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Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin Reported Under Consideration For Post In New Cabinet

JERUSALEM, Dec. 17(JTA)--A third retired general may soon join the Cabinet of Premier Golda Meir. Political sources said today that the Labor Party is considering the appointment of Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, former Chief of Staff and currently Israel's Ambassador to the United States to a Cabinet post.

Gen. Rabin, who was commander of Israeli forces during the June, 1967 Six-Day War, would be named to the Cabinet by the Labor Party to balance the enhanced status enjoyed by the Gahal faction since it selected former Air Force commander, Gen. Ezer Weizmann, to be Minister of Transport, the sources said. The Labor Party already has one general in its Cabinet ranks in the person of Defense Minister Moshe Dayan.

According to agreements reached on the distribution of portfolios, Labor is entitled to another minister. Mrs. Meir is keeping open the posts of Minister of Health and Minister of Immigrant Absorption for Mapam, a partner in the Labor Alignment. Mapam leaders have joined the Government as Ministers-without-Portfolio but have refused to enter the coalition because of their ideological differences with Gahal.

Until the Mapam leadership changes its mind, Mrs. Meir has proposed that the important absorption post be turned over temporarily to Shimon Peres, leader of the Labor Party's Rafi faction, who was sworn in this week as Minister-Without-Portfolio. Mr. Peres, a one time Deputy Defense Minister, is also in charge of economic matters in the occupied Arab territories.

On a lower echelon, the directors general of several ministries have announced their intentions to resign.

Traditionally, new ministers have the privilege of selecting their own directors general when they take office. The Posts and Transport Ministries are both headed by new men and their directors general, were expected to tender their resignations. The Ministry of Tourism is still headed by Moshe Kol, but its director general, the popular Meir De Shalit, has announced his intention to resign after 11 years to take private employment. Mr. De Shalit remarked that 11 years was too long for one man to remain in a post. The director general of the Ministry of Interior also plans to resign although there has been no change in minister.

Israel Says It Will Not Accept Refund For 50 Mirage Jets France Has Embargoed

JERUSALEM, Dec. 17(JTA)--Israel is firmly opposed to accepting any refund from France for the 50 Mirage V jet fighter bombers that were embargoed by the De Gaulle regime although Israel has paid for them in full. According to informed sources here, Israel insists on delivery of the aircraft which are being held in storage in France.

The embargo was imposed by former President Charles De Gaulle following the June, 1967 Six-Day War in which the French leader accused Israel of being the aggressor. The embargo has been continued under the regime of President George Pompidou although there have been some indications that it wants to improve relations with Israel. Sources here said the French believe the Mirage affair is undermining attempts to improve relations with Israel and want to close this chapter by repaying the money for the planes. This possibility has been raised by a number of French officials in talks with Israelis but Israel has insisted that it wants the planes, not the money.

French-Built Gunboats For Israel Navy 'Frozen' By Embargo

PARIS, Dec. 17(JTA)--The 250-ton gunboat Eilat was launched at Cherbourg yesterday for the Israel Navy but it is still uncertain whether she and her four French-built sisters will ever fly the Israel flag.

As matters stand, the five speedy craft are "frozen" under the embargo on arms to Israel imposed by former President De Gaulle and continued by President Pompidou.

The Eilat is the last of 12 gunboats ordered by Israel in 1966, seven of which were delivered before the Six-Day War and the embargo. All 12 have been paid for in full. They are powered by German-made engines and armed with Italian guns and Israeli missiles. They have a speed of 40 knots (46 land miles per hour).

Five Israeli naval crews of 33 men each have been waiting in Cherbourg for months to take over the gunboats. A large colony of Israeli engineers, naval advisers and other personnel and their families, numbering between 200-300 persons, have been living in Cherbourg for three years while the boats were under construction. Most of them are quartered in houses built especially for them by the shipyard which had hoped for orders for an additional 12 gunboats.

A number of the Israelis are expected to return home next week and the future of the boats is obscure. A spokesman for the Israel Embassy in Paris said yesterday that there were no plans to sell them.

State Department Says There Is No Deadline On Israel's Application for Aid

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17(JTA)--The Israeli Government is under an incorrect impression if it believes that there is a Dec. 31 deadline for a United States decision on Israeli Premier Golda Meir's personal appeal to President Nixon for more Phantomjets and financial assistance, State Department officials said today.

These officials said Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban correctly reported after meeting with Secretary of State William P. Rogers that the applications remained under consideration. But Israeli leaders are under a misapprehension if they feel that a definite yes or no answer will be forthcoming by the end of this year, the sources said.

Authorities said it was unlikely that the complex situation would permit a decision on Israel's financial and defense requirements until some time in 1970. Mrs. Meir had apparently gotten an impression from President Nixon during her visit earlier this year that he would take final action on the matter by the year's end. One official said the decision might be made "before the end of the Jewish Year--sometime next summer" although he had no information that any deadline had been agreed by the president.

State Department officials said that differences remained after the Rogers Eban Talk. The differences were said to be about the same as those that existed before the meeting. They were described as "significant." U.S. action on Israeli military and financial needs was not depicted as being contingent upon Israeli cooperation with Secretary of State William P. Rogers' policy on withdrawal from occupied territories.

Mr. Eban met for more than two and a half hours yesterday with Mr. Rogers. He said afterwards that he had had a "very comprehensive" discussion with Mr. Rogers on "all matters of mutual interest" but declined to give details. He said Israel's policy "remained dedicated to peace by agreement through negotiations with our neighbors." He advised newsmen to inquire of the State Department about the U.S. position.

Mr. Rogers' Dec. 9 speech outlining American Middle East policy caused consternation in the Israel Government. The secretary of State called for Israel's withdrawal from virtually all occupied territory in return for a binding commitment to place by the Arabs. He also suggested that Jordan share a religious civic and administrative role with Israel in Jerusalem and defended the Big Power approach to a Mid-east settlement.

Mr. Eban said yesterday that Israel would not move from the occupied territories without the establishment of real peace. He said the world community could help best by getting the negotiating process going. Questioned about Israel's formula for a territorial settlement, Mr. Eban said the issue was not one of territory but of peace. He said all questions were open to negotiation without prior conditions if the Arabs wanted to talk peace. He said Israel wants peace and the Arabs do not, but rejected the suggestion that a "deadlock" exists.

Egypt Attacks U.S. Middle East Policy, Repeats Support For Big 4

LONDON, Dec. 17(JTA)--An Egyptian Government spokesman attacked U.S. Mideast policy today as encouraging Israeli "aggression" but repeated Egypt's support for the Big Four peace efforts. Ismat Abdel Meguid said U.S. policy encouraged Israel "to persevere in her aggression and defiance of UN resolutions." He dismissed the latest American peace proposals as not compatible with United Nations resolutions.

Israeli Jets Again Strike Egyptian Military Positions In Suez Canal Zone

TEL AVIV, Dec. 17(JTA)--Israel Air Force jets continued their daily pounding of Egyptian military positions in the Suez Canal zone today as artillery, mortar and small arms duels increased in intensity along the waterway. Three Israeli soldiers and a civilian tractor-driver were killed by Egyptian fire yesterday. The soldiers were identified as Lt. Avinoam Rotam of Kibbutz Shamir, Lt. Rafael Ben Aryeh of Kibbutz Ein Hachoresh and Pvt. Itzhak Fischer of Bnei Brak. All three were buried in their home communities today. The civilian's name was not released. A military spokesman said that all planes returned safely.

An artillery duel developed in the Beisan Valley last night after Jordanian forces fired bazooka shells at Israeli Army positions near Kfar Ruppin, Hamadiyah and Yardenah. There were no casualties on the Israeli side. Fires were seen at the Jordanian positions.

A night curfew was imposed today on the shoreline between the Sinai town of El Arish to a point north of Gaza as a result of increasing activity by saboteurs in the Gaza Strip. An explosive charge went off in the labor exchange office in Dkabalya, near Gaza, last night causing no casualties but considerable damage. The curfew will be in effect until further notice.

Two Arab saboteurs were killed last night in an encounter with an Israeli patrol near Umm Sidra pass on the Jordan River. A bazooka and a shell were found in their possession. There were no casualties on the Israeli side.

6 Prominent Gaza Arabs Accused Of Anti-Israel Actions Are Relocated In Sinai

TEL AVIV, Dec. 17(JTA)--Six prominent Gaza Arabs accused of involvement in terrorist acts and sabotage are being relocated in the Sinai Peninsula where they will be quartered in a Bedouin settlement under the supervision of Israeli defense forces. The relocation order was issued by Brig. Gen. Menahem Aviram, commander of the Gaza Strip and Northern Sinai. The six Arabs were given time today to gather their belongings and make necessary personal arrangements before their departure.

They are: Sami Salah Abu Shaban, 51 principal of the shut-down Falastin High School who allegedly incited students and teachers to violence; Mahmoud Yousef Nijim, 45, chairman of the Gaza Chamber of Commerce and a local property-owner who is accused of inciting civil disobedience; Farid Abou Varda, 40, inspector of education for the Gaza welfare and employment agency for refugees who participated in disturbances in Gaza schools; Shehade Abdel Hadi Hamyad, 45, chief of the Shati refugee camp who allegedly incited refugees; Moustaffa Obayed, 45, another Shati official who allegedly received money from the Egyptian Embassy in Jordan to finance hostile activities, and Mahmoud Ahmed el Nasser, 40, director of the Salah aDin school, who was allegedly behind student demonstrations and other disturbances there.

Czech Jews Abroad May Lose Citizenship As A Result Of New National Council Measures

LONDON, Dec. 17(JTA)--A number of Czechoslovakians living abroad may be deprived of their citizenship as a result of amendments to the citizens law recently passed by the Czech National Council. The amendments authorize the Ministry of Interior to rescind the nationality of persons who left the country "illegally" and failed to return within a stipulated time after being notified by the Ministry.

According to a spokesman for the Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia here, this could affect Jews who fled Czechoslovakia at the time of the Soviet-led invasion in August, 1968 and who have not returned. The amendments also permit the state to withdraw citizenship from persons who allegedly harm the vital interests of Czechoslovakia abroad, who possess a second nationality or have lived abroad for more than five years without valid Czechoslovakian papers. Another provision covers persons affiliated with organizations deemed hostile to the state.

Bergen-Belsen Federation Presents Awards To European, American Authors

PARIS, Dec. 17(JTA)--The World Federation of Bergen Belsen Associations presented its annual "Remembrance Award" here yesterday to two European writers, one of them non-Jewish, whose works are based on their experiences at the hands of the Nazis during World War II. The Association is an organization of concentration camp survivors. The awards went to Prof. Jacob Presser of Amsterdam and Jean Cayrol of Paris. They were presented by Federation president Joseph Rosensaft.

Dr. Presser said in response, "I am grateful that the history of the destruction of Dutch Jewry, written by myself, has merited your recognition and, in consequence, was published in English and French versions." Mr. Cayrol said, "I am not a Jew but I know the agonies of the European catastrophe. I was in Sachsenhausen concentration camp. I lost my own brother and I saw misery at its most appalling. But life goes on and we should learn to live with our memories and act as normal people."

Summing up, Mr. Rosensaft said, "We live in a callous world and we cannot afford to relax. We hope that the books recognized here will serve as a reminder and a warning."

The World Federation also presented annual "Remembrance Awards" Dec. 9 to two authors in New York. The recipients were Arthur D. Morse, author of "While Six Million Died--A Chronicle of American Apathy," and Chaim Grade, Yiddish poet and novelist who has written poetry and novels inspired by the Holocaust. Mr. Morse's thesis was that the democracies failed to do everything possible to try to save Jews from Nazi genocide in central Europe. The Federation also paid tribute to Dr. Hendrick Van Dam, a German lawyer, who was counsel for the group in its recent successful effort to prevent the French Government from exhuming unmarked graves in the Bergen-Belsen cemetery so that the bodies of a number of French victims might be removed to France.)

Canadian Jewish Congress Asks Mrs. Meir To Convene Jewish Leaders In Solidarity Parley

TORONTO, Dec. 17(JTA)--The Canadian Jewish Congress cabled a proposal to Premier Golda Meir today to convene a world conference of Jewish leadership to demonstrate solidarity with Israel in the "worsening" Middle East situation.

The cable was sent by Monroe Abbey, president of the CJCongress and Saul Hayes, executive vice-president, following a meeting of the organization's national executive committee here. It said, "The Canadian Jewish community is perturbed by the deteriorating situation in the Middle East and the increasingly heavy burden which Israel has to shoulder. The Canadian Jewish Congress respectfully requests your Excellency to consider the feasibility of convening a world conference of Jewish leadership which would be a manifestation of profound solidarity and determination to mobilize for Israel all possible assistance in her hour of need."

(A similar proposal for a Jewish leadership conference was made in Buenos Aires yesterday by the DAIA, central representative body of Argentine Jewry, the Association of Argentine Jewish Communities and the Argentine Zionist Federation.)

The CJCongress also called on the Canadian Government and the United Nations to condemn what it charged was Soviet Russia's support and encouragement of Arab terrorists operating against Israel.

It expressed "grave concern" over the recent invitation to Moscow "of an acknowledged Arab terrorist leader." It said the Soviet Government's invitation lent "stature and credence to Arab terrorists and their objectives as well as giving a stamp of approval to the methods they employ and can only serve to encourage them to further escalate violence and bloodshed both in the Middle East and elsewhere. The organization said Soviet recognition of the terrorists had encouraged an invitation to them to attend the Arab summit meeting at Rabat, Morocco.

Venezuelan Official Announces Israel Has Agreed To Aid Agriculture, Cattle-Raising

CARACAS, Venezuela, Dec. 17(JTA)--The Venezuelan Minister of Agriculture has announced that Israel has agreed to aid his country in developing agriculture and cattle raising in two of its arid states. Jesus Lopez Ludue, who recently returned from a visit to Israel, said he was greatly impressed by the advances made in agriculture there. He said a team of Israeli experts would come here next March to study the country's agricultural problems and that on a later date Israel will put its experience at the disposal of the local wine industry.

Commerce Department Is Studying AJCongress Protest Against Aid To Gerald L.K. Smith

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17(JTA)--The United States Department of Commerce said it has under "serious investigation and consideration" a protest lodged by the American Jewish Congress against a Federal grant of \$181,500 to enhance a project sponsored by Gerald L.K. Smith, a professional peddler of racial hate propaganda since the early 1930s.

The grant, announced by Rep. John P. Hammerschmidt, (Rep. Ark.) is for roads leading to the "Christ of the Ozarks Statue" and the "Passion Play" at Eureka Springs, Ark. where Smith has his headquarters. Its purpose is to improve access to the tiny mountain community in the interests of tourism. Both projects are sponsored by Smith through a foundation named for his wife, Elna, which purports to be religious and enjoys tax exemption.

George Soll, chairman of the AJCongress' commission on law and social action, wrote to Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans and Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe on Dec. 2 asking that the decision to allocate Federal Funds be reversed. Today Mr. Soll made public a letter from the Department of Commerce assuring the AJCongress that the matter was "receiving priority treatment" and that no Federal funds have been spent on the project yet. No reply has been received from the Department of Transportation.

The AJCongress protest noted that "Gerald L.K. Smith's public record, over three decades, as a peddler of hate--against Jews, Catholics, Negroes and others--is known to every student of the subject. Smith and his publication 'The Cross and the Flag' are synonyms for racism of the worst kind."

The AJCongress observed that the "Passion Play" Smith intends to present at Eureka Springs, "like the notorious presentation in Oberammergau, Germany, presents the Jews as a race accursed for all time." It said that it would be "monstrous" for the Federal Government to make it easier for Smith and his followers to reach an ever wider audience.

Jewish Liberation Project Will Demonstrate Against Torczyner's Vietnam Views

NEW YORK, Dec. 17(JTA)--The Jewish liberation Project, a group of young radicals who say they are committed to Socialist Zionism, will demonstrate at the headquarters of the Zionist Organization of American here tomorrow to protest a recent statement by ZOA president Jacques Torczyner supporting the Nixon Administration's Vietnam War policies.

The group said the purpose of the demonstration was to make it clear that Mr. Torczyner does not have the right to speak for the Zionist movement. They called his support of the Nixon war policies "a betrayal of Jewish and Zionist ideals and of the most vital concerns of the Jewish people."

The Jewish Liberation Project claims in its constitution that it opposes capitalism "and all other systems which concentrate wealth and power in the hands of elites" and that while it is unequivocally committed to the existence and security of Israel, it does not necessarily support the actions and policies of the present Israeli Government.

Youth Aliyah Is Subject Of New Book By Chasya Pincus, Wife Of Jewish Agency Chairman

NEW YORK, Dec. 17(JTA)--The story of Youth Aliyah, which has brought over 120,000 children and teenagers to Israel, is told in a new book, "Come from the Four Winds--The Story of Youth Aliyah" by Chasya Pincus, to be published this month by the Herzl Press.

Beginning with its conception at a meeting of young Zionists in January, 1933, when Nazi storm troopers were marching through the streets of Berlin to celebrate their rise to power, the book tells of Youth Aliyah's 35 years in the personal stories of many of "its graduates"--children rescued from the concentration camps of Europe and the ghettos of the Middle East.

Mrs. Pincus, the author is the wife of Louis A. Pincus, chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel. She went on Aliyah shortly before the birth of the Jewish State.

Dr. Moshe I. Silberg, Retiring From Israeli High Court, Will Teach At N.Y. Seminary

NEW YORK, Dec. 17(JTA)--The retiring deputy president of the Israeli Supreme Court, Dr. Moshe I. Silberg, will become a visiting professor of Jewish and Israeli Law at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (Conservative). Dr. Louis Finkelstein, the chancellor, has announced. Dr. Silberg, who is retiring from his judicial post next year, will come to the seminary in September, 1970, and will be the first faculty member to occupy the Aaron Rabinowitz and Simon H. Rifkind Chair in ethics and law.

Lindsay Voices Support For Israel's Insistence On Direct Negotiations With Arabs

NEW YORK, Dec. 17(JTA)--Mayor John V. Lindsay said at a City Hall press conference yesterday that he strongly supported Israel's insistence on direct peace negotiations with its Arab neighbors. Mayor Lindsay said in reply to a question that "Israel cannot be compelled to agree to a solution imposed from without. Only by a face-to-face meeting, with no pre-conditions on either side, can the problem be resolved and peace brought to the Middle East."

Girls Affiliated With Agudat Israel Will Try To Influence Others To Follow Orthodoxy

LONG BEACH, N.Y., Dec. 17(JTA)-- --Girls affiliated with the Agudat Israel of America have announced a campaign to try to influence other Jewish girls to follow the Orthodox way of life. The plan was voted at the closing session of the national convention of Bnos Agudat Israel attended by 200 delegates. The girls said they would try to reach others in "grassroots" areas where "the message of Torah Judaism has still not reached out to them." They plan to organize teams to visit communities all over the country and to invite girls from non-Orthodox homes to spend week ends with families in New York neighborhoods with a heavy concentration of Orthodox Jews.