerusalem following the El Aksa mosque fire last Aug. 21. Lord Caradon apparently acted on his own without instructions from Whitehall.

Gen. Herzog said that while the Arabs are much stronger militarily than they were before the June, 1967 war, Israel is in an even better position and gained a major geographical advantage by the war. He said Israel has been successful in combatting Arab guerrillas. According to Gen. Herzog, some 3000 of them are presently in Israeli prisons. He said that 700 guerrillas have been killed according to the admission of the El Fatah leader, Yasser Arafat. Gen. Herzog, who comments on military matters on Israeli radio and television, said that a new Mideast war was unlikely because Israel wants no war and the Arabs are not capable of waging one.

### News In Brief

LEICESTER, ENGLAND, Dec.4(JTA)--Five Israeli youth leaders have arrived here for a two-week seminar as guests of the British National College for youth leadership training. They will remain here until Dec. 13 and will visit several institutions, including the Maccabi. The Israelis are returning a visit paid to Israel by a group from the college.

JERUSALEM, Dec.4(JTA)--The Government has announced that the voluntary internal defense loan for 1969 has been oversubscribed. The target figure was \$87 million but subscriptions so far amount to \$107 million. The law authorizing the Bank of Israel to set a maximum of \$105 million probably will have to be amended.

LONDON, Dec.4(JTA)--Amnesty International, a privately sponsored organization that champions the rights of political prisoners, announced that it would send representatives to the Middle East to obtain further information and evidence on the treatment of Arab prisoners in Israeli jails. The organization's executive committee said it had reviewed an earlier report on the treatment of the prisoners but Israel's reply to that report had left "many questions unanswered."

### 3,000 Students March To Syrian Mission To Protest Holding Of Israelis

NEW YORK, Dec.4(JTA)--An estimated 3,000 persons, mostly high school and college students, created a traffic jam on New York's upper East Side today as they marched with flashlights, Havdalah candles and torches to protest the continued detention by Syria of two Israelis who were passengers aboard a TWA airliner hijacked to Damascus last Aug. 29. The marchers, who assembled first at the Isaiah Wall opposite the United Nations, planned to demonstrate in front of the Syrian Mission to the UN on East 47th Street but police cordoned off the entire block. The march was peaceful and police did not interfere until the traffic tie-up reached such proportions that the youngsters had to be shunted into a side street.

The demonstration and march was organized by the Ad Hoc students Committee to Free the Damascus Two, a group that embraces Jewish and non-Jewish student organizations on campuses in the New York metropolitan area. A spokesman for the organization said that about 80 percent of the marchers were students and the rest adults.

Yesterday, 30 students of the Ad Hoc Committee staged a one-hour sit-in inside the Syrian UN Mission to demand the immediate release of Prof. Shlomo Samueloff and Sallah Muallem whose detention in Syria is now in its fourth month. The youngsters left peacefully after police were called and persuaded them to go. But Syria's Ambassador to the UN, George Tomeh, denounced the sit-in as "gangsterism" and a "grave violation of international law."

Mr. Tomeh said at a press conference yesterday that he had asked UN Secretary General U Thant to protest to the State Department through the American UN delegation. Reports from Damascus yesterday said that the Syrian government was demanding that UN headquarters be shifted from the U.S. to a "neutral" country because New York City is "the center of world Zionism."

### American-Canadian Group Sees U.S. Court Ruling Aiding Migration To Israel

TEL AVIV, Dec.4(JTA)--Officials of the Association of American and Canadians in Israel have expressed the belief that a U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding dual citizenship for Americans in Israel would be a positive factor in helping absorption of American settlers.

Rabbi Eli Klein, president; Gabriel Glasser, vice-president; Jerome Bachrach, legal adviser; and secretary-general Moshe Goldberg also agreed that the decision meant brighter prospects for aliyah from America. They said that the decision would allow American settlers to participate fully in Israeli life, including Government positions and military activities, without endangering their American citizenship or cutting off contacts with families in the U.S.

They expressed the view also that, given proper absorption conditions, migration from the U.S. and Canada could reach 25,000 Jews a year "within a few years." They estimated that 75 percent of the newcomers would remain in Israel, compared with the 40 percent of a few years ago. They forecast that 10,000 American and Canadian Jews would settle in Israel next year. They asserted not enough was being done to build rental housing for American settlers, and added that a vigorous central system for job placement should be established as well as "proper" schooling facilities for pupils and students from the west.

### Terrorists Plead Not Guilty To Murder Charge In Athens El Al Attack

ATHENS, Dec.4(JTA)--Two Arab terrorists who attacked the El Al ticket office with a hand grenade last Thursday pleaded not guilty yesterday to a series of charges that included premeditated murder. A two-year-old child was killed and 14 other persons were injured in the blast.

The accused, Eli Karanetian and Mansur Seifeddin, both Jordanians, underwent a pre-trial examination before a magistrate yesterday. The hearing was held in private under a heavy security guard.

On Tuesday an Athens magistrate ordered the exhumation of the body of George Nastos, the child fatally injured in the grenade attack. The order was issued after defense counsel for the two terrorists contended that the child's death did not result from the explosion but was due to other causes.

### Albania Blasts Soviets For Allowing Moscow Jews To mark Simchas Torah

LONDON, Dec.4(JTA)--Albania, the pro-Peking Communist state in the Balkans, has sharply criticized Soviet authorities for permitting Moscow Jews to celebrate Simchat Torah in the street outside of the main synagogue there last October. According to the Albanian news agency "Bashkimi" the celebration was an example of "leniency toward the clergy" by the Soviet "revisionists."

The news agency said that 12,000 young Jews danced and sang "Hava Nagilah" in a religious ceremony of a pronounced Zionist character and disrupted traffic while Moscow police stood by. This was tantamount to encouragement, the Albanian source claimed, "because we know that Soviet police previously intervened under the pretext of traffic violations to disperse demonstrations by workers and progressive revolutionaries."

### Ben-Nathan Tells Farewell Event Germany Today Is 'Quite Another Germany'

BERLIN, Dec.4(JTA)--Asher Ben Nathan, Israel's outgoing Ambassador to West Germany, was given a farewell reception here by the German publisher, Axel Springer. Mr. Ben Nathan will conclude his tour of duty at the end of the year. He will be succeeded by Elyashev Ben Chorin, the Ambassador-designate who is presently deputy head of the Foreign Ministry's information section in Jerusalem.

Mr. Ben Nathan told his well-wishers that he thought he had achieved much of what he had set out to do to improve Israel's relations with the Federal Republic. He said it was understood in Israel now that the present Germany is quite "another Germany." He could not imagine the present government in Bonn taking an anti-Israel attitude.

## UJA Annual Conference To Plan 1970 Campaign Set For Dec. 11-14

NEW YORK, Dec.4(JTA)--The United Jewish Appeal announced today that more than 3,000 Jewish leaders from all over the United States will convene in New York Dec.11-14 for the UJA's annual national conference to analyze the needs of world Jewry in preparation for the 1970 campaign. Edward Ginsberg, of Cleveland, Ohio, general chairman of the UJA, said the 1970 drive will be crucial to Jews in Israel and in lands where Jews are oppressed.

"It has always been the traditional responsibility of world Jewry to meet the humanitarian needs of the people of Israel," he said. "Because of the crushing defense burden the Israelis must shoulder, our response must be overwhelming so that the human needs will be met," he said.

## L.I. Interfaith Group Urges Ban On All Religious Events In Public Schools

GARDEN CITY, L.I., Dec.4(JTA)--An interfaith group called today for a ban on religious celebrations of any kind in Long Island public schools during the Christmas-Chanukah season, the Easter-Passover season or any other religious holidays. Catholic, Jewish and Protestant leaders joined in the recommendation which was issued by the Long Island Interfaith Council and sent to the administrative heads of the 110 public school districts in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Religious neutrality, the Council statement said, meant "not only that the school should show no preference for one religion over another, but also that it should refrain from the promotion of any and all religions." The group defined "religious celebration" as worship of any kind regardless of whether conducted by a clergyman, religious exhibits or displays except as part of the study of another subject in the curriculum; and the presentation of religious music, except when presented for its musical rather than religious content. The Interfaith council also opposed "the substitution of 'winter season' celebrations for a religious observance" which it called "a profanation and secularization of what truly is a period of religious significance for Christians and Jews."

## N.J. Education Board Plans Court Action To Halt School Prayer Readings

TRENTON, Dec.4(JTA)--The New Jersey State Board of Education voted yesterday to take "such legal action as is necessary" to halt the reading of prayers in public high schools. The decision was directed specifically at the high school in Netcong, N.J. at which prayers taken from the Congressional Record have been read daily before the start of classes since the school year began. A similar religious exercise was started yesterday at Wallington High School in Wallington, N.J., and Sayreville, in Middlesex County, inaugurated a two-minute period of silent prayer in junior and senior high schools last September.

Last week State Attorney General Arthur J. Sills ruled that the Netcong practice of reading prayers from the Congressional Record was unconstitutional. He said, "The use of the Congressional Record as source material for religious readings cannot be employed to circumvent the Supreme Court's pronouncements banning school prayer." But the Netcong Board of Education voted 7-1 yesterday to ignore the State Attorney and called on School Superintendent Joseph Stracco "to continue school prayer." The board said that until the constitutionality of its program is ruled to be in violation of "the law of the land" it will continue the practice.

The Wallington Board of Education, approved the prayer reading three weeks ago and said it would be started the first week in December. Officially, attendance at the prayer reading periods at Netcong and Wallington and the meditation period at Sayreville is voluntary.

## Orthodox Leader Urges U.S. Funds For Secular Phases Of Private Schools

WASHINGTON, Dec.4(JTA)--An Orthodox Jewish spokesman proposed, during a hearing of the House Education subcommittee yesterday, specific federal subsidies for secular courses in non-public schools. In urging such federal funding, Rabbi Morris Sherer, executive president of Agudath Israel of America, told the legislators that "the era of tokenism, of appeasing the non-public schools with left-over crumbs from the public educational table, must end as we enter the 70's." The Orthodox group sponsors a number of Jewish day schools.

Rabbi Sherer urged payment of salaries of teachers of secular subjects in non-public schools, vouchers of \$100 to \$250 to parents of day school pupils to help defray tuition charges, increased auxiliary services, and allocations for construction of facilities used for non-religious purposes. He rejected proposals for use of "shared time" facilities, which would require religious school students to receive instruction in some subjects in public schools. He said such proposals negated "the basic educational philosophy of the Jewish day schools, which attempt to mold the entire personality of the child into a homogeneous unit."

He also told the subcommittee that there had been a "major change in the public climate of acceptance of the non-public schools" since his first appearance before the same committee in 1960. He said Congress must "cease going through the motions of pacifying so-called 'pressure groups' and adopt legislative programs that will in a meaningful way help defray the costs of the secular studies of the non-public schools."

## NYANA Reports Record Budget For Increased Number of Jewish Newcomers to U. S.

NEW YORK, Dec.4(JTA)--The New York Association for New Americans announced today that its 1969 budget will go over the \$1 million mark owing to the heavy increase in the arrival of refugees here this year, among them many Jews from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Egypt and other Arab countries.

According to Howard M. Harris, president of the refugee settlement agency, the influx of Jews is attributable to the resurgence of anti-Semitism in some Eastern European countries since the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli War. He said most of the refugees arrive here without funds, though they are aided overseas by the Joint Distribution Committee and their immigration and transportation is arranged by the United Hias Service. A large majority of the newcomers are in professional and skilled categories who require more initial aid to continue in their own or allied fields here, particularly with intensive English-language courses at college levels, he said.