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SYRIAN ARMS BUILD-UP REASON FOR DAYAN'S, PERES' DECISION TO SERVE IN CABINET

Mrs. Meir Preparing Cabinet List; NRP Majority Favor Joining Coalition Government
By David Landau, JTA Jerusalem Bureau Chief

JERUSALEM, March 6 (JTA)--A suddenly developed security threat on the Syrian front--a reported massive build-up of forces--was said today to have been responsible for last night's unexpected announcement by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Transport Minister Shimon Peres that they will serve in a new Cabinet after all. The two leaders of the Labor Party's former Rafi faction reversed their earlier decision not to serve after attending a hastily called emergency session of the care-taker Cabinet. The Cabinet sat as a ministerial security committee, and thereby in secret, presumably to discuss the ominous reports from the Syrian front. The Prime Minister's Office issued a statement at midnight saying that Dayan and Peres had informed Premier Golda Meir that they would join her new government. The statement said that Mrs. Meir would present her Cabinet slate to President Ephraim Katzir tonight. No details were released on the reported sudden military build-up by the Syrians but as of noon today tension was reported to be mounting there. (See separate story.)

Israel's political crisis also appeared to be easing on another front. A majority of the National Religious Party was reported today to be in favor of joining a Labor-led coalition government. A five-man NRP delegation met with Mrs. Meir this afternoon and may have reached some sort of tentative agreement based on a compromise suggested by Labor for handling the Who is a Jew issue. Peres claimed on a radio interview today that he and Dayan had been determined to stay out of the new government but certain security information reaching the Cabinet late last night prompted an immediate reversal of their positions. Peres said it was more essential for Dayan to remain at the helm of security affairs than for himself to stay in the government but indicated that he would continue in the interests of party unity. He noted that since the surprise attack Israel suffered last Yom Kippur day, it could not afford to ignore "disturbing reports" from the Syrian front.

Initial public reaction was one of skepticism, however. Many Israelis, disenchanted of late with politics and politicians, regarded the alleged emergency as a "put up job" intended to allow Dayan and Peres to return to the fold without losing face. Although Dayan told reporters this morning that the "subject discussed at last night's special Cabinet session" made him change his mind, many reporters attributed his reversal to purely political motives. They said that Rafi had been concerned lest its faction lose the defense portfolio. Should it fall to Yitzhak Rabin, the popular former ambassador to Washington who is considered the most likely potential successor to Dayan, Rafi felt it would be irretrievably lost even if Dayan would, at a later date, decide to join the new government. The Rafi-ites also feared that a Cabinet without Dayan would be too doveish in orientation for their taste, the reporters said.

Mrs. Meir is expected to name 19-20 ministers to her new Cabinet and to leave 3-4 vacancies for the NRP which is expected to join. The NRP promised her a decision in principal tonight, before she visits President Katzir. The new Cabinet will have some new faces. Rabin is expected to be named Minister of Labor, replacing Yosef Almog who is resigning to serve as Mayor of Haifa. Former Mayor Yehoshua Rabinowitz of Tel Aviv, will be named Minister of Housing and MK Haim Zadok Minister of Justice. Aharon Uzzan, leader of the Moshav movement is expected to receive the communications portfolio. Gideon Hausner, the Independent Liberal Party leader, reportedly will be appointed Minister-Without-Portfolio. The rest of the Cabinet will consist of incumbents, including Dayan and Peres. The latter, however, is expected to be switched from Minister of Transport to Minister of Information.

If the NRP finally agrees to join the government Mrs. Meir would not have to rely on a shaky minority regime. NRP's "young guard" is still holding out against any compromise on the Who is a Jew issue. Its leaders, Zevulun Hammer and Meir Ben Yehuda, vowed to fight to keep the NRP out of the coalition, though they conceded that a majority of the party now wants to join. They hinted that they would seek the support of the Chief Rabbinate. But the latter was enjoined by the Supreme Court yesterday not to interfere in the formation of a government. NRP leaders tried again--and failed--today to persuade Premier Meir to agree to amend the Law of Return so as to invalidate conversions performed by non-Orthodox rabbis. Political observers said the NRP would probably go along with a compromise that would defer the issue for a year. Even if the NRP does not immediately enter Mrs. Meir's new Cabinet, it is expected to support the government in the Knesset; observers said.

TENSION ALONG ISRAELI-SYRIAN LINES HIGHEST SINCE THE WAR -- By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 6 (JTA)--Tension along the Israeli-Syrian cease-fire line was described tonight as the most severe since the Yom Kippur War. Israeli forces on the Golan Heights were reportedly alerted to deal with a possible Syrian attack. While earlier in the day, civilian traffic on the heights was reported normal, by this evening it was restricted to settlers. Sightseers and other outsiders were advised to leave the area. (Ironically the build-up came even as U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger told reporters today in Washington that he expected Israeli-Syrian disengagement talks "to start within two weeks" in Washington. At the same time the State Department indicated it was keeping a close watch on the situation developing on the Israeli-Syrian front. See separate story.) The tension resulting from the massive Syrian army build-up was also noticeable on the Syrian side. Syrian soldiers were seen wearing combat helmets. Syrian airforce jets streaked

over the forward positions throughout the day but did not cross the demarcation line.

Defense Minister Moshe Dayan this afternoon visited the Israeli troops on the Syrian line, the forward command post and the headquarters of the army units along the line and also talked with soldiers. He reviewed the situation and inspected the preparedness of some of the units. This evening Dayan said on television that a change in the attitude of the radical Arab states -- Syria and Iraq -- has brought about a hardening of their position. These developments, he said, contributed to his decision to join now the new government.

Likud Leaders Say Build-Up Is Serious

Meanwhile, Likud leaders Menachem Beigin and Elimelech Rimalt said after a meeting with Premier Golda Meir this evening that the situation on the Syrian front was serious. They complained that they should have been informed of it immediately after last night's Cabinet meeting. Beigin and Rimalt rejected the views of some journalists who earlier in the day claimed that the Syrian scare was a political gambit to allow Dayan to reverse his decision not to serve in the Cabinet without losing face.

Rimalt said there were "serious and disturbing signs of a possible flare-up" on the Syrian front. The Syrians were said to have deployed significantly large forces of men and armor on the northern section of the cease-fire line. Reports reaching here attributed the move to a visit to Damascus by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. Gromyko's arrival there yesterday reportedly encouraged hard-line elements in the Syrian regime who want a tougher stand toward Israel.

Israelis are aware that the Russians have been resupplying Syria with heavy military equipment. They have completely replaced the 1000 tanks Syria lost in the Yom Kippur War and the Syrians now have more armor than they had last Oct. The same applies to their air force and missile strength, sources here said. The bulk of the Syrian army is concentrated in the area between the Israeli enclave in the northern Golan Heights and Damascus. It is also deployed on both sides of the main Kuneitra-Damascus road and on sections of the road that remained in Syrian hands after the war.

EBAN: SETTLEMENT WITH SYRIA CONDITIONAL ON COMMITMENT BY GOV'T. TO CEASE PERSECUTION OF ITS JEWS

JERUSALEM, March 6 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban said today that any future settlement with Syria would have to be conditioned on a prior commitment by the Syrian government to cease the persecution of Jews in that country. Eban said that such a commitment would have to be part of any Syrian undertaking to co-exist peacefully with Israel.

The Foreign Minister spoke in the Knesset in reply to an agenda motion on Syrian Jews by Likud MK Geula Cohen. He recalled that during the Yom Kippur War, Premier Golda Meir had stated that a settlement with Syria would have to include a change in Damascus' policy toward Syrian Jews.

Ms. Cohen called for a more aggressive Israeli policy on this issue and questioned the secrecy that surrounds events concerning Jews in Syria. Eban replied that some things were best kept secret if secrecy eases the conditions under which Syrian Jews live. "The fear that they only serve as a scapegoat still exists," Eban

said. He said that while most Jewish prisoners in Syria have been released, three who were incarcerated in Sept. 1971 remain unheard from. In addition, Syrian Jews continue to suffer restrictions and indignities, Eban said.

Referring to the fate of Iraqi Jews, Eban said most Jews had left that country but 18 Iraqi Jews remain in prison and have not been heard from. Eban expressed appreciation for the efforts of international bodies on behalf of Jews in Syria and Iraq.

SOL HUROK DEAD AT 85

NEW YORK, March 6 (JTA)--The remarkable career of Sol Hurok, the impresario, ended with his death here yesterday from a heart attack at the age of 85. It began in 1911 when as director of the Workmen's Circle Labor Lyceum in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, he brought cultural attractions to immigrant Jews. At its end, Mr. Hurok was recognized as the world's foremost promoter of international cultural and artistic exchanges, particularly between the United States and the Soviet Union. Funeral services will be held later this week.

Born Solomon Isafevich Hurok in Pogor, a small Russian town near Kharkov, he was the son of a hardware merchant and at the age of 17 was sent to Kharkov to learn the hardware business. But he soon emigrated to the United States, arriving in New York in 1906. His initial step in the career during which he would manage some of the world's greatest artists, was taken in 1911 when he persuaded Efreim Zimbalist the violin virtuoso, to play in Brownsville at a bargain fee.

During his almost legendary career, Mr. Hurok presented to American audiences such artists as Pavlova; Chaliapin; Isadora Duncan; Artur Rubinstein; Isaac Stern; Mischa Elman; the Oistrakhs; Jan Peerce and Roberta Peters. Among the dance groups he brought to the U.S. were Sadler-Wells Ballet; the Royal Ballet; the Bolshoi and Kirov Ballets and the Moiseyev Dance Co.

His prominence in bringing Soviet artists to the U.S. in recent years while concern mounted over the repression of Jews in the Soviet Union, made Mr. Hurok the target of criticism in some activist Jewish quarters. On Jan. 26, 1972, his Manhattan office was fire-bombed by unknown assailants resulting in the death of a young woman employe and injuries to 13 others. Mr. Hurok suffered from smoke inhalation but recovered. Two members of the Jewish Defense League were subsequently charged with the attack but their case was dismissed in a federal court last year.

STATE DEP'T. WATCHING ISRAEL-SYRIA FRONT

WASHINGTON, March 6 (JTA)--The State Department indicated today that a close watch was being kept on the situation on the Israeli-Syrian front. Department spokesman George Vest said at today's press briefing, "We regard the Golan situation a matter of concern. That's why we are interested in disengagement. As long as there is no stabilization it will remain delicate." He said he had "no precise information on the size and activity of the forces" said to be massed by Syria. "The situation remains unstable as it has been right along," he said.

Vest said he had no information on reports of a new Soviet arms airlift to Syria. He stated he was aware of yesterday's joint Soviet-Egyptian communique that the Soviet Union would participate in every phase of the Middle East peace conference in Geneva. He noted that the USSR is a co-guarantor of the Geneva conference and that the Israeli-Syrian disengagement talks were within the aegis of the Geneva activities.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAEL'S NEW CABINET AFFECTS WASHINGTON

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 6 (JTA)--The improvement of Israel's political situation where Premier Golda Meir is proceeding with the establishment of a new Cabinet that will include Defense Minister Moshe Dayan is seen here as having two immediate major effects. It puts back on course the agreed indirect talks in Washington between Syria and Israel on separation of forces on the Golan Heights. This much was indicated today by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger when he told reporters after attending a closed meeting of the House Foreign Affairs Committee that he expected Israeli-Syrian disengagement talks "to start within about two weeks" in Washington.

Kissinger added: "We hope negotiations will be given a chance to progress and the United States will make a very major effort to bring about a separation of forces between Syria and Israel just as we did between Egypt and Israel." Yesterday State Department sources had indicated that because of the uncertain political situation in Israel, the Israeli-Syrian disengagement talks were in "a state of limbo." Today, however, when Kissinger was asked about the latest developments in Israel, he replied "We worked very closely with Premier Golda Meir's (outgoing) Cabinet and we know we will be able to work closely with them in the future."

The improvement of Israel's political situation will have a second major effect as well: It will hurry President Nixon's belated decisions on how to apportion the \$2.2 billion Emergency Assistance Program for Israel whose financial situation has been made precarious by the Yom Kippur War costs.

In legislating \$2.2 billion to help Israel meet the burdens of its Yom Kippur War costs, Congress stipulated last Dec. that President Nixon could grant up to \$1.5 billion outright and provide the \$682 million balance in the form of credits. Nixon technically was to have decided in Feb. on how to divide the sum.

The President's delay has been attributed to Kissinger's diplomatic undertakings in the Middle East and to the Israeli Cabinet crisis. It was also attributed in part to the need for time to assess the discussions held here in late Feb. between U.S. and Israeli economic and financial experts.

Kissinger is presumed to have discussed the division of the fund at his meeting with Nixon yesterday to report on his latest mission to the Middle East. The President was reported to have been awaiting Kissinger's recommendations before proceeding with the division of the \$2.2 billion.

The financially distressed Israeli government is making no secret that it would like all of the \$1.5 billion in grants and the balance as a 20-year loan at three percent annual interest. Those were the terms of the \$500 million loan negotiated in 1970 on the basis of the Congressional Act proposed by Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D. Wash.).

Israel also would like \$150 million in Public Law 480 funds to purchase agricultural commodities. While this is a sizable dollar increase over the \$85 million given Israel last year, the volume of commodities will be approximately the same. The larger sum was said to be due to inflation. Israel also seeks renewal of the usual military credit of \$300 million provided an-

nually for the past three years and an extension of the security supporting assistance which has amounted to a grant of \$50 million each year since 1972.

ROCKEFELLER SAYS CONCERN FOR JEWISH EMIGRATION SHOULD NOT JEOPARDIZE TRADE

NEW YORK, March 6 (JTA)--David Rockefeller, chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank, said here yesterday that concern for Jewish emigration and human rights in the Soviet Union should not be allowed to jeopardize U.S. trade relations with the USSR. "They're very eager for detente and it would be too bad for economic relations to fall on that ground," Rockefeller said during a lecture on economy before faculty and businessmen at Pace University.

Observing that "more heat than light" was generated by discussion of Soviet treatment of Jews and other dissidents, Rockefeller said Americans would not tolerate the Soviet Union's interference in U.S. internal affairs in the course of negotiating trade relations.

Meanwhile, it was reported from Washington that the Nixon Administration is trying to separate U.S.-Soviet trade from the issue of Jewish emigration in legislation pending before the Senate. An Administration proposal to overcome support for the Jackson Amendment would reportedly allow Congress to use any criteria, including emigration, in judging future trade deals with Moscow if it would pass the Trade Reform Act without imposing restrictions on tariff relief and credits for the USSR.

600 DINNER GUESTS WALK OUT ON ANTI-SEMITIC SPEECH

LIVERPOOL, March 6 (JTA)--There was an uproar and many of the 600 guests walked out of a dinner meeting here last night of the local branch of the Variety Club when the guest of honor, Bob Lord, chairman of the famous first division Burnley (Lancashire) Football Club and a local butcher, said in his speech: "We have to stand up against a move to get soccer on the cheap by the Jews who run TV." Lord, a campaigner for bigger royalties for football clubs whose games are televised, said later, "If I have hurt anybody's feelings, I apologize."

Bryan Cowgill, head of BBC Television Sport, and his independent television counterpart, Bill Ward, sent a joint telegram of protest to Sir Andrew Stephen, chairman of the Football Association, and Len Shipman, president of the Football League, urging them to repudiate Lord's remarks as "not being in the interests of football or honorable behavior." They described Lord's remarks as "abhorrent and obscene."

Councillor Cyril Carr, immediate past chairman of the Liberal Party and member of the Liverpool Municipal Council was among the guests who walked out. He said "It was offensive and distasteful." Film director Michael Samuelson, chairman of the Variety Club of Great Britain, said, "Actually, none of the BBC executives who negotiate these things is Jewish, anyway. The same goes for independent television."

BONN (JTA)--Returning from a trip to Israel, former Christian Democrat chairman Rainer Barzel, urged the West German government "not to leave old friends in order to find new ones." He said he was convinced that "the more we enjoy the confidence and respect of Israel, the more our words will count among Israel's neighbors." He said Israeli leaders wanted peace and understanding and secure frontiers.

