

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Mrs. Meir Will Present 24-Cabinet Government To Knesset for Approval Monday

JERUSALEM, Dec. 14(JTA)--Premier Golda Meir prepared today to present her new coalition Government to the Knesset for approval tomorrow. The 24-member Cabinet, the largest in Israel's history, almost duplicates the party membership of the late Premier Levi Eshkol's National Unity Government put together on the eve of the 1967 war and represents 102 of the 120 Knesset seats.

Mrs. Meir's Labor Alignment is dominant again with 12 portfolios including the key Ministries of Defense, Foreign Affairs and Finance. But there will be some new faces, notably in the Gahal faction, Israel's second largest party, which will have six ministers, headed by Menachem Begin and Joseph Saphir.

One of them is expected to be Brig. Gen. Ezer Weizmann, an Air Force officer and a nephew of Israel's first President, the late Dr. Chaim Weizmann. His selection yesterday by the Gahal Party for the post of Minister of Transport in the new Government came as a surprise. Gen. Weizmann, a former commander of the Air Force, resigned yesterday from his post as chief of operations of the Israeli General Staff, freeing himself to enter politics.

Mrs. Meir completed her Cabinet on Thursday and reported her success to President Zalman Shazar. The list of ministers approved included, for the Labor-Mapam Alignment, Mrs. Meir as Premier; Yigal Allon as Deputy Premier and Minister of Education; Moshe Dayan, Defense Minister; Abba Eban, Foreign Minister; Yosef Almogi, Minister of Labor; Haim Gvati, Minister of Agriculture; Shlomo Hillel, Minister of Police; Pinhas Sapir, Finance Minister; Zee Sharef, Minister of Development; Yaacov Shapiro, Minister of Justice; Shimon Peres, Israel Galili, Israel Barzilai and Victor Shemtov, ministers without Portfolio.

Mr. Peres, a former Deputy Defense Minister and a leader of the Rafi faction within the Labor Party, will have special responsibility for the civilian administration of the occupied territories. Mr. Galili will be designated Minister of Information if a separate Information Ministry is established. Mrs. Meir favors it, but Mr. Eban, whose Foreign Ministry is responsible for Israel's information services abroad, is opposed.

Mr. Barzilai and Mr. Shemtov are members of Mapam who agreed to join a "Cabinet of national emergency" but refuse to participate in the new coalition. Mrs. Meir plans to hold two ministries open for them should they eventually change their minds. These are Health and Immigrant Absorption, which are likely to be turned over to acting ministers temporarily.

The National Religious Party, represented in the new Government as in the old by three ministers, will retain its old portfolios. Moshe Shapira remains Minister of Interior, Dr. Zerach Wahrhaftig is Minister of Religious Affairs and Dr. Joseph Burg, Minister of Social Welfare. The Poalei Agudat Israel refused to enter the coalition after it was denied the post it held in the outgoing Government, that of Deputy minister of education and culture. It had been offered two deputy posts in ministries held by the NRP.

The Cabinet that governed Israel since the crisis days preceding the June, 1967 Six-Day War convened for the last time today. Although most members of the old Cabinet will sit in the new one, today's session was in the form of a leave-taking. Premier Meir reviewed the events of her tenure as Premier. "This Government has not seen peace come to Israel and the region, and I hope that the incoming Government will have the benefit of bringing peace," she said.

Mrs. Meir observed that the outgoing Government witnessed the emergence of Russian Jews' active striving to emigrate to Israel. They are no longer afraid to have their desire brought to the world's attention, she said. This has been proved by the documents and letters coming out of Soviet Russia, Mrs. Meir said.

She bade an official farewell to the five Ministers who will not be in the new Cabinet. They are Minister of Education, Zalman Aranne; Transport Minister Moshe Carmel; Housing Minister Mordechai Bentov; Police Minister Elighu Sasson, and Minister of Posts Israel Yeshayahu.

## State Department Says Mrs. Meir's Criticism Of Rogers' speech Was Unjustified

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14(JTA)--A State Department spokesman said yesterday that Israel's criticism of America's Middle East stand as enunciated by Secretary of State William P. Rogers last week was unjustified. The spokesman referred to a caustic comment by Israel's Premier Golda Meir in Jerusalem on Friday that the American Secretary of State was "moralizing" about expansionism but disregarded Israel's serious security situation.

Mr. Rogers' speech brought expressions of dismay from Israeli circles. They were especially disturbed over his proposal that Israel withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, except for some "insubstantial" border adjustments. The Israelis maintained that territorial questions are a subject for negotiations with the Arab state and that the U.S. is undercutting Israel's bargaining position.

The Department spokesman said Mrs. Meir had "missed the point" of Mr. Rogers' speech. "When we talk of an Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories, we talk in terms of a binding Arab commitment to a permanent peace and acceptance of recognized political boundaries by all parties," he said.

"On matters of basic security--on the prime gut issues--we leave the matters entirely up to negotiations between the Israelis and the Egyptians."

According to a report from London today, the American Middle East proposals presented to the Soviet Union Oct. 28 called for Israel to evacuate Egyptian territory within three months of a peace agreement. The report said that the secret text of the proposals indicated that the U.S. has moved substantially toward key demands made by the Russians and Arabs.

The U.S. proposed that Israel and Egypt, under the auspices of the United Nations peace envoy Gunnar U. Jarring, consider the questions of Israeli withdrawal, demilitarization and the possibility of an interim UN administration in the Gaza Strip, the report said.

On her speech to the Histadrut convention on Friday, Mrs. Meir said the Arabs want war and Israel wants peace but the Americans "put us both on the scales of justice so that ... they shouldn't appear to be favoring one nation over another."

Mrs. Meir said that Israel would not accept proposals "that fall short of real peace" nor would Israel "agree to borders that make the nation vulnerable." She said all Israel wants was what other nations have--peace with borders that are defensible. We don't want anybody to come and fight our battles, but we have the right to demand that we not stand empty-handed against better tanks, planes and cannons."

Mrs. Meir commented at a press conference that there is no U.S. pressure now on Israel but that if it did come, Israel would be able to withstand it. She said U.S.-Israel relations had not worsened and that "all this talk" about worsening relations was "uncalled for."

### **Eban Reiterates Israeli Unwillingness to Permit Restoration Of Pre-War Conditions**

NEW YORK, Dec. 14(JTA)--Israel's Foreign Minister, Abba Eban, said at a press conference Friday that Israel's intentions must be regarded in the framework of its "obsessions," which he listed as "resistance" and "deliverance." He said that a third "obsession" was the memory of the Holocaust. He said Israel would never again return to such a situation, adding that national suicide was not an obligation of international policy. He reiterated that Israel would not allow restoration of the conditions which preceded the outbreak of the 1967 war.

He said there was a substitute for negotiation in achieving Middle East peace and said again that Israel would not allow its future to be written from the outside. "Sovereignty is what exists when a country decides its own conditions for survival," he said. "There is no peace without negotiations."

On the issue of Israel's image in world opinion, he said that before and during the June, 1967 war, world sympathy was shown for Israel but action on its behalf was not displayed. He said that Britain had decided not to sell its Chieftain tanks to Israel but insisted there was no embargo.

He said his scheduled meeting with Secretary of State William P. Rogers on Tuesday would be one in which there would be differences but that the talks would be in a "friendly atmosphere." He said he planned to ask U.S. officials to use their influence with the Arab countries for direct peace talks with Israel.

### **Humphrey Says Rogers' Policy Position Would Sacrifice Israel's Interests**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14(JTA)--Former Vice-President Hubert Humphrey criticized the Middle East policy position outlined by Secretary of State William P. Rogers last week as constituting a sacrifice of Israel's interests in the hope of gaining accord with the Soviet Union. In a statement issued by his office here, Mr. Humphrey said it was "unrealistic" to expect Israel to withdraw to the borders existing before the Six-Day War in return for what Mr. Rogers called a "binding agreement" from the Arab nations.

"It was just such an assurance that the Israelis relied on in 1956--by an Administration of which the President was a part--when they withdrew," Mr. Humphrey said, in a reference to President Eisenhower's effort to force Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula occupied in the 1956 war when Mr. Nixon was Vice President. "The result," Mr. Humphrey added, was "continued aggression against Israel and eventually the war of 1967." He declared that "any equitable American proposal must offer Israel real assurances of security, with defensible borders and unrestricted access to international waterways."

He added that "we all know that the Israelis cannot maintain--nor do they wish to maintain--the present occupied territories." He said the development of areas of cordiality between the U.S. and the Soviet Union was of vital importance for world peace "but we cannot achieve this at the expense of our Israeli friends."

### **U.S. Is Giving 'Speedy, Sympathetic' Attention To Aid Requests, Rabin Says**

JERUSALEM, Dec. 14(JTA)--The U.S. is giving "speedy and sympathetic attention" to Israel's request for additional defense and economic aid, Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, said in a telephone interview on Israeli radio. He also said there was no connection between last week's Mideast policy statement made by Secretary Rogers and the aid requests made by Premier Golda Meir during her visit to Washington last September. He said White House and State Department officials told him that a deadline for the U.S. reply on the requests was near.

### **'Times' Reports Disagreement Possibly Reflected In Moscow-Cairo Communique**

NEW YORK, Dec. 14(JTA)--The New York Times reported from Moscow yesterday that signs of disagreement were evident in a joint communique issued after a four-day visit to the Kremlin by a top-level Egyptian diplomatic and military mission. The communique said the parties agreed that urgent steps were needed to "eliminate the consequences of Israeli aggression." But the Soviets seemed committed to resort to diplomatic means. President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt was reported to have sent his delegates to Moscow to try to effect a shift of Soviet policy toward a more militant position, the Times said.

## Sen. Fulbright Lashes Out At Foreign Aid Bill Provision For Desalination Loan

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14(JTA)--Sen. J. William Fulbright (Dem., Ark.) chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, lashed out Friday against America's foreign aid program which, he charged, has become an "instrument for the perpetuation of the political status quo in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Sen. Fulbright's ire was directed specifically at a foreign aid authorization bill passed by the Senate which provides a \$40 million development loan for Israel to finance a water desalination plant.

The Senator charged that friends of Israel were able to get more United States Government money for that country than U.S. Senators could obtain for projects in their home states. He claimed that certain foreign countries are treated with favoritism and asked the Senate to consider if it was "more important to have a desalting plant in the Middle East than in our own Southwest. Senator Fulbright also attacked appropriations for projects in Taiwan, South Korea, South Vietnam and other places.

The Senator, a leading opponent of America's involvement in the Vietnam war, suggested that the Nixon Administration is currently "in the throes" of a wide-ranging reappraisal of U.S. policy from Asia to the Mideast. His reference was apparently to the statement of U.S. Mideast policy by Secretary of State William P. Rogers here last Tuesday.

The Senate's foreign aid appropriations bill retained the \$40 million authorization for Israel that was included in a bill passed last week by the House. The Senate version however authorizes a loan while the House bill makes an outright grant to Israel. The two versions must be worked out by a Senate-House conference. It is thought likely that the authorization will be retained in some form in the final bill. But the Administration may elect not to implement it. The White House is known to oppose spending U.S. funds for the desalination project.

The House appropriations committee however has already voted \$20 million to begin implementing the five-year program. Feasibility studies made by the Johnson Administration indicated the advisability of a desalting development in Israel. The technology achieved would be the product of joint American-Israeli cooperation. The authorization bill also includes sums for various Israeli institutions including the Hebrew University-Hadassah Hospital and the Weizmann Institute of Science.

## 3rd round of Talks Slated Between Israel and European Common Market Countries

BRUSSELS, Dec. 14(JTA)--The second negotiating sessions between the European Common Market countries and Israel ended here Friday with both sides expressing satisfaction with their accomplishments to date. The delegations will meet for a third round of talks here during the third week of January.

Israel is negotiating with the ECC for a preferential trade agreement, generally considered to be a first step toward some form of association with the Common Market. Both sides have agreed to concessions, principally tariff reductions. The Israeli delegation expressed satisfaction over the elimination of a substantial number of items from the "excluded list," meaning exempt from tariff reductions. It was understood that further concessions on the part of the EEC would be matched by appropriate concessions by Israel.

## \$13,878,796 Pledged to UNRWA By 41 Governments, With U.S. Delaying Its Decision

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 14(JTA)--Pledges totalling \$13,878,796 were made Friday by governments for the 1970 operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). The amounts will be made available to UNRWA in cash and in goods and services.

The United States refrained from making a pledge, pending a final decision by the Government. Miss Angie Brooks of Liberia, president of the General Assembly, told the representatives that UNRWA faced a serious financial crisis. UNRWA commissioner-general, Laurence Michelmore, said the agency must be provided with adequate resources. The total pledged included a special contribution of \$2.73 million from West Germany, which is not a United Nations member.

Dr. Michelmore said all the needs of UNRWA continued to grow, particularly in education. He said the number of children in UNRWA UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization schools had reached nearly 230,000, about 10 percent more than a year ago, and that the greater census would add nearly a million dollars to the UNRWA budget. As before, neither the Soviet Union nor any Communist government pledged anything.

Joseph Johnson of the U.S. said that he welcomed indications that Lebanese authorities were making arrangements to assume again their responsibility for maintenance of order in UNRWA camps in Lebanon. Fifteen camps were taken over by guerrillas last month in clashes with Lebanese forces. He said the U.S. had supported UNRWA from the start and would continue to do so, adding that the U.S. has contributed 70 percent of the \$700 million spent by the agency.

Shamay Cahana of Israel said that the heavy burden imposed on Israel from the war against it by the Arab states was a factor in its contribution. He said that subject to parliamentary approval, his government would make a cash contribution equivalent to \$71,430 and added that funds for humanitarian aid must not give help to states hostile to member states.

## General Assembly Committee Postpones Action On Discrimination Measure.

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 14(JTA)--The General Assembly's Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee has recommended to the General Assembly that it defer until its 1970 session consideration of a draft resolution on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and discrimination based on religious belief. The postponement was proposed by the committee's chairman, Mrs. Abdallahi Ould Daddah Turkia, and accepted without dissent. The representative of Canada also proposed postponement until next year's session. Action on that proposal was held over until Friday.

## United Jewish Appeal Sets \$250 Million Goal For 1970--Largest In Its History

NEW YORK, Dec. 14(JTA)--The United Jewish Appeal today set the highest goal in its 31-year history. It will seek to raise \$250 million in 1970 for humanitarian aid to needy Jews in Israel and in other countries all over the world.

The quarter billion dollar target was announced by Edward Ginsberg, of Cleveland, at the UJA's annual national conference here. Mr. Ginsberg was re-elected to his third term as the organization's general chairman. He told the 3,000 delegates that unprecedented levels of philanthropic assistance were necessary to insure Jewish survival in Israel and other lands.

Mr. Ginsberg referred to reports heard by the delegates during the three-day conference concerning the plight of Jews in Communist and Arab countries, where they are oppressed or endangered, and the difficulties that Israel is experiencing in trying to maintain its education, health, housing and other social services. Mr. Ginsberg said, "these reports indicate just how great the need is."

Israel's Foreign Minister, Abba Eban, addressing the delegates yesterday, called for a "reaffirmation of Jewish solidarity." He said, "We know there are millions who share with us the view that if Israel were to fail, 2,000 years of Jewish history would lose their meaning." He said that with overseas Jewry bearing the burden of Israel's humanitarian requirements, Israelis "can hold the line everywhere else."

"The burdens are very great," Mr. Eban declared. "Perhaps there might be some justification for the belief by some that our shoulders would crumble under the weight of the burden--if we had to bear that burden alone. What they don't take into account is the galvanizing force of Jewish solidarity." he said.

The delegates were told that 60,000 new immigrants are expected to arrive in Israel during 1970, many of them without a trade, and others aged and infirm and in need of medical care, housing, education and other vital services. Mr. Ginsberg said that one reason why the UJA was calling on Jews for unprecedented contributions was the size of Israel's defense budget that will absorb 83 percent of the country's taxes in 1970. Israelis are taxed at one of the world's highest rates and they now must carry the largest per capita national debt of any people in the world, Mr. Ginsberg said.

World Jewry will have to provide \$500 million in philanthropic aid to meet the humanitarian needs of the 60,000 immigrants expected to come to Israel in 1970 and of the more than 300,000 immigrants of previous years still in need of assistance, Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, told the annual conference.

"Our philanthropic dollars will be used as always to pay for the great immigrant absorption programs, including health and welfare and higher education and housing and farming and youth care and much much more," he said.

Rabbi Friedman said that for the Israelis, the "path ahead is clear--war along the Suez Canal, terrorism along the Jordan River, danger of economic collapse--and superhuman effort to absorb new immigrants into the fabric of Israeli society at the same time."

He also called strong world sympathy for Russian Jewry "a part of that totality of concern which unites all Jews in one tightly-linked brotherhood." He noted that in 1970, the Joint Distribution Committee, a UJA constituent, would spend \$24 million on aid to needy Jews outside the United States and Israel. He said that money would assist more than 300,000 people in such areas of life as care of the aged and the sick, children's homes and feeding programs.

## Dr. William A. Wexler, B'nai B'rith Head, Becomes President Conference Chairman

NEW YORK, Dec. 14(JTA)--Dr. William A. Wexler, international president of B'nai B'rith, has been elected to a one-year term as chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. He succeeds Rabbi Herschel Schachter, presidents of Mizrahi-Hapoel Hamizrachi, who served two one-year terms.

The conference was established in 1955 as a coalition body of the leaders of 23 national Jewish organizations. It engages in cooperative actions on matters affecting the security and well-being of Jews in Israel and elsewhere. Dr. Wexler will take office in January.

## Martin S. Fox, Newark Attorney, Is Named To JTA Board, President Arnov Announces

NEW YORK, Dec. 14(JTA)--Election of Martin S. Fox of Newark, N.J., to the board of directors of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was announced today by Robert H. Arnov, president. Mr. Fox, an attorney, is secretary of the Jewish Community Council of Essex County and a trustee of the Jewish Community Foundation. He has been active in the work of the Large City Budgeting Conference and is a member of its steering committee. He is a trustee of United Hias Service.

## Pincus Says Establishment Of U.S. Zionist Federation Comes At Crucial Moment

NEW YORK, Dec. 14(JTA)--The chairman of the Jewish Agency told a Zionist audience here today that the establishment of an American Zionist Federation during the next few months comes at a crucial moment in the history of Israel and the Jewish people. Louis A. Pincus addressed a luncheon of the Labor Zionist Organization of America honoring Hy Faine, a past president.

"The new federation," he said, "will serve both to consolidate the considerable existing strength of American Zionism and to expand it by welcoming the affiliation of new elements from the community at large." He said in view of the present situation affecting the security of Israel, the strengthening effects of an American Zionist Federation would be "particularly timely."