



# daily news bulletin

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## **PREMIER MEIR UNABLE TO FORM GOVERNMENT; DUE TO RETURN MANDATE TO KATZIR**

By David Landau, JTA Jerusalem Bureau Chief

**JERUSALEM, March 3 (JTA)**--After weeks of exhausting effort, Premier Golda Meir told her Labor Party today that she would return her mandate to President Ephraim Katzir because she could not form a government to her satisfaction. Labor's top leadership had met all day in the Knesset to decide on a new Cabinet slate following a decision by the eight-member Rafi faction, led by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, not to take part in the proposed minority government. The Rafi faction decided last night to stand for a unity government, which would include the opposition Likud. Dayan had suggested that Rafi members decline to serve in a narrow government if Mrs. Meir insisted on forming one but that Rafi would nevertheless support such a government in the Knesset. Mrs. Meir reportedly felt that a minority government on such a base would have no real support in the Knesset or in the nation.

Forty minutes after she left the Labor meeting, Mrs. Meir telephoned Katzir to tell him informally of her decision and to set an appointment for tomorrow afternoon to return the mandate formally. Meanwhile, Aharon Yadin, the Labor Party secretary general, led an all-faction delegation to Mrs. Meir's home to plead with her not to give up her mandate. Dayan met with Katzir yesterday afternoon to discuss with him the possibility of creating a national unity government. Katzir is known to privately favor such a government but he reportedly told Dayan that, having given a mandate to Mrs. Meir, he had no constitutional authority to intervene. Mrs. Meir's announcement came following a protracted meeting of the Labor Party leadership in the Knesset which had been due to approve her Cabinet slate. Last Wednesday Katzir granted the Premier an additional seven days to form her new Cabinet.

During today's party leadership meeting Mrs. Meir presented a strangely shrunken list--with six vacant ministries out of nineteen. The three National Religious Party fiefdoms--Interior, Welfare and Religion--were to be left open in the hope that the NRP would yet join. A new Information Ministry would be left empty along with Transport and Labor for Rafi--if it recanted--to pick two of them, the third going to Labor's Jerusalem strongman and Knesset faction chairman Moshe Bar-am. Mrs. Meir proposed Yitzhak Rabin as Defense Minister; Haim Zadok, Justice Minister; Yehoshua Rabinowitz, Housing Minister; Aharon Uzan, the Moshav leader, as Communications Minister; and the rest of the portfolios more-or-less the same. Gideon Hausner was proposed as Minister Without-Portfolio, joining Israel Galili in that role.

After Mrs. Meir left the Labor meeting red-eyed and in obviously high dudgeon, the Laborites recovered their wits enough to approve by majority the slate the Premier had presented. No one voted against it--but 11 important members abstained. They included Shimon Peres, Gad Yacobi, Mordechai Ben-Porat and other Rafi members, as well as Labor Minister and Haifa Mayor Yosef Ahnogi who also favors a unity government. Dayan was almost alone among Rafi members to vote for the slate. Mrs. Meir was said to be particularly stung at the meeting by criticism from the ultra-doves, especially Yitzhak Ben-Aharon and Arye Eliav. On the other extreme of the Labor spectrum, the Rafi members did not hide their preference for a unity government and their view that were it not for Dayan's personal loyalty to Mrs. Meir, he would lead them to vote against a minority government.

Dayan's meeting yesterday with Katzir was arranged by four public figures who had urged both of them--at separate meetings before the weekend--to act within their respective spheres to form a national unity government. The four were Prof. Yuval Neeman, president of Tel Aviv University, Weizmann Institute physicists Yisrael Dostrovsky and Yigal Talmi, and former Air Force Chief Dan Tolkowsky. Their persuasiveness is believed to have influenced Dayan towards the final position he adopted at the Rafi meeting last night when he spoke openly in favor of a unity government and said Rafi must fight for one. But he said, too, that Rafi must not at this time force a split in the party--and the way to avoid this was to support a narrow government if Mrs. Meir went ahead and presented one. All the speculation tonight centered on what Katzir would now do, and to whom he would give the mandate if Mrs. Meir returned it to him.

## **DAIA CHARGES TV PROGRAM PRESENTED "GROSS NAZI CALUMNIES AGAINST JEWS"**

**Buenos Aires, March 3 (JTA)**--The DAIA, Argentine Jewry's central agency, declared yesterday it was ready to appeal "to the highest authorities" for action against a program on the official television station which presented a symposium of "gross Nazi calumnies" against Jews and Zionism. The denunciation of the program "Rapprochement of the Arab States Towards Latin-America" which was telecast last Wednesday on "Journalists Table," a regular feature on Channel 7, was made in a telegram to Col. Diego Enrique Perkins, chairman of the Federal Committee for Radio and Television.

The DAIA protested "the offense perpetrated against the Argentine people" by Journalists Table, which, "for unconfessed reasons spreads the most insidious and gross Nazi calumnies." The DAIA charged that the "obvious purpose" was to inject the Mideast problem into Argentina "to frustrate the goals of national union accepted and supported by the immense majority of our people."

Asking Perkins urgently for an interview, the DAIA declared that it sought "the suppression of this aberrant instigation to hatred," adding that "in view of the extreme gravity of the facts, we are ready to appeal to the highest authorities." The program was conducted by Perla de la Vega who, the DAIA said, prodded the participants into

making extremist statements. The morning newspaper, La Opinion, asked Channel 7 for a tape of the program which was denied for "technical reasons." But the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was able to obtain a private recording of the one-hour program.

#### Jews Are 'Useful Idiots' For Imperialism

Miss de la Vega introduced three "authorized personalities," Miguel Cosma, correspondent of "Mundo Arabe," and chairman of the Arab-Latin American Institute; Neiva Moreira, Brazilian journalist who attended the Algiers conference in September; and Jacques Sczyzoryk, introduced as a Jew and as "a great scholar" on Jewish Arab themes. He has written such books as "The Jewish Conspiracy in the Middle East and Argentina," and Nazi-Zionist Aggression in the Middle East."

Sczyzoryk said he belonged to "the Mosaic religion not to the Judaic one because I hate Talmudic capitalistic-rabbinic religion." Urged by the moderator to explain, he said, "Mosaic religion is the root of the Christian religion but Judaic religion is anti-social and anti-Christian." He said the "Judaic religion" was now used "as a political vehicle since Zionism is using all Jews the world over as useful idiots for imperialist ends."

He added that "Zionist capitalists do not come to a country to enrich it but to impoverish it and produce chaos." He said the Jew was not identified with Israel "since those who fight in the Negev or Sinai are not sons of Zionists but sons of the poor Jews." Cosma was asked by the moderator how it was possible that Zionism, something of "completely mystical origin," should be used for "something so materialistic as Zionist capital."

Cosma replied that Zionists had "organized commandoes in Argentina for the moment when Israel will suffer a military blow, to strike by surprise in Argentina and establish a secessioned Jewish State here." But when he charged that Zionism "managed" the press, radio and television in Argentina, Miss de la Vega interrupted to say "excuse me, radio and television are managed by us, otherwise you would not be speaking here."

#### ISRAELI WAR DEAD NUMBER 2521 606, 24 Percent, Were Officers

TEL AVIV, March 3 (JTA)--The final number of Israeli dead during the Yom Kippur War and after that has reached 2521 of which 606 (about 24 percent) were officers. The ranks range from Major General to Lieutenants: One General, Abraham Mandler; two Colonels, one of them was a brigade commander in the armored corp which conducted bitter battles with the Syrians in an attempt to contain their advance; 25 Lieutenant-Colonels; 89 Majors; 204 Captains; 248 First Lieutenants; and 37 Lieutenants.

Among the non-commissioned officers killed there were 9 Regimental Sergeant Majors; 96 Sergeant Majors; 543 First Sergeants; 701 Sergeants, and 548 Corporals.

The percentage of officers killed in action is highest ever in Israeli battles. During the Six-Day War, 157 officers were killed of a total of 776. The preparations for the publication of the Sefer Hakedoshim, "book of the fallen, are nearing completion and it will be distributed beginning March 10.

#### NRP OFF THE HOOK

TEL AVIV, March 3 (JTA)--Premier Golda

Meir's dramatic move in announcing she has given up trying to form a new government, came as a relief to the National Religious Party which found itself pushed to the wall on the question of joining the coalition.

Eliyahu Miron, a lawyer and member of the NRP executive, received this morning an order from the Tel Aviv Rabbinical Beth Din prohibiting the NRP leadership from meeting in Jerusalem today as scheduled in order to consider entering the coalition. Miron told the Beth Din that the NRP meeting might violate the order from the Chief Rabbinate prohibiting the party from joining the Cabinet unless the "Who is a Jew" problem is resolved according to NRP demands.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg said Mrs. Meir's action will give the NRP additional time to resolve the matter. Earlier, Israel Radio reported the NRP faction headed by MK Yitzhak Raphael, the second largest group within the party, was in favor of entering the coalition. The leaders of the largest faction, Dr. Burg and Welfare Minister Michael Hazani, were reported undecided, while other members of their faction were reported in favor of joining.

#### SCORES OF SOVIET JEWS ROUNDED UP; JEWISH LEADERS CRITICIZE TRADE MISSION

NEW YORK, March 3 (JTA)--Scores of Soviet Jews, who were attempting to present a petition signed by 200 Jews to Soviet authorities appealing for emigration rights, and to demonstrate their sympathy with Jewish activists David Azbel and Ida Nudel, presently on a hunger strike in Moscow, were prevented from doing so Friday in various cities of the Soviet Union. In Moscow, at least 17 Soviet Jews were arrested, while in other cities more than 50 Jews were picked up on their way to demonstrate. Their whereabouts are still unknown.

Richard Maass, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, and Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and president of the American Zionist Federation, expressed alarm over the arrests, continuing harassments of Jews seeking exit visas, the diminution of emigration, the mass disconnection of telephones of Soviet Jews to the world outside the USSR, and recent trials on what both leaders termed trumped up charges.

Maass issued an appeal to American businessmen presently hosting Soviet trade officials, urging that they immediately convey to Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev "the great consternation of all Americans for the brutal retaliation against Soviet Jews planning peaceful gatherings." He said these actions "illustrate the immorality of going about with a 'business as usual' attitude." Maass and Miller said the Jewish community is alarmed over news that only 1600 Jews arrived in Israel last month compared with more than 3000 arrivals each month previously. According to reports by the Dutch Consulate in Moscow only 1500 Jews will emigrate this month.

Rabbi Miller declared that the recent Soviet actions against Jews indicate "a pattern of continued repression." He noted that these tactics, coming at a time when the Soviet Union is seeking to expand trade with the U.S. and trying to secure concessions for credits, "will be counter productive." Maass, referring to disruption of telephone service, declared: "Not since President Nixon visited the Soviet Union two years ago has there been such a deliberate disruption of international telecommunications."

**TALKS SHIFT TO WASHINGTON**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 3 (JTA)—The talks which Israeli and Syrian representatives are to hold with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in Washington this month have been compared by well placed observers here to the separate visits to Washington by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy in Dec. prior to the Israel-Egypt disengagement talks. Dayan at that time presented an outline plan to the Secretary which later served as the basis of the negotiations.

The Washington talks, in other words, are to be seen as very preliminary. They will be followed—according to Kissinger's plan—by a further visit by the Secretary to this area on his way back from Moscow towards the end of March. By then he hopes to have evolved, from the Israeli and Syrian ideas, some sort of scheme which could be the basis of direct negotiations between the two parties.

The preliminary talks in Washington will not take the form of direct negotiations. The two representatives will not meet but Kissinger will see each of them separately and bounce the ideas he hears from one off the other. It has not yet been decided what level of representative will be sent to Washington. Israel's choice will inevitably be formed by the internal political problems.

(Observers in Washington viewed the Israeli-Syrian meetings here with Kissinger as another move to limit the Soviet Union's role in the Middle East peace talks and disengagement procedures. At the same time they expressed the view that by holding these talks here, Washington could exert sufficient pressure on Israel and Syria to speed up the disengagement process. Meanwhile it was announced today in Washington by the White House that King Hussein will meet with President Nixon on March 12 to review the Middle East situation. This visit is in place of the one Hussein was to have made Feb. 8 but was postponed because of unrest in the Jordanian army. A White House spokesman noted that Hussein's talks with Nixon will take place during the King's private visit to the U.S.)

**Not Perturbed By Wide Gap Of Ideas**

Well placed Israeli sources reported today that Premier Golda Meir was informed that the 65 POWs in Syria had been visited by the Red Cross before she began Friday's talk with Kissinger in Tel Aviv. Officials here stress that Israel thus adhered to the end to its declared position that it would only begin substantive talks on disengagement after the POW lists had been released and the POWs visited. The sources would not say how the news of the visits had reached Mrs. Meir, but said she learned of them just before Kissinger's plane touched down from Cairo Friday morning.

There was no immediate confirmation of a report this weekend that Kissinger asked for and received the list of the 65 Israeli POWs from Syrian officials in Washington the week before he left for the Mideast. According to the report the only American officials who knew he had the list were Undersecretary of State Joseph J. Sisco and one of his personal assistants. The report also stated that Kissinger informed Mrs. Meir, through Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz, that he had the list and asked Dinitz not to tell other Israeli officials. The report stemmed from details given to newsmen traveling with Kissinger this weekend.

U.S. sources say Kissinger was well pleased by his achievements of last week. They are not perturbed by the wide gap between Israel's and Syria's "ideas," and they recall they always predicted a longer drawn-out negotiating process than was needed with Egypt. While refraining from revealing his own ideas, Kissinger is said to want to attain from Syria what he got for Egypt: a piece—albeit a small piece—of the land conquered in 1967. U.S. officials who accompanied him described the town of Kuneitra, in the pre-1973 Golan, as "Syria's Suez Canal," referring to Syria's insistence on receiving Kuneitra as part of a disengagement accord.

Israel argues that the parallel with Egypt is unreal, since there was no Syrian achievement in the October war—only a crushing defeat. Furthermore, Israel's military-strategic position in the north at present is not comfortable, as was its position west of the Suez Canal before disengagement with Egypt. Premier Meir is believed to have stressed these points to the Secretary in their two meetings last week when disengagement "ideas" were discussed.

**CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER PHILIPPINE CHARGES AGAINST A JEWISH JOURNALIST**

WASHINGTON, March 3 (JTA)—An open attempt by the Philippine government to pin the blame for a setback in Philippine relations with Arab oil countries on the Associated Press Bureau Chief in Manila, Arnold Zeitlin, because he is Jewish, has astonished U.S. officials here and disturbed Jewish organizational representatives. The State Department told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that it was awaiting a report from the U.S. Embassy in Manila on the situation.

Hyman Bookbinder, American Jewish Committee Washington representative, said he was in touch with the State Department and planned to contact the Philippine Embassy. David Brody, Washington director for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, also asked the State Department for information and said the New York office of the ADL would be in touch with AP headquarters on the case.

The charge against Zeitlin came from the Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong which issued a press release carrying the text of a letter, dated Feb. 20, by Philippine Foreign Secretary Carlos Romulo to the Foreign Ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. In it, Romulo described Zeitlin as "suspected of being a Jewish journalist," and claimed Zeitlin's dispatches last month on fighting between Moslem rebels and the Filipino government troops were false. Primitivo Mijares, chairman of the Philippines Media Advisory Council which was set up last May by President Ferdinand E. Marcos to license and control the press, accused Zeitlin of trying to "alienate the Philippine government and people from the Arab world." Zeitlin refused a summons to appear for a hearing before the Council last Thursday.

Observers here said a pattern seemed to be developing of selecting Jewish journalists in key points abroad as targets of such charges: Arabs demanded the removal of Arrigo Levi, editor of the Fiat-owned La Stampa because he was Jewish; Saudi Arabia recently refused to permit Eric Rouleau, Le Monde correspondent, to accompany French Foreign Minister Michel Jobert; and three or four Jewish reporters accompanying Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger to Saudi Arabia last Dec. were told by him that they could not enter the country because of the anti-Jewish bias of its rulers. They nevertheless entered without incident.

# INITIAL SALE OF \$178,133,000 IN BONDS MARKS OFFICIAL OPENING OF BIGGEST CAMPAIGN FOR ISRAEL IN 26 YEARS

MIAMI BEACH, March 3 (JTA)--An initial sale of \$178,133,000 in Israel Bonds announced here last night marked the official opening of the "biggest campaign for Israel's support since it was founded 26 years ago," Israel Bond officials said. More than 1800 Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada joined in launching a worldwide drive to raise the unprecedented sum of \$1 billion through the sale of a new issue of Israel Reconstruction and Development Bonds.

Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, who presided at the inaugural dinner, said that the extraordinary campaign would help Israel's economy recover from the October war and lay the economic foundations for peace in the coming year. He declared that the proceeds from the sale of Israel Bonds would also provide for the economic absorption of 60,000 new immigrants expected to reach Israel from the Soviet Union and other countries this year.

Discussing the purpose of the unparalleled campaign, Rothberg said: "We are being asked to provide a Reconstruction and Development Loan to build a bridge from war to peace for Israel and the framework of that bridge is economic development. While the people of Israel must continue to carry the heaviest burden of defense of any people in the world," he added, "we must carry their economic burden of development and immigration, the two pillars of Israel's future."

The \$1 billion Reconstruction and Development Bond issue will be allocated to various development areas, as follows: agriculture--\$60 million; aviation--\$40 million; community facilities (schools, hospitals and public building)--\$50 million; electric power--\$50 million; housing--\$80 million; industry and crafts--\$170 million; irrigation--\$100 million; mining and minerals--\$100 million; port development--\$10 million; road building and maintenance--\$100 million; shipping--\$30 million; telecommunications--\$10 million; and other items and general reserve--\$100 million.

## A Year Of Decision For Israel

Commenting on Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's success in obtaining a list of 65 Israel prisoners of war from Syria, Premier Golda Meir, in a cabled message to the conference, expressed the hope that this would be the initial step towards the release of the prisoners. She expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the disengagement agreement with Egypt, adding that "as far as we are concerned there is no reason why agreement should not be reached with Syria as well." Mrs. Meir emphasized, however, that "negotiations and peace can be achieved only if Israel is strong."

Asserting that this will be a year of crucial decision for Israel, Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir pointed out in a cable to the conference that "the strength of our economy and the capacity to provide jobs for new immigrants as well as to make a speedy recovery from the effects of the Yom Kippur War will be decisive factors." Sapir warned that because the country's defense expenditures would consume 40 percent of its total budget, no resources would be available for development unless the Israel Bond Organization assumed full responsibility for the new Development Budget to be announced at the end of the month. Unofficial estimates indicate that

this budget will amount to about \$700 million.

## Prospects For Peace With Arab States

Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, was the principal speaker at the inaugural dinner. In the course of his address, he said: "There are prospects for progress toward understanding and peace between Israel and the Arab states. Israel has always hoped and worked for peace. Israel has proved its desire for peace again the separation of forces agreement with Egypt and in its readiness for such an agreement with Syria. We hope that the Arab governments will now demonstrate by constructive attitude and action that they, too, are at long last ready for peace in the Middle East."

The prospects for peace in the area are "in large measure dependent on the Arab states realizing that they cannot achieve anything by the use of force against Israel," Tekoah declared. "The prospects for peace are consequently dependent on Israel's being strong and able to face up to its economic, financial and military problems. The Yom Kippur War, the total backing given by the Soviet Union to the Arab attack, the huge quantities of the most sophisticated Soviet weapons unleashed against Israel, have highlighted the fact that Israel is in the very forefront of the democracies, that the Middle East has been used as a testing ground for Soviet offensive weapons and that it is in the interest of worldwide peace and detente for Israel to remain capable of showing that the use of force and coercion does not pay."

Rothberg observed that an increased amount of cooperation could be expected from the non-Jewish community through larger Bond purchases by banks, insurance companies, pension funds, trade unions and various institutions. Israel Bond sales to these groups in 1973 increased by 70 percent over 1972--\$95 million last year as against \$56 million in the previous year. The billion dollar goal for 1974 was adopted a month ago at a conference of Israel Bond leaders convened in Israel by Mrs. Meir. It compares with \$502 million in Israel Bond sales last year.

## WHITE HOUSE CONFIRMS NIXON GOT INVITATIONS TO VISIT EGYPT, ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, March 3 (JTA)--The White House has confirmed that Egypt and Israel had sent invitations to President Nixon to visit their countries. The State Department said the invitations had been received but that it had no information about any plans by the President to visit the Middle East.

Press reports from Damascus, emerging from Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's shuttle trips between Damascus, Cairo and Jerusalem, were that Nixon was tentatively planning a trip to the Middle East later this year. According to one report, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt said in Cairo on Thursday that he had invited Nixon to visit Egypt. The report said Nixon also probably would visit Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

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BONN, (JTA)--Christian-Jewish "Brotherhood Week" ceremonies will take place March 3-10 in West Germany and West Berlin. The ceremony opened today by West Berlin Mayor Klaus Scheutz and was preceded by a Christian-Jewish church service in the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church. Dr. H.G. Adler of London, who was an inmate of several Nazi concentration camps between 1941 and 1945, will be the recipient this year of the Association of Christian-Jewish Societies' Buber-Rosenzweig Medal. Dr. Adler, 64, has written books on Theresienstadt and Auschwitz.