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COALITION TALKS BEGIN IN EARNEST BETWEEN LABOR PARTY AND THE NRP

By David Landau, JTA Jerusalem Bureau Chief

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA)—Coalition talks have begun in earnest between Premier Golda Meir's Labor Party and the National Religious Party with which it hopes to form a coalition government similar to the one that existed before last week's Knesset elections. A major obstacle, however, is the sharp division within the NRP over whether to press for a wall-to-wall national unity government that would embrace Likud.

Labor is adamantly opposed to any coalition that would include Likud, the undisputed second strongest party in the country, and Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir has informed the NRP leadership that a national government is out of the question. The NRP, for its part, is being pressed hard by its "young guard" led by Ze'evulun Hammer and Yehuda Ben-Meir, to honor its pre-election pledge to insist on a unity government. (See P. 3 for complete list of new Knesset members.)

Although the NRP supports the Likud position against any territorial compromise that would give up any part of the West Bank, that support seems weakest among the old party leaders who are members of Mrs. Meir's outgoing Cabinet. But it is that element which is now the weakest within the NRP. It appears likely that Religious Affairs Minister Zerach Warhaftig will have to relinquish his Cabinet seat to Dr. Yitzhak Rafael, leader of the second largest faction within the NRP. The "young guard" which took third place in the party's internal elections last year, is demanding that Hammer replace Michael Hazani who is Minister of Welfare in the outgoing government.

The NRP is also being pressed by the religious settlers of Hebron and the Golan Heights, who voted heavily for Likud in last week's elections. The settlers professed to be disturbed by what they claim is a trend among the older NRP leadership to water down the party's pledge against territorial compromise. "We would like to make it clear that we cannot accept this and we expect a clear cut line as to the establishment of an emergency national government which is the only guarantee...of the integrity of the land of our ancestors," the settlers said in a statement issued yesterday.

Talks On With Other Parties

Labor, meanwhile, has also approached the Aguda-Poalei Aguda religious bloc which has indicated readiness to join a coalition government despite the bitter opposition of its senior rabbinic authority, Rabbi Israel Alter, the "Gerrer Rebbe." The Aguda bloc, though more extreme than the NRP in its demands for religious control of the nation's life, is said to be more amenable to territorial compromise.

Sapir, who appears to be his party's chief negotiator in coalition talks, reportedly will try to persuade the Gerrer Rebbe to relent on joining a Labor-led government. But informed sources within the Aguda bloc told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that chances were slim and,

that there was no chance at all of the Aguda joining without the NRP.

Negotiations have been reported between the NRP and Aguda for a religious common front. NRP officials are also reported to have met with Likud leaders Menachem Beigin and Gen. Ariel Sharon on the issue of a national unity government. Beigin on his part, has divested himself of one of the several posts he holds in the Herut wing of Likud. He has designated MK Chaim Landau chairman of the Herut Executive, a post Beigin took over after a bitter internal battle with Gen. Ezer Weizman last year which culminated in Weizman's resignation. Beigin still holds the posts of party leader and chairman of the party's central committee.

Sharon, who now has a Knesset seat as a result of the strong Likud showing in the elections, said today that he intends to remain in the army as long as he is needed. He said he would attend the swearing in ceremonies of the new Knesset Jan. 21 but would return immediately to his command on the west bank of the Suez Canal.

AIRLINES WARNED OF POSSIBLE TERRORIST ATTACK IN EUROPE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 7 (JTA)—All major airlines have been warned of a possible series of Arab terrorist attacks on aircraft and airport installations in England, Germany and Greece, it was reported here today. The warnings were said to have come from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and Interpol. The plot was attributed to about ten terrorist groups whose members came from Beirut and are reportedly now hiding out in Western Europe. According to reliable sources, the warning prompted the extensive security measures instituted at Heathrow Airport near London over the week-end and which are still continuing, and similar precautions at West German airports. No new security measures were reported at Athens airport.

FELDMAN TO APPEAL HIS SENTENCE

LONDON, Jan. 7 (JTA)—According to Jewish sources in the Soviet Union, Aleksandr Feldman of Kiev, who was sentenced to 3 1/2 years in a forced labor camp for "hooliganism," and whose appeal had been rejected by the Ukrainian Court of Appeals on Dec. 27, will now appeal to the Supreme Court of the Ukrainian Soviet Republic. Fifty Jews from Moscow, Leningrad, Novosibirsk, Kiev, Riga, Tallin and Tbilisi issued a public protest, and also sent its text to the International Association of Lawyers, and to a number of Jewish communities.

6 IN BOUSHICKI MURDER TRIAL ACCUSED OF BEING MOSSAD AGENTS

OSLO, Jan. 7 (JTA)—Six Jews went on trial here today accused of conspiring to kill a Moroccan waiter in a Norwegian resort town last summer under orders from the Israeli intelligence organization, Mossad. The six were led into a crowded, windowless courtroom surrounded by police in bulletproof vests and helmets, and entered pleas of not guilty.

Prosecuting attorney Haakon Wilner claimed in his opening statement that the defendants were members of "an official Israeli counter-terrorist

group." Some of the defendants "may have participated in similar liquidation actions in Rome and Paris," Wiker claimed.

Photographers were cleared from the room before the six, including two women, were led in. All gave addresses in Israel in response to direct questioning by court officials. The defendants, their ages and alleged professions, are Michael Dorf, 26, student; Zvi Steinberg, 29, businessman; Dan Aerbel, 35, export agent; Sylvia Rafael, 36, teacher; Marianne Gladnikoff, 30, computer programmer; and Abraham Gehmer, 36, also a student.

Wiker described Gehmer as a former Israeli diplomat and said he was "directly associated with Mossad." Gehmer has allegedly served as a secretary and chauffeur at the Israeli Embassy in Paris. Miss Rafael and Aerbel have worked with Gehmer on several occasions, Wiker said. Evidence to support these claims are to be presented later at a closed session of the court, he added.

Gehmer Said To Be Leader

The six are accused in connection with the July 21 slaying of Ahmed Boushicki, allegedly a member of the Black September terror group, in the town of Lillehammer, 100 miles north of here. Boushicki was gunned down by two men as he and his Norwegian wife returned home from the movies. The gunmen, who are still at large, fired 13 shots and sped away in a yellow Mazda rented car. The Lillehammer murder made headlines around the world when two of the defendants, Dorf and Steinberg, were arrested in the Oslo apartment of an Israeli diplomat, Yigal Eyal, who was later declared persona non grata by the Norwegian government.

The liquidation group counted originally 15 members, Wiker said in his opening statement which took up most of the first day's proceedings. The group arrived in Norway several weeks before the murder, and began intelligence operations which led them to Boushicki, he said.

Israeli Embassy officials were among those present in the courtroom. Also present was the leading Israeli trial lawyer, Ervin Shimron, retained by Dorf's and Steinberg's families. The prosecution singled out Gehmer as the leader of the group. He has apparently been active in intelligence work since he retired as cultural attaché and first secretary of the Israeli Embassy in Paris in 1969, prosecution sources said. French police have established that Aerbel, Steinberg and Miss Rafael all have resided in Paris during the past few years, the sources said.

SYRIAN CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS TERMED DELIBERATE BY ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 7 (JTA)--Syrian violations of the cease-fire between Dec. 15, 1973 - Jan. 5, 1974 inclusive were reported to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim yesterday by the acting permanent representative of Israel, Ambassador Jacob Doron.

In a letter to the Secretary General, Doron said the violations "included six attempts to cross the cease-fire line to advance positions; four cases of small arms fire; three cases of tank fire; three cases of anti-tank fire, including two cases of firing anti-tank missiles; one case of mortar shelling; and 13 cases of artillery fire." Israel lodged complaints in each case with the United Nations Observers Headquarters, Doron said.

According to the Israeli envoy, "The gravity

of these attacks, which are causing casualties, prove once again that these are not isolated incidents which may occur in situations of this kind, but that there exists a deliberate policy of the Syrian authorities with the object of creating an atmosphere of military confrontation, attacking Israeli forces and attempting to effect changes in the cease-fire line in favor of Syria." Doron said that reports by the UN observers "reflects this situation on the cease-fire line between Israel and Syria." He requested that his letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and Security Council.

OIL WELLS STILL ABLAZE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 7 (JTA)--The fire that has been raging at the Abu Rodeis offshore oil wells since last Wednesday was reported to have been contained today and its source located. "But the blaze is far from extinguished and is still sending pillars of flame and smoke into the air, visible for miles." Estimates of the loss resulting from the fire have been put at 15 percent of Abu Rodeis' total output and up to 20 percent of Israel's annual oil consumption.

Pumping from the undamaged offshore and inland oil wells has been intensified, meanwhile, although Israeli experts have expressed fear that the entire offshore field will have to be abandoned until the fire is put out and the damage is repaired. Repairs will require new platforms and pipes to replace those wrecked by the fire.

Israel is still awaiting the arrival of specialists from abroad in putting out offshore oil well fires. Foreign help was called for last week but apparently there were delays in locating the men needed. Sources said today that one expert has been contacted and will arrive at the scene within a few days. Israeli engineers have begun surveying for new oil sources to replace the Abu Rodeis losses.

VENEZUELAN MANIFESTO ON ISRAELI POWs

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA)--A group of Venezuelan women have signed a manifesto urging official and private institutions to persuade the Syrian government "with the greatest urgency" to uphold the Geneva Conventions on prisoners of war and to especially return wounded Israeli POWs "without delay." The manifesto issued in Caracas was translated and released here by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The manifesto declared: "As women, wives and mothers that we are, we make this call animated exclusively by reasons of humanitarian character, without any political considerations, understanding that political reasons should not and must not obstruct action tending to alleviate the anguished uncertainty of the families of the prisoners of war or the painful situation of those prisoners, especially those who are wounded."

Among those signing the manifesto were the presidents of the Venezuelan Red Cross, Union of American Women, Committee of Human Solidarity, and Association of Venezuelan Women; a member of the executive board of the Association of Venezuelan Writers and members of the Association of Venezuelan Women.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir is recovering from a heavy bout of virus flu and hopes to be back at her desk Wednesday, her aides said Monday. The Premier has been in bed since Friday and has been feeling poorly since before the elections. Sources said the Premier was "keeping in touch" from her bed with political and diplomatic developments.

LIST OF NEW KNESSETERS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA)--With all the election results in, the 120 Knesseters to be sworn in Jan. 21 are:

LABOR ALIGNMENT -- 51: Golda Meir, Yigal Allon, Abba Eban, Moshe Dayan, Meir Talmi, Pinhas Sapir, Yisrael Yeshayahu, Shlomo Hillel, Yisrael Galili, Dov Zakai, Yosef Almog, Shimon Peres, Aharon Yadin, Moshe Baran, Yisrael Kargman, Haim Zadok, Yitzhak Navon, Yitzhak Ben Aharon, Chalka Grossman, Yitzhak Rabin, Arye (Lyova) Eliav, Avraham Ofer, Ari Ankorian, Matilda Ghez, Moshe Carmel, Aharon Efrat, Aharon Yariv, Moshe Wertman, Abraham Zilberberg, Zvi Gershuni, Gad Yaacobi, Shoshana Arbelli-Almoslino, Abdul-Aziz Zuabi, Nuzhat Katzav, Shalom Levin, Yosef Sarid, Esther Herlitz, Adi Amoral, Mordechai Ben Porat, Yehuda Yudin, Menachem Hachoen, Uzzl Feibbeerman, Moshe Shahal, Benzion Halfon, David Koren, Eliezer Ronen, Avraham Gouvelber, Michael Harish, Eli Moyal, Ora Namir, Adi Yaffe.

LIKUD -- 39: Menachem Beigin, Elimelech Rimalt, Yohanan Bader, Simha Erlich, Binyamin Harevi, Arik Sharon, Shmuel Tamir, Avraham Yaffe, Haim Landau, Yosef Tamir, Yosef Kremerman, Zalman Abramov, Menahem Yedid, Zalman Shuvai, Eliezer Shostak, Gideon Patt, Yoram Eridor, Moshe Nissim, Haim Corfu, Yitzhak Medai, Benzion Keshet, Simha Flumin, David Livne, Pessach Grupper, David Levi, Eytan Livne, Yitzhak Shamir, Amnon Linn, Akiva Nof, Meir Cohen, Avraham Katz, Moshe Arens, Mattityahu Droblous, Yedidya Beeri, Geula Cohen, Ehud Olmert, Yitzhak Peretz, Avraham Shechterman, Leon Ditzian.

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY -- 10: Yosef Burg, Zerach Warhaftig, Yitzhak Rafael, Michael Hazani, Zevulun Hammer, Eliezer Atebi, Aharon Abu-Hatseira, Yehuda Ben Meir, Avraham Melamed, Pinhas Sheinman.

AGUDA-POALEI AGUDA -- 5: Shlomo Lorincz, Kalman Kahané, Yehuda Abramowitz, Menahem Porush, Avraham Werdiger.

INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY -- 4: Moshe Kol, Gideon Hausner, Yehuda Shaari, Hillel Zeidel.

RAKAH -- 4: Meir Vilner, Tawfiq Toubi, Avraham Levenbraun, Tawfiq Zayyad.

CIVIL RIGHTS -- 3: Shulamit Aloni, Boaz Moav, Marcia Freedman.

PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT -- 2: Seif e-Din Zuabi, Jabbar Muadi. **BEDOUIN AND VILLAGERS** -- 1: Hammad Abu Rabia. (These two parties together form the Labor-affiliated Arab List.)

MOKED -- 1: Meir Payil.

There may and probably will be resignations among Knesseters who become ministers in the new government--thus making room for other members of their parties to join the House. This is usually the practice in the NRP and ILP. Meanwhile the elections committee chairman, Justice Haim Cohn, has instructed the police to investigate as promptly as possible allegations of gross misbehavior in the elections among the Negev Bedouin.

The unsuccessful Likud-affiliated Bedouin list charged that the Labor-affiliated Bedouin list perpetrated several crass frauds--including inserting votes for people who did not come to vote and changing votes which had already been deposited in the ballot box. The charges, if proven, could lead to votes being invalidated among the Bedouin.

PASTOR CHARGED WITH BIGOTRY

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA)--The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has accused the Presbytery of New York City of failing to take action against one of its pastors for repeated "willful, undisguised bigotry." The clergyman is the Rev. William Glenshek, pastor of the Village Presbyterian Church which, for 19 years, has shared worship facilities with the Brotherhood Synagogue.

Robert C. Kohler, director of the ADL New York regional office, said the ADL had discussions since last September with the Rev. James D. Watson, acting executive presbyter of the Presbytery, about the activities of Rev. Glenshek. Those activities led the Brotherhood Synagogue board to vote last November to end the agreement by which it had shared facilities with the church.

Kohler said that Rev. Watson had privately expressed concern but that "the Presbytery has not publicly indicated, by word or deed, its displeasure" with Rev. Glenshek. Since assuming the pastorate at the Village Church, Kohler said, Rev. Glenshek has repeatedly posted anti-Israel propaganda on the church bulletin board.

Offers Regrets To Arabs

After Rabbi Irving Block posted a notice of a prayer for "victory and peace for Israel" after the start of the Yom Kippur War, Rev. Glenshek offered "regrets" in his church bulletin to "our friends, Arab, non-Zionist Jews and all who are offended by the arrogant, self-righteous sign" posted by the synagogue.

Kohler said Rev. Glenshek called "a symbol of arrogant piety" the Holy Ark installed 17 years ago by the Jewish congregation with the approval of both the church congregation and Rev. Glenshek's predecessor, the late Rev. Jesse Stitt. Kohler also charged that Rev. Glenshek opposed erection of a sukkah by the synagogue. In a previous pastorate, Spencer Memorial Church in Brooklyn, Kohler said, Rev. Glenshek staged anti-Jewish "Passion Plays," which forced the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue to vacate the shared premises.

Kohler said he had informed Rev. Watson that many members of Rev. Glenshek's congregation were "distracted over his behavior, that the Presbytery's 'failure to act firmly has left them deserted and impotent'" and that Glenshek had "caused a schism between Presbyterians and Jews and among his own congregants." Kohler urged the Presbytery to "act promptly to resolve this regrettable situation."

5495 UNEF TROOPS IN MIDEAST

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 7 (JTA)--The strength of United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in the Mideast to date is 5495 troops of an authorized total strength of 7000 a UN spokesman announced here today. Contingents from Ghana, Nepal and Senegal will comprise the rest of the force. The estimated number of troops from each country in the UNEF is between 400-600 with the exception of the logistic contingent from Canada with 1041 troops.

Meanwhile, it was learned that Gunnar V. Jarring, the special representative of Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to the Mideast, has returned to Stockholm from Moscow, where he served as the Swedish Ambassador and is not involved in the foreign service of his country. According to a UN spokesman, Jarring is still Waldheim's special representative to the Mideast. Waldheim himself returned to New York on Saturday from Mexico where he met with Mexico's President and discussed, among other subjects, the Mideast situation.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES: HOW STALIN'S PLAN TO ANNIHILATE USSR JEWS WAS THWARTED

By Boris Smolar, Editor-In Chief Emeritus, JTA

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA)--For centuries Jews throughout the world have been celebrating Purim as the day when the Jewish population in ancient Persia miraculously escaped a general massacre prepared for them by Haman, the grand vizier of the Persian King Ahasuerus. Purim became a day of merriment in Jewish history. The day of March 5--when Stalin died in 1953 from a stroke--should similarly be marked by Jews as a miraculous day to remember. His sudden death came as a great miracle for the 3,000,000 Jews in the Soviet Union. It thwarted his plans, scheduled to be started the next day, to annihilate the Jews in Russia through mass-pogroms and deportation of all surviving Jews to slave labor camps in remote Arctic regions to die there a slow and tortuous death.

The signal to this brutal plan was to be given March 6 at the opening of the notorious "Doctors' Trial" at which six prominent Jewish and three non-Jewish physicians were accused by Stalin falsely of having plotted to poison him and other Soviet leaders in the Kremlin. The trial was cancelled immediately upon Stalin's death, the physicians were released and rehabilitated. Soviet Jews--who lived in mortal fear during weeks of intensified anti-Jewish propaganda in the Soviet press preparing the climate Stalin wanted for the trial--breathed freely.

Details of the pogrom planned by Stalin and of his sudden death which saved the Jews in the Soviet Union from a catastrophe similar to Hitler's annihilation of the 6,000,000 Jews in Europe, were related by me in my book, "Soviet Jewry Today and Tomorrow," published by Macmillan in 1971. The book was a product of my revisiting the Soviet Union in 1968, when I spoke to hundreds of Jews and to numerous Soviet officials and when it was indicated to me by one of the latter that the Soviet government would soon start permitting Jewish emigration on a limited scale. Emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union to Israel started surprisingly a few weeks later.

The details which I related of Stalin's sudden death revealed that Stalin suffered a stroke during an angry discussion over his plan about the Jews at a meeting with top Soviet leaders in the Kremlin. He anticipated that none in the Kremlin would dare to oppose his plan and was shocked when Marshal Clement Voroshilov, the President of the USSR and a popular military figure in the country, said that he would tear up his Communist Party membership card if Stalin's plan against the Jews was carried out. His sentiments were echoed by Vyacheslav Molotov, Soviet Foreign Minister whose Jewish wife had earlier been deported to distant Soviet territory on Stalin's orders, allegedly because she had shown friendship to Golda Meir when she was Israel's first Ambassador to the Soviet Union. Taken aback by this open and sharp opposition--probably the first daring opposition since he became the dictator of the Soviet Union--Stalin collapsed at the meeting from a stroke. Two days later he died. With him also died his brutal plan to destroy all the Jews in the Soviet Union.

Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn, the eminent Soviet writer and Nobel Prize winner who has been courageously exposing and fighting the inhuman methods and system of the Soviet secret police, dwells now at greater length on the Stalin plan than I did. In his new book, "The Gulag Archipelago"--an explosive massive expose of the Soviet terror system--he presents hitherto unknown facts on Stalin's devilish connivance to wipe out the Jews in Russia while posing as an opponent of anti-Semitism. The book, already published in Paris and soon to be published in this country, is "forbidden fruit" in the Soviet Union from where the manuscript had been smuggled out.

According to Mr. Solzhenitsyn's version, Stalin proposed the holding of a public execution of the accused doctors by hanging them on the Red Square, in front of the Kremlin. The mobs attracted to this morbid scene would have to be incited by speakers to violence. They would then, under leadership of party officials, have spread out over Moscow carrying out a pogrom against Jews wherever they were found in the style of the Czarist regime. After a night of looting and killing, Stalin would have stepped in as a "savior" of the Jews from the "anger of the masses" by transporting them to remote places in the Arctic. There they would meet a slow death in the forced labor camps which were prepared for them. Stalin was known as an anti-Semite in the inner circle of the Kremlin but, according to his successor, Nikita Khrushchev, was always careful not to make his anti-Jewish feelings known publicly, since this would contradict with the tenets of Leninism. Khrushchev pointed out in his memoirs that Stalin's hostile attitude toward the Jewish people was a "major defect" in his character, but that he took care never to hint at his anti-Semitism in his written works or in his speeches.

In his anti-Semitic acts, Stalin liked others to do his dirty work, while himself posing as a fighter against anti-Semitism, Khrushchev asserted. He related an episode revealing that Stalin once suggested to him to organize the "beating up with clubs" of Jewish workers at an aviation factory in Moscow by the non-Jewish workers there. Khrushchev did not carry out this "suggestion" because he feared that Stalin would later blame him if the assault on the Jewish workers would lead to an investigation. Stalin would have "strangled" anyone whose actions would have discredited him as an anti-Semite, Khrushchev stated in his memoirs.

Similarly, Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva, charged her father with the murder of Solomon Mikhoels, the noted and much decorated Soviet-Jewish actor and chairman of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, which was organized during the war years in Russia to mobilize Jewish efforts throughout the world against the Nazi invasion into the Soviet Union. She relates in her memoirs how her father was informed over the telephone, at home, that the job on Mikhoels was completed. He then instructed to see to it that the killing of Mikhoels, a dedicated Communist carrying the Order of Lenin in decoration, was reported as a mere street accident. Mikhoels was run over by a truck while on a visit to Minsk. The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee was later liquidated by order of Stalin together with all Jewish cultural institutions, including the Jewish State Theatre in Moscow. Most of the Jewish writers and other intellectuals were either arrested and shot or banished to their death in camps in Siberia.