



daily news bulletin

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DAYAN SAYS DECISION TO STAY OUT OF NEXT CABINET NOT MEANT AS A TACTIC TO FORCE A COALITION GOV'T. WITH LIKUD Indicates He May Still Reverse His Decision

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan made it clear to his close associates in the Labor Party last night that his decision not to participate in the next Cabinet did not constitute a challenge to Premier Golda Meir, a threat to pull out of the party or a tactic to force Labor into a national unity coalition with Likud.

Members of the former Rafi faction who heard directly from Dayan, stressed today that he decided not to participate in the next government "under present conditions." According to them, this meant he would reverse his decision if those conditions were eliminated, meaning an end to the criticism of his performance as Defense Minister from within the Labor Alignment.

The explanations by Dayan's friends this morning partially defused the bombshell of the announcement yesterday that Dayan would not serve in the next Cabinet. At the same time, the likelihood grew today that a new coalition government, based on the present partnership of Labor, the National Religious Party and the Independent Liberal Party, would be formed before the end of the day. (See separate story.) The feeling here also is that when the time comes for Premier Meir to name her new ministers, Dayan will once again hold the defense portfolio.

In an apparent qualification of his statement that he would not join the next Cabinet, "under present conditions," Dayan told the General Zionist Council plenary here today that he was ready to give Mrs. Meir "all possible assistance" in forming a new Cabinet. He made that statement in reply to a question.

Optimistic About Israeli Military Situation

His one-hour formal address involved an analysis of Israel's military situation, on which he was optimistic. He said the near future might offer a most important opportunity for some kind of political settlement with the Arabs. He said he had a great respect for the disengagement agreement with Egypt but that he felt the real test for Israel was in the coming months. Dayan stated that Egypt's motivation for war would be renewed if some settlement was not achieved. He said "we must therefore make a supreme effort to reach a settlement that will make possible the de-fusing of the war."

Dayan also expressed optimism about prospects for a disengagement of forces with the Syrians. "They can boast as much as they wish, but we shall reach some kind of a settlement because the present lines are uncomfortable. They will come to the discussion table, because they need it," he said. Dayan noted that although Israel's status was unique in that she was the only country in the world depending on only one source of supply of arms, "there was no threat to the existence of the State of Israel. Security problems in the general context of Israel's existence are only marginal."

However, he added, one of the major problems Israel was facing was that of a limited

source of manpower. "When we are trying to train 100 pilots we face the difficult question of where to take them from. Where is the Jewish people from which we can select those 100 pilots?" he asked.

The Defense Minister praised the present relations between Israel and the U.S. "I have no words to praise Prof. Kissinger enough," he said. "I have no trace of a complaint against him. Certainly, he is the Secretary of State of the United States, but he has never cheated us. The Arabs trust him too, which I have nothing against. We cannot reach a settlement with the Arabs if there is no mediating unit which both sides trust." Dayan added that if the disengagement with Syria works out, most of the reservists recruited during the war will be released.

SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR EXPRESSES FEAR ONLY 25 ISRAELI POWs STILL ALIVE

BRUSSELS, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Simone de Beauvoir, the French writer, philosopher and fighter for women's liberation, said here that of the estimated 130 Israeli soldiers captured by the Syrians during the Yom Kippur War only 25 of them may still be alive. She made this statement at a press conference at the conclusion Monday of the one-day International Conference for the Liberation of Israeli Prisoners of War in Syria which she helped organize and which she chaired.

Ms. de Beauvoir told the press conference that of the 130 POWs "we are only certain that 25 of them are still alive, because they have been shown by the Syrians a few times" in newspapers, magazines and films. "The fact that the same group of prisoners are shown repeatedly only deepens our worst fears," she said.

Meanwhile, in addition to 15 American Nobel Laureates, academicians and internationally prominent members in the world of arts and letters who sent messages to the conference protesting the actions of the Syrian government and demanding that a list of POWs be released and International Red Cross officials be allowed to visit them (reported in Tuesday's Bulletin) were:

Nobel Laureate Heinrich Boell, British playwright Arnold Wesker, and American actress Shelley Winters. Boell, who last week hosted the exiled Soviet novelist and Nobel Laureate Alexander Solzhenitsyn, said in his message: "I wish success to the conference and I hope for the liberation of all the Israeli prisoners."

CATHOLICS LEAVE FOR ISRAEL TO PRESENT STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF ISRAELI POWs

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Father Joseph G. Konrad and Rabbi Bruce K. Cole of the Catholic-Jewish Relations Committee, sponsored by the Diocese of Brooklyn, the largest Roman Catholic diocese in the United States, and the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, left for Jerusalem today to present to the Israel Foreign Ministry a statement in support of the Israeli prisoners of war in Syria.

The statement, released at a press conference at the ADL headquarters, declared that "the Catholic-Jewish Relations Committee, in the name of God and humanity, appeals to the Syrian Arab Republic to recognize the right of human dignity for

all mankind created in the image of God and escape prolonging the agony of the prisoners' families and the prisoners themselves by releasing the names of the prisoners still alive, and permitting communications between them, their families, the Red Cross, and the United Nations'.

Arnold Forster, ADL's general counsel and associate director, said the Syrian attitude was an "unspeakable outrage. The Syrians are using human beings for barter," he said. "Responsible men cannot be silent and allow this to happen." Father Konrad, who along with Rabbi Josiah Derby, is co-chairman of the committee, said he is going to Israel as a "demonstration of friendship and concern for the Israeli people." He said the committee is seeking as a minimal first step the release of the POW names and permission for the POWs to communicate with their families and ultimately the exchange of Syrian and Israeli POWs.

Cold-Blooded Murder

Rabbi Cole, who is community consultant for the ADL's New York regional office, said he and Father Konrad hope to meet with Israeli Foreign Office officials, religious leaders in Jerusalem and representatives of the world press in Israel.

The statement issued by the Catholic-Jewish Relations Committee noted that Syria has "flouted the Geneva Convention provisions relating to the treatment of prisoners of war." It also pointed out that "we feel deep sadness and grave shock at the reports that many Israeli soldiers, after their capture by the Syrians, were murdered systematically and in cold blood...."

"The Israeli prisoners of war in Syria are not just soldiers," the statement added. "They are sons. They are not just men who fought for their country. They are husbands and fathers. They are missing and only the government of Syria knows where they are, but that government will not tell the Red Cross; it will not tell the United Nations; it will not tell the world." Rabbi Derby noted that the committee which was formed in 1966 does not represent only ADL members but the Jewish community at large as well as the diocese. (By David Friedman)

FASCISTS, RIGHT-WING GROUPS PUT UP 55 CANDIDATES IN BRITAIN'S ELECTION

LONDON, Feb. 20 (JTA)--The National Front, which is an amalgamation of Fascists and other extreme right-wing groups, and which had lost the deposits of all its candidates in the 1970 general election (not one of them having polled the required one-eighth of the total vote to save his deposit), has put up for the Feb. 28 general elections 55 candidates.

Several of them are in constituencies contested by Jews, but this is accidental. Their program makes no mention of Jews as such. It concentrates on attacks on the Blacks, now numbering over a million and outnumbering the Jews by two to one, and on the race relations act, which forbids color discrimination. Their program also advocates "no admission for anybody to Britain, as the country is overcrowded already." The attitude of the voters to this group will again serve as a barometer for the mood in the country, and the election results will be watched not only by Jews but also by civil liberties organizations and liberals in general.

Thirty-nine Jews are seeking re-election, of whom eight are Conservatives (including Michael Fidler, immediate past-president of the Board of Deputies) and one Liberal, Clevett

Freud, grandson of Sigmund Freud. The 30 Laborites include Greville Janner, the son of Lord Janner of Leicester and Ian Mikardo, a former chairman of the Labor Party.

AMIT CALLS FOR MAJOR RADICAL CHANGES IN ISRAELI GOV'T. LEADERSHIP

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Res. Gen. Meir Amit, president of Koor Industries, Israel's largest industrial enterprise which is owned by the Histadrut, said here yesterday that "major radical changes must take place" among the Israeli leadership. He observed nonetheless that if Defense Minister Moshe Dayan "will be fired" and "the system will not be changed" then nothing will be achieved.

He observed, however, that the required changes cannot be made by the present leadership. Speaking at a press conference at Histadrut House here, Amit, former chief of Israeli Army Intelligence, said that until the Yom Kippur War the Israelis were captive of a concept that said "nothing could happen to us." He reiterated the view that there was no intelligence mistake in regard to the latest Mideast war but there were mistakes in the interpretation of information.

Amit, who is here on a speaking tour for the Israel Histadrut campaign, contended that Israel "needs more and more" sophisticated and expensive equipment from the United States, especially since the Yom Kippur War has shown that the Soviets supplied the Arabs with "very efficient" arms. Discussing the post-war economy of Israel, Amit predicted an increase in economic activity but indicated a shift from consumer goods production to defense related products. Other changes will include increases in production for export and increased investments in new projects.

Amit noted that Israel has to strengthen itself in 1974 economically and go on with its development plans even though "the political situation" can end with a crisis. He claimed, however, that he does not see a new war breaking out this year and that "even the Soviet Union does not want to annihilate us." In regard to the U.S. policy in the Mideast, Amit said that "even more than it was in the past there will be a greater U.S. interest in a strong Israel" in view of frictions between the U.S. and certain European countries. Describing himself as a dove, Amit said that Israel has to initiate new ideas, to be more flexible and to bring in the next few months a political change in Israel because "the need is there." (By Yitzhak Rabi)

ALIYA, ZIONIST INFORMATION TOP AGENDA ITEMS OF ZIONIST GENERAL COUNCIL PARLEY

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Aliya and Zionist information efforts abroad were the items on the agenda of the Zionist General Council meeting which opened at the Hall of Nations here Monday night in the presence of President Ephraim Katzir and Premier Golda Meir. One hundred and ten Council members and visitors and observers from Zionist federations and other Jewish organizations abroad are attending the meeting which will continue through tomorrow.

Katzir shared the dais with Mrs. Meir, former President Zalman Shazar and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress. In an address greeting the delegates, Katzir said that Israel would overcome its present difficulties as it has in the past. He said the last few years will be remembered in Jewish history as the years of Jewish immigration from Soviet Russia. He extended his blessings to Jewish intellectuals hunger striking in Russia for the right to emigrate

to Israel and extolled the role of Zionism as ensuring the continued existence of the Jewish people.

Leon Dulzin, acting chairman of the World Zionist Organization, delivered an urgent plea for aliya and improved Zionist information methods abroad. "There can be no Zionism without aliya," he told the delegates. Referring to the "Aliya Months" currently being observed in various Western countries, Dulzin said that no one fooled himself into believing that they would lead to waves of immigration.

Their aim was to put the issue of aliya squarely in the center of the consciousness of the Jewish people, he said. He scathed the materialism which, he said, had eaten its way into Israeli society in recent years and was contrary to the Zionist vision. He said that with only three million Jews living in Israel, Zionist goals were nowhere near realization.

Dulzin said the Zionist Council was charged with the task of improving information abroad. "We need every drop of sympathy, every thimbleful of understanding, every expression of solidarity," he said. He said that information efforts should concentrate on explaining Israel's need for security, on fighting against surrender to Arab terrorists, the Arab boycott and oil black-mail and against cruelty to Israeli prisoners of war. Dulzin said the most vital area of Zionist information work was among young Jews "many of whom are unaccustomed to or unfamiliar with the ideas their elders took for granted."

COALITION HOPES APPEAR TO BE ON THE ROCKS; CHIEF RABBINATE WARNS NRP TO REFRAIN FROM JOINING COALITION

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir's last minute hopes to form a coalition government were rudely dashed late today when the Chief Rabbinate Council banned the National Religious Party from joining a coalition on the basis of a compromise on the Who is a Jew issue. Late tonight Mrs. Meir was meeting with President Ephraim Katzir in an apparent effort to find a way out of this latest roadblock. She was due to appear on television to explain the situation to the nation. (By late this evening New York time there was still no official word as to the fate of the hoped-for coalition.)

The unanimous decision of the Council, which met today under the chairmanship of Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren, was published tonight although an announcement had not been expected until tomorrow morning. The Orthodox NRP whose ten Knesset seats are essential to a viable Labor-led coalition government is not considered likely to defy the Chief Rabbinate's ban although many NRP Knesset members seemed sad and bewildered at the decision.

The Chief Rabbinate refused to countenance a compromise that would have deferred the Who is a Jew issue for one year while a special ministerial committee sought to solve the problem through consultations among leaders of all trends in Judaism abroad. The Orthodox establishment here, under severe pressure from ranking Orthodox rabbis in the U.S., is demanding a government commitment to amend the Law of Return so as to invalidate conversions made by non-Orthodox rabbis abroad. The Labor Party has refused to give such a commitment which is not only vigorously opposed by the various secular parties here but would be bound to alienate the millions of adherents of Reform and Conservative Judaism overseas.

NRP members who had hoped for a compro-

mise that would permit their party to enter a new coalition partnership, were venting their anger tonight on Dr. Yitzhak Rafael, chairman of one of the NRP's major factions, whose idea it was to ask the Chief Rabbinate for an opinion. They apparently realize now that the Chief Rabbinate Council could not have come to a different decision in view of the extreme religious sensitivity on the issue and the exhortations by Orthodox rabbis abroad against a compromise.

Fear Kissinger Diplomacy May Be Affected

Earlier in the day it had been expected by most circles here that Mrs. Meir would succeed, before the day ended, in putting together a new coalition based on Labor's past partnership with the NRP and the Independent Liberal Party. She had seemed confident of this when she said last night that she would not ask President Katzir for a 21-day extension of her mandate to form a government, which is provided by Israeli law. Her mandate expired at 5 p.m. local time. She asked and received a five-hour extension.

The collapse of Mrs. Meir's coalition efforts appeared certain to affect the new round of personal diplomacy that U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is supposed to start in the Middle East next Monday. Mrs. Meir's intensive efforts to form a coalition immediately rather than ask for a three-week extension were based on her need for a new government to negotiate with Dr. Kissinger on a Syrian-Israeli disengagement accord. Sources here noted that a continuing crisis in Israel's governmental situation could give the Syrians an excuse to scuttle Kissinger's efforts with the argument that there was no stable government in Israel to approve and enforce such an accord.

Earlier Mrs. Meir told the Labor Alignment faction at the Knesset that if a ministerial committee is set up to study the Who is a Jew issue, it will consult all trends in Judaism. Rabbi Goren said following the Chief Rabbinate session he did not want to say whether the NRP should regard the Rabbinate ruling as halachic ruling or merely as an advice. "This was up to the people who have asked our opinion to decide." NRP representatives said earlier they would accept the Rabbinate decision as binding.

Addressing the Zionist General Council meeting here last night, Premier Meir praised the NRP for its readiness to listen to reason and asked that party to demonstrate patience until the Who is a Jew problem can be solved by mutual efforts. She also praised the Reform trend in Judaism which she said had made important strides towards Israel "and we cannot permit ourselves to keep them far away." That remark was a rebuff to Orthodox leaders in America--notably Rabbis Moshe Feinstein and Joseph Soloveitchik--who have been bombarding Israeli leaders with telephone calls exhorting against any compromise on the issue.

NEW YORK (JTA)--New Jewish applicants in the Soviet Union seeking exit visas are continuing to lose their jobs, it was reported today by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Among those recently fired were Grigory Rosenstein, Vladimir Lefevre and Alexander Yanov. At the same time, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported that the three hunger strikers in Moscow--David Azbel, 63, Vitaly Rubin, 50, and Vladimir Galatsky, 44--are growing weaker. The three began their hunger strike last Friday in Azbel's apartment and have been subsisting on water.

5 CABINET MEMBERS, WHITE HOUSE ECONOMIC EXPERTS TO TESTIFY ON TRADE ACT AND AGAINST JACKSON AMENDMENT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 (JTA)--The Nixon Administration has scheduled five Cabinet members and two White House economic experts to testify on the Trade Reform Act and against the inclusion in it of the Jackson Amendment at the hearings by the Senate Finance Committee on the proposed legislation in early March.

A similar array testified for the Administration at the hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee but the Representatives, by a 4-1 margin, approved legislation identical to the Jackson Amendment proposed by Representatives Wilbur Mills (D. Ark.) and Charles A. Vanik (D. Ohio). This is part of the legislation that is to be aired in the Senate. The legislation adopted by the House as Title Four of its trade bill directs the U.S. government to refuse trade benefits and credit to the Soviet Union and other "non-market" (Communist) countries until they relax their emigration restrictions on all citizens, including Jewish citizens.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, Treasury Secretary George P. Schultz, William D. Eberle, special White House representative for trade negotiations, and Peter Flanagan, executive director of the White House Council on International Economic Policy, will be the top Administration witnesses at the hearings March 4 and 5. Sen. Russell B. Long (D. La.), the Finance Committee chairman, will preside at the hearings.

On the following day, three additional Cabinet members will testify. They are Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz, Labor Secretary Peter Brennan, and Commerce Secretary Frederick Dent. The major difference in the Administration's line-up at the Senate hearings is that William P. Rogers, who was then Secretary of State, led off the testimony on the legislation. Now it will be Kissinger.

Seventy-eight Senators, almost four-fifths of the members of that body, have sponsored the Jackson Amendment, but the Administration harbors hopes of killing the Amendment or watering it down when the trade bill as a whole goes into a Senate-House conference for ironing out of differences that inevitably occur in measures of this sort.

RUSH OPTIMISTIC ABOUT JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM USSR, MIDEAST PEACE

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Rush believes that U.S.-Soviet detente and the Yom Kippur War are, in the long run, for the best as regards Jewish emigration from the USSR and peace in the Middle East. Addressing a meeting here Friday in honor of Jacob Stein, retiring chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Rush reiterated the Administration view that the best way to assure an end to restrictive Soviet policies on Jewish emigration and other problems was detente.

He insisted that the Administration attitude toward detente "has never implied approval of the Soviet domestic system" and that the U.S. is "not neutral in the cause of liberty." He added, "We will use our influence to promote freedom in its largest sense," but "there are, however, limits to our ability."

Referring to Congressional amendments to the Trade Reform Act that link trade concessions to the USSR with free emigration--measures the Administration opposes--Rush observed that "It

is not the goal, nor a question of priorities that is at issue here, it is simply a matter of tactics." He claimed the Nixon Administration's policy of "Quiet diplomacy" has achieved substantial successes for Soviet Jews, notably increased emigration and the suspension of the exorbitant exit tax on emigres. Referring to the Middle East, Rush said that the post-Yom Kippur War changes "in both Arab and Israeli perceptions of Middle East realities have produced the best chance yet for peace in the Middle East."

Rabbi Israel Miller, new chairman of the Presidents Conference, spoke of "huge tasks before us" and called for unity in the American Jewish community to assist Israel. He presented Stein with a silver menorah on behalf of the Conference. Stein praised the Nixon Administration for its Middle East policies and aid to Israel. "We are for the stand our government has taken," he said. He said, however, that he did not believe "the Soviets want peace in the Middle East." If they did they would not re-arm Egypt and Syria, he said. John Scali, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, told the gathering with regard to peace prospects in the Middle East, "It is my belief that the sun is beginning to shine."

LUFTHANSA PAYS \$5000 IN BIAS CASE

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (JTA)--The New York State Human Rights Commission has announced a \$5000 compensation award to Joseph Dittfeld, 44, who accused Lufthansa German Airlines of discriminating against him because he was Jewish when he was discharged recently by the airline.

A native of East Germany, Dittfeld, who has been a United States resident for the past six years, had worked for Lufthansa for eight years before being transferred to Buffalo, N.Y. in 1968 to be regional sales manager. He was dismissed 30 months later. In his complaint before the State Division of Human Rights against Lufthansa, Dittfeld said the airline had refused to let him face, and challenge two fellow employees who had accused him of misconduct.

Dittfeld also contended that at the time of his dismissal there were only two Jewish district sales managers employed by Lufthansa and that the company was "following a policy of replacing employees in responsible positions with German nationals," the division said.

The charges, which involved violations of the State Human Rights law, were investigated by members of the division's Buffalo office and "probable cause" was found to credit Dittfeld's charges. When the division was unable to arrange a conciliation in conferences of the principals, it arranged a public hearing. After the hearing started, Stuart I. Volan, a division attorney who was counsel for Dittfeld, said a stipulation of settlement had been signed by Dittfeld and Lufthansa and the hearing was ended.

Under terms of the stipulation Lufthansa affirmed its commitment to the policies and goals of the State Human Rights law, while denying it had committed any unlawful discriminatory practices, and agreed to deposit with the division a certified check for \$5000 payable to Dittfeld. N.Y. State Commissioner of Human Rights Jack Sable signed on Jan. 31 the order making the stipulation effective.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger reportedly discussed bilateral relations between the U.S. and Egypt with Ismail Fahmy before leaving today for Mexico City.