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NEW CABINET SET; NRP SAYS IT WILL JOIN NEW GOV'T.; ITS ENTRY WILL GIVE MRS. MEIR MAJORITY WITH 68 SEATS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 7 (JTA)—Premier Golda Meir announced the make-up of her new Cabinet last night after receiving assurances from the National Religious Party that it will join the government. The NRP executive committee voted 30-17 to enter the government despite a ban by the Chief Rabbinate and bitter opposition from the party's "young guard." There were four abstentions. This afternoon the NRP leadership received a narrow majority, five percent, from the party's enlarged executive to support its decision to join the government. However, opponents within the party moved immediately to delay the NRP's joining. (See separate story.)

The NRP's executive committee's actions give Mrs. Meir a majority government of 68 seats—Labor Alignment, 51; Independent Liberal Party, 4; Progress and Development and Bedouin and Villagers (the Labor-affiliated Arab lists), 3; and the NRP, 10.

The news was relayed to the Premier by telephone from NRP headquarters here shortly before Mrs. Meir presented her slate to President Ephraim Katzir in Jerusalem. The NRP's decision is subject to confirmation by the party's central committee. Mrs. Meir presented Katzir with a slate of 17 ministers-designate in what will be a 23-member Cabinet. She left five seats vacant; four will be filled by the NRP and one, the Transport Ministry, by a Laborite. Mrs. Meir was granted additional time—until Sunday—to complete her Cabinet.

The new Cabinet will closely resemble the outgoing one though it will be slightly larger and will contain at least five new faces, probably more. The newcomers are Haim Zadok who was named Minister of Justice to replace Yaacov Shimshon Shapiro who resigned several months ago; Shlomo Rosen, who will replace Natan Peled as Absorption Minister; Yitzhak Rabin, replacing Yosef Almogi as Minister of Labor; Aharon Uzzan, Communications Minister; and Yehoshua Rabinowitz who replaces Zeev Sharef as Housing Minister. The Independent Liberal Party will receive a second Cabinet seat, though without portfolio, which is going to Gideon Hausner.

Among the incumbents who will sit in the new Cabinet, Shimon Peres has been switched from Transport Minister to the newly created post of Minister of Information. The others will retain their present portfolios. They are: Golda Meir, Premier; Yigal Allon, Deputy Premier and Minister of Education; Moshe Dayan, Defense Minister; Abba Eban, Foreign Minister; Pinhas Sapir, Finance Minister; Victor Shemtov, Minister of Health; Haim Gvati, Minister of Agriculture; Haim Barlev, Minister of Commerce and Industry; Shlomo Hillel, Minister of Police; Moshe Kol, Minister of Tourism; and Israel Galili, Minister—Without—Portfolio.

NRP's Action Rebuff To Its Militants

It was not certain today whether the NRP line-up will be the same as in the present govern-

ment. The NRP traditionally holds the ministries of religious affairs, interior and social welfare. It will receive an additional ministry without portfolio in the new government.

Most Labor Party members were jubilant last night over Mrs. Meir's success in overcoming the worst political crisis in Israel's history. But there was unhappiness and no small amount of bitterness in the party's Jerusalem branch, whose leader Moshe Baram was passed over for a Cabinet seat. Baram a veteran Labor stalwart perennially loyal to Mrs. Meir and the party establishment, had expected to be designated Minister of Labor. But the Premier selected Rabin, the popular former Ambassador to the U.S., instead.

The NRP's 11th hour decision to join the new government represented a defeat for the party's militant faction and, more significantly, a rebuff of the Orthodox religious establishment. The Chief Rabbinate Council, headed by Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren, had prohibited the NRP from joining a government that refused to amend the Law of Return so as to invalidate conversions performed by non-Orthodox rabbis.

The NRP, however, apparently agreed to a Labor—proposed compromise that will defer the controversial Who is a Jew issue for one year. The party acted despite a warning yesterday by the NRP's spiritual authority, Rabbi Tzvi Kook, that he would dissociate himself from the party if it entered the government.

WALDHEIM: UNEF BUFFER BETWEEN SYRIAN-ISRAELI FORCES CAN BE DECIDED ONLY AFTER SUCCESSFUL DISENGAGEMENT

UNITED NATIONS, March 7 (JTA)—Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, who has just returned from a visit to 14 West African countries, said in a press conference here today that stationing of UNEF troops as a buffer between Syrian and Israeli forces can be decided upon only after the disengagement talks between the parties are concluded. "A final answer can be given only after a successful disengagement" Waldheim said, pointing out that any decision on UNEF troops is dependent on an authorized mandate by the Security Council.

Waldheim, who said that the Mideast topic was discussed with the African governments which he had visited, expressed satisfaction that "the disengagement agreement between Egypt and Israel has now been implemented according to schedule and with full cooperation of the parties." He said he hopes that "further progress towards a (Mideast) settlement will continue." Answering a reporter's question Waldheim said that he will go to the Mideast when he reaches the conclusion that his personal presence "can be helpful." He praised the role of the U.S. and the USSR in the Mideast and opined that both are "interested in solving the conflict." He called the cooperation between the two superpowers with the UN as shown in Geneva a "turning point" in the history of the UN.

SYRIAN FRONT DESCRIBED AS TINDER-BOX

TEL AVIV, March 7 (JTA)—The Syrian front was a tinder-box today in which a minor incident could spark full-scale hostilities, official sources said. They said the intelligence information on the massive Syrian concentration of arms and men was

similar to the intelligence that reached Israel just prior to the Yom Kippur War--but this time Israel is taking it with the utmost seriousness and is fully prepared to deal with any attack, the sources said. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union and Syria warned today that Israel's failure to withdraw from all occupied Arab territory could lead to a "new explosion" in the Middle East, it was reported from Damascus today.

Agricultural settlers continued to work their fields, however, even in the most remote regions of the Golan Heights. But tourists and other visitors were advised to avoid the area. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, appearing on television last night, stressed that normal life must and would continue on the Golan Heights as long as there is no shooting. But he said the Syrians were deployed in full strength along the cease-fire line--just as they were on the eve of the Yom Kippur War. They need not perform any large scale troop movements because they are already deployed, Dayan said.

Israeli Forces Prepared For Any Contingency

Israel forces were also apparently deployed in full strength and ready for any contingency. Air Force jets of both sides criss-crossed the forward positions throughout the day but were careful not to cross the demarcation line. Jet interceptors and helicopters were seen over the Syrian lines. Syrian ground forces were deployed mainly around the Israeli enclave on the Damascus road which was captured during the Yom Kippur War.

Sources here said today that the Syrian move was not wholly unexpected. They said that while renewed Syrian aggression is always possible, Damascus apparently wanted to enter the negotiating stage with Israel in a position of strength and therefore was heating up the border. A Syrian attempt to regain territory taken by Israel in the Yom Kippur War could not be excluded, the sources said.

While the Israeli public seemed more convinced today than yesterday that the situation on the Syrian front was indeed serious, there was still considerable skepticism over the political maneuvering that resulted in Dayan and Transport Minister Shimon Peres reversing their decisions not to serve in the new government. A considerable segment of the public believes that the two Ministers seized on the Syrian scare as a means of reversing themselves without losing face.

TOUGH SYRIAN-SOVIET COMMUNIQUE PUTS QUESTION MARK ON TALKS IN WASHINGTON

JERUSALEM, March 7 (JTA)--Observers here were wondering what effect the Soviet-Syrian communique issued today after Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's second visit to Damascus would have on the scheduled disengagement talks in Washington. The communique--couched in unusually harsh terms and endorsing all means to achieve Syrian aims in the Arab-Israel conflict--did not mention the talks, due to begin with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger later this month.

But observers feel the tone and the timing of the communique reflect Soviet dissatisfaction with the ongoing success of U.S. efforts to bring peace to the Mideast in a lone effort. The USSR was known previously to hold that any future talks should be held in Geneva (where they too could bring their influence to bear).

Does the communique conceal a hardened

Syrian line involving President Hafez Assad's reneging on his pledge to Kissinger to send an envoy to Washington to talk disengagement? Observers here could give no decisive answer but advised rather to wait and see on both this question--and on the more urgent military situation on the cease-fire line which may also be influenced, one way or another, by Gromyko's long talks with Assad.

NRP'S 'YOUNG GUARD' TRYING TO BLOCK PARTY FROM GOVERNMENT ENTRY

TEL AVIV, March 7 (JTA)--The National Religious Party's "young guard" took measures today that will delay--and may prevent--the NRP from joining Premier Golda Meir's new coalition government. Opponents have called for a meeting of the party's central committee--its supreme body between conventions--to reverse the decision by the NRP's veteran leadership to enter the government. The committee may meet tomorrow.

The party's executive committee voted 30-17 last night to join the coalition. That decision was upheld by a slim five percent margin at a stormy meeting today of the enlarged executive. The margin was much smaller than had been expected and this encouraged the party's militants and their supporters among religious settlers to try to overturn the majority decision.

The "young guard" headed by MKs Zevulun Hammer and Yehuda Ben Meir obtained sufficient signatures to convene the central committee and also got an injunction from the party court prohibiting the NRP from joining the government until the central committee meets. The meeting was scheduled for Monday, one day after Premier Meir's new deadline for completing her Cabinet slate. But it could be advanced to tomorrow.

Deep Split Within NRP

Today's meeting of the enlarged executive committee, marked by shouting, interruptions and in one case fisticuffs, illustrated the deep split within the NRP. Defections from the position of the party's veteran leaders--some of them ministers in the care-taker regime--were attributed to yesterday's warning by Rabbi Tzvi Kook that he would sever ties with the NRP if it joined the government against the wishes of the Chief Rabbinate.

The Rabbinate has forbidden the party to accept a compromise on the Who is a Jew issue. But Interior Minister Yosef Burg insisted today that the decision to join the Meir government did not run counter to the Chief Rabbinate's ruling. According to Burg, that ruling was aimed against certain specific proposals. The NRP, he said, has since received somewhat changed proposals for a compromise and these, coupled with the deteriorating security situation on the Syrian front created new facts on which the party voted, he said.

FACT-FINDING MISSION TO LATIN AMERICA

NEW YORK, March 7 (JTA)--A Fact-Finding Study Mission to five Latin American nations has been organized by the National Jewish Welfare Board for a group of North American Jewish community leaders March 8-26, it was announced by Morton L. Mandel of Cleveland, JWB president. It is in response to invitations from Jewish community leaders in Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Panama and Mexico. The purpose of the mission is to familiarize Jewish communal leaders from North America with achievements, problems and programs of Jewish communities in these countries and to strengthen the ties binding the communities in this hemisphere to each other and to Israel.

KISSINGER: DIRE CONSEQUENCES IF CONGRESS ERECTS TRADE BARRIERS AGAINST USSR

Warns Of Collapse Of Detente, Possible Nuclear Holocaust, Possible End Of Emigration

By Joseph Polakoff, JTA Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON, March 7 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger warned today of the collapse of detente and the increased possibility of nuclear holocaust if Congress does not eliminate barriers to U.S.-Soviet trade proposed because of Russia's restrictive policies toward Jewish emigration.

But he indicated that he would welcome a compromise that would retain the intent of the Jackson and Mills-Vanik legislation while providing the Soviet Union with trade benefits. He also said he was "meeting regularly" with Jewish leaders and "there is a possibility of getting a compromise from the Jewish groups, but they must speak for themselves."

Kissinger made those points in his prepared statement and in reply to questions before the Senate Finance Committee today which is considering the Trade Reform Bill. The measure as it now stands embodies the House approved Mills-Vanik legislation which is identical to the Jackson Amendment.

Kissinger said he did not oppose the objectives of those in Congress who view trade policy as a tool to change Soviet internal practices. But "they have chosen the wrong vehicle and context," he said. He declared that he spoke with "some anguish" as both a historian and a Jew who is "particularly conscious of the plight of minority groups." But, he continued, the U.S. seeks detente with the Soviet Union for one overwhelming reason--"both countries have the capability to destroy each other and most of the rest of the world in the process."

Some Dissatisfaction With USSR Emigration

Kissinger conceded that the purpose of the Jackson-Mills-Vanik legislation is not to prevent Soviet-American trade or prohibit all U.S. credit to the USSR "but to assist those whose wish to emigrate from the Soviet Union has been frustrated." Nevertheless, he added, if the Jackson Amendment is adopted it will "almost certainly prove counterproductive," he warned. "It will not enhance emigration. It may stop it altogether."

Kissinger acknowledged some dissatisfaction with the present Soviet emigration policies which he said "is not as bright as we would like." He charged that Soviet emigration policy "often seems arbitrary" and noted that some 1300 individuals are currently being denied permission to leave for Israel. On the other hand, Kissinger said, emigration from the USSR has increased from a "sporadic trickle in the 1960s to a relatively steady flow of some 2500 a month in the 1970s."

In another reference to the Soviet Union, Kissinger appeared to soft-pedal Moscow's role in the Yom Kippur War. When Sen. William V. Roth (R, Del.) raised suspicions about the Soviet government's intentions in that region, Kissinger replied that while Moscow was allied with the countries that attacked Israel, "the Soviet Union did not have substantial advance warning" of the Egyptian-Syrian attacks on Yom Kippur day. "Egypt and Syria essentially were acting on their own," he said.

Meeting Regularly With Jewish Leaders

Kissinger referred to his contacts with Jewish leaders when he was asked by Sen. Robert Dole (R, Kan.) if there had been any changes in

attitude to meet the Administration's position. Kissinger replied: "I am meeting regularly with the leaders of the Jewish community to explain the U.S. policy in the Middle East and the degree of cooperation between the U.S. and the Soviet Union to bring about a moderate evolution. I have the impression that they have listened with sympathy to these arguments. There is a possibility of getting a compromise from the Jewish groups. But they must speak for themselves."

Jerry Goodman, executive director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said today in New York that "no meeting has been held with the Secretary of State on the subject of Soviet Jewry and no discussions have taken place with regard to the Jackson Amendment in over four months." A NCSJ spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that there have been discussions by Kissinger with prominent individual Jews as well as with Jewish organizations on a variety of issues including peace in the Middle East and that while the subject of the Jackson Amendment did come up it was not in the context of reformulation or compromise.

Herman Edelsberg, director of the B'nai B'rith International Council, said in Washington that the American Jewish community has not been told by Kissinger that the Soviet Union is prepared to bring about "specific and constructive improvements" in its emigration policy and therefore the community cannot be expected to compromise on the issue. He added, "it is utterly unrealistic to expect any suggestion of compromise from the Jewish community before the Soviet Union ends its harassment of Jews who wish to leave and comes forward with some specific and constructive improvement."

Kissinger said that in addition to meeting with Jewish leaders he has also met with Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D, Wash.) and other Senators in attempts to bring about a compromise. The Secretary, however, did not propose any specific compromise before the Finance Committee between the views of the Mills-Vanik-Jackson supporters and the Administration. But, he said, "We are prepared to talk with those concerned (with emigration from the Soviet Union) if we can strike a balance between our objectives and their needs."

He acknowledged as "one direction in which a compromise can move" a proposal by Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D, Wisc.) who suggested inclusion in the trade bill of a one-year trial period during which either House of the Congress could withdraw trade benefits granted the Soviet Union if its conduct was offensive with regard to emigration. Earlier, Sen. Vance Hartke (D, Ind.) suggested a similar compromise with a 120-day trial period. Kissinger thought that was too short a time.

Kissinger gave ambiguous replies when he was asked if he would recommend a Presidential veto of a Trade Reform Bill that contained the Mills-Vanik and Jackson proposals. At one point he said, "I would think very seriously about recommending a veto." At another point, he declared, "If the President asked my opinion today, I would be inclined to recommend a veto."

Answering Kissinger, Jackson said that the resolution of differences between Congress and the Administration over Soviet emigration policies must start in Moscow. "To make his case to the Senate, the Secretary of State must make our case to Moscow," Jackson said.

