



KATZIR ASKED TO ASSIGN RABIN TASK OF FORMING NEW GOVERNMENT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 23 (JTA)--A Labor Party delegation called on President Ephraim Katzir today to ask him officially to assign the task of forming a new government to the party's new leader, Yitzhak Rabin. This was only a formality, however. As leader of the party with the most Knesset seats--54--Rabin is the logical first choice for the job of Cabinet-building.

Of more far-reaching importance to Israelis was the fact that his election, and the close race made by his sole opponent, Shimon Peres, has placed the reins of government in the hands of a new generation of national leaders for the first time in Israel's 26 years of independence.

Peres is widely regarded as the real winner in last night's Central Committee balloting. He lost to Rabin by 298-254, a margin of only eight percent of the votes cast. But his strong showing elevated him from the position of No. 2 man in the small Rafi faction hitherto dominated by Moshe Dayan to No. 2 man in what is still Israel's most powerful political party. The loser was the old Mapai faction of the Labor Party which, with the refusal of Pinhas Sapir to be a candidate, was unable to find a potential successor to Premier Golda Meir within its own ranks.

The Labor Party's leadership, and probably that of the nation, is now in the hands of the two smaller Labor factions, Achdut Avoda which nurtured Rabin and Peres' Rafi. Some observers suggested that this development heralds an end to blocs within the party and new political unity in its ranks.

Katzir To Summon Rabin On Friday

While Peres can justifiably credit himself rather than the party machine for his impressive showing, the question being asked today was whether it was Peres the individual or the political line he represents that commanded such strong support within the party. His political stance is more hawkish than that of Rabin on territorial concessions and peace terms with the Arabs, areas in which Israel must soon make fateful decisions. The months ahead will tell whether Rabin and Peres can form a smooth-working team despite their different outlooks. The consensus at this time is that both men are sufficiently pragmatic to be flexible. But only time will tell.

The Labor delegation that visited President Katzir today was headed by the party's Knesset Whip, Moshe Bar'Am. It consisted of secretary general Aharon Yadin and MKs Yisrael Kargman (Mapai); Shoshana Arbeli Almuizlin (Achdut Avoda); Matilda Gez (Rafi); and Dov Zaklin (Mapam). The delegation represented a unified Labor Alignment, Yadin told reporters afterwards. Bar'Am said the guidelines of the outgoing care-taker government could serve as the basis for a new government.

The President's office announced late today that President Katzir would summon Rabin this Friday to assign him the task of forming a new government.

HEAVY SECURITY TAKEN IN PREPARATION FOR ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

JERUSALEM, April 23 (JTA)--Heavy security precautions are being taken throughout the country and in the border regions in preparation for Israel's Independence Day observances Thursday. The police have been urging the public to exercise a high degree of vigilance for possible sabotage attempts by terrorists.

Police stations are already flooded with telephone calls from worried citizens reporting suspicious looking vehicles, parcels and envelopes. But there have been no further cases of attempted sabotage reported since police found a booby-trapped taxi in down-town Jerusalem last week.

Independence Day marking Israel's 26th anniversary, will begin officially Thursday morning. At 8 p.m. today, sirens will usher in the Day of Remembrance for Israel's war dead which traditionally precedes Independence Day and is observed mainly at military cemeteries. Flags will be lowered to half mast when the sirens sound, a memorial fire will be kindled near the Western Wall and memorial lights will be lit in all public buildings. The Chief Rabbinate has called on every Israeli family to kindle a memorial candle in their homes.

Unlike past Independence Days, there will be no large-scale military parades in Israel this Thursday. With the Yom Kippur War and the Kiryat Shemona massacre still fresh in memory, the government has cut down on official festivities. But the newly organized grass roots protest movement is planning a massive march in Jerusalem on Thursday.

The 2.5 kilometer route will begin at the bottom of the Knesset hill and extend through the Rehavia residential area--where Mrs. Golda Meir has her home--to the center of town. The march will end with a mass rally at which some of Israel's top artists will appear without pay, according to the organizers of the march. They said thousands were expected to turn out for the march and rally which has been billed as the biggest single Independence Day event this year.

KATZIR, IN INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE, SAYS PEACE PROSPECTS ARE HEARTENING

JERUSALEM, April 23 (JTA)--President Ephraim Katzir today issued a message to the world Jewish communities on the eve of Independence Day in which he noted that "the prospects, however slight of peaceful settlement, hearten us as we approach Independence Day, and so, almost paradoxically do the questioning and ferment among groups of Israelis. These are clearly signs of increased involvement and concern on the part of the generation that will assume responsibility for the nation."

Independence Day this year, Katzir said, is commemorated "in the light of tragic human losses and great military and civilian achievement. The attack launched on Yom Kippur is not yet concluded, and though it brought with it glimmerings of peace these too are clouded in uncertainty. Yet the unprecedented fact of their existence may be the breakthrough to a better future for the Middle East and may perhaps, despite sorrow and sacrifice, make of the years 1973 and 1974 a threshold to a

new era." Looking back 26 years, since the establishment of the Jewish State, Katzir said "we see the State of Israel, the Third Commonwealth of the Jewish people, coming into being against incredible odds."

Almost instantly and despite crushing tensions and problems, Israel became home for hundreds of thousands whom the Nazi savagery had robbed of home and stripped of family, and for masses exposed to humiliation and poverty in Oriental lands, Katzir stated. "The 600,000-strong Jewish community of 1948 has become a nation of over three million with vigorous and creative economy, culture, educational system and defense forces that have brilliantly and repeatedly passed the test of modern warfare waged in complex and massive form."

Urges Deeper Meaning And Nobler Vision

Continuing, the President observed: "It is good to consider the enormous changes that would have seemed visionary in 1948. It is good to remember the enormous difficulties so effectively surmounted and the life-giving accomplishments, and talents our resurrected national center has produced. For all this the stern accounting of history has exacted the sad price which emerging nations know only too well."

Referring to what he termed the uniquely heartening new relationship evolving between Israel and world Jewry since the Yom Kippur War, Katzir declared: "We here have been moved to the roots of our being by meeting groups from abroad, by hearing and reading not only of immense practical aid to Israel but of significant developments in thought and feeling. We have learned how closely linked millions of Jews are to Israel, how they have come to see the flourishing of the State as the condition for the survival of the Jewish people and the key to the preservation and activation of the moral and cultural legacy which our long and extraordinary history has given us and which is so sadly threatened by ignorance and assimilation."

The President concluded: "With a strengthened sense of our common destiny and strengthened dedication and determination, let us all in Israel and throughout the world, find deeper meaning and nobler vision in this 26th anniversary of Israel's independence. Together, let us build and strive in strength and faith, in hope of peace, of growing aliya from all our dispersion and of a new, human spirit in the affairs of men everywhere."

NIXON TO KATZIR: CONFIDENT OF EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH PEACEFUL FUTURE

NEW YORK, April 23 (JTA)--A special message from President Nixon to the people of Israel was released today through the American Zionist Federation on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the State of Israel. The message will be read tomorrow night by Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the AZF, at the Israel Independence Celebration to be held at the Avery Fisher (Philharmonic) Hall.

In his message to Israeli President Ephraim Katzir, Nixon expressed his pleasure to extend "to the government and people of Israel the greetings and warm good wishes of all my fellow citizens on the 26th anniversary of Israel's independence."

He further said that "as the development of modern Israel goes forward, the extraordinary fortitude and vitality of the Israeli nation over the past 26 years give assurance and confidence to your efforts to establish a peaceful and prosper-

our future. The people of Israel may take great pride in the achievements of the past. As with renewed dedication you carry forward into the second quarter century of your independence, I am confident that the long-standing friendship between our peoples and the deep admiration of Americans for Israel's strength in adversity will continue to enhance the ties between us."

Some 3000 people are expected to attend the ceremony at Philharmonic Hall, at which Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Yosef Tekoah, will deliver the keynote address.

RABBI YOSEF PRAISES U.S. AS STAUNCH FRIEND OF JEWISH PEOPLE, ISRAEL

NEW YORK, April 23 (JTA)--Israel's Sephardic Chief Rabbi, Ovadia Yosef, praised the United States last night "as the staunchest friend of the Jewish people and the State of Israel." Rabbi Yosef addressed 700 American Sephardic and Ashkenazic lay and religious leaders at a dinner given in his honor at the Americana Hotel by the American Sephardi Federation and the Sephardi Leadership Council of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York.

The dinner was for the benefit of the Israel Emergency Fund and the coordinated campaigns of the UJA and the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York. During the course of the festivities, single contributions of \$1 million and \$500,000 respectively were pledged to the UJA by anonymous donors.

Rabbi Yosef noted that "Our rabbis of old instruct us to pray for the welfare of the State in which we find ourselves--and I readily obey this injunction here in this free and democratic country where the Jewish people along with all other citizens can live by their faith and by their religion in full equality."

The Sephardic Chief Rabbi, visiting the U.S. on what was described as a "spiritual tour," urged his audience to save their children from intermarriage and assimilation. He declared that Jewish education and return to the original sources of the Jewish tradition are the best ways to prevent assimilation. Rabbi Yosef repeated his call to American Reform and Conservative Jews to accept the Orthodox interpretation of halacha (religious law) particularly as it applies to conversion but also to all other aspects of religious practice.

ANTI-SEMITIC ACTIVITIES INCREASE

BUENOS AIRES, April 23 (JTA)--A group calling itself the "Nationalist Fatherland Movement" has announced it will hold a mass for Adolf Hitler on April 30, the day of Hitler's suicide in 1945, in the San Ignacio Church. Church sources have refused to say whether the mass will be held there.

But posters painted on walls in the center of the city here have announced the mass. The posters also say: "Gelbard, Bronner, Timerman-- Rest in Peace"; "Bolsheviks be hanged"; "Zionists to the crematorium"; and "Catholic anti-Zionist command." Gelbard is the Argentine Finance Minister; Bronner is president of the General Economic Confederation, a Peronist group, and Timerman is editor of the daily "La Opinion." All are Jewish.

In addition, the Jewish community has expressed concern about the circulation of a "Protocol" pamphlet called "The Jews-Citizens of Israel" which claims Jewish doctors are sterilizing Christian men.

DOES RABIN FACE A MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 23 (JTA)--Yitzhak Rabin,

the new Labor Party leader, said today that his coalition talks with potential government partners would be as brief as possible and that if he found it impossible to form a new government within the present political structure he would have to call for new elections.

Rabin said after his election to his party's leadership last night that he intended to form a coalition along the same lines as the outgoing one -- a partnership of the Labor Alignment with the National Religious Party and the Independent Liberal Party. But most political observers took a dim view of his chances.

The key to a new Labor-led coalition and its survival is the NRP's agreement to join a new government on the basis of their participation in the old one, now a care-taker regime. Moshe Bar'Am, Labor's Knesset Whip, said today that the understanding reached between the Labor Alignment and the NRP on the Who is a Jew issue when Mrs. Meir formed her government last month still held and would serve a future government.

On the surface, this seemed possible. The security situation on the northern front which the NRP leadership cited as their reason for joining the old coalition in face of bitter opposition from within the party and the Chief Rabbinate has worsened over the past month. But so has the deep rift within the NRP.

NRP Reluctant To Join Rabin Government

The NRP's secretary general, Zvi Bernstein, said today, "The party will not join any government under conditions that will cause an internal crisis." Dr. Joseph Burg, the interior Minister in the care-taker government, said the small margin between Rabin and Information Minister Shimon Peres in the Labor Party's balloting last night made it doubtful that Labor could form a stable government. "If the idea was to form a Cabinet to serve only until new elections there is no point in going through the agony of new coalition talks," Burg said.

Zevulun Hammer, leader of the NRP's militant "Young Guard" claimed that Rabin's "dovish views" were not acceptable to the NRP which is adamantly opposed to any substantial territorial concessions to the Arabs. According to Hammer, there is no possibility of the NRP joining a government headed by Rabin. The NRP is nevertheless expected to enter into talks with Labor. But its minimum demands will be the formation of a national unity government embracing the opposition Likud or surrender to Orthodox demands on the Who is a Jew issue.

Gideon Hausner, speaking for Labor's other potential partner, the ILP, expressed doubt today that Rabin will be able to form a Cabinet under present conditions. He said the ILP would not join a government based on less than a majority of seats in the Knesset unless it called for new elections at the earliest possible time. Dov Zakin of Mapam, Labor's Alignment partner, said flatly that his party would never agree to make concessions to the religious parties. But Rabbi Menachem Porush, of the ultra-Orthodox Aguda bloc, said that Rabin represented "tabula rasa" (a clean slate) as far as the religious camp is concerned.

Predict Rabin Will Fail

Likud leader Menachem Begin called on Rabin to return his mandate to the President who would then have to ask Likud, the second largest party, to form a government. Begin said in that event he would seek a national coalition. Begin

accused the Labor Alignment of having no intention to form a new government but to prolong the tenure of the care-taker regime until general elections at the end of the year.

Whether or not this is indeed Labor's scheme, most observers believe that Rabin will attempt to form a new government but will fail, thus keeping the care-taker government in office until new elections are held, probably next fall. They believe that at some stage, Mrs. Meir will hand over the reins to Rabin who will lead the party through the next elections.

The Premier said tonight that she wishes Rabin success in forming a Cabinet "as soon as possible so that I can go home." She called upon other parties to help him in his attempt to form a government and said "I will help him as much as I can." Mrs. Meir added that if Rabin does not succeed the Knesset will have to declare new elections but implied that new elections should not take place until the Agranat Committee finishes its investigations.

SECURITY COUNCIL PREPARING RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL BUT NOT MENTIONING MASSACRE OF 18 IN KIRYAT SHEMONA

UNITED NATIONS, April 23 (JTA)--The Security Council, in limbo since last Thursday, was reported today to be prepared to vote on a resolution condemning Israel for its April 12 commando raid into southern Lebanon without mentioning the terrorist massacre in Kiryat Shemona a day earlier. The draft resolution is reported by sources here to have the backing of 13 of the 15 Security Council members. It was reportedly inspired by the Western bloc, including the United States. It is opposed only by Iraq and China which apparently consider it too "soft" on Israel. The Council which had been scheduled to meet this afternoon, postponed its meeting at the last minute until tomorrow.

Lebanon was said to be insisting on a strong condemnation of Israel. The U.S. had promised to veto a one-sided resolution but in light of its support of the reported draft it has apparently modified its view of what constitutes a one-sided document.

The draft resolution, expected to be sponsored by Britain and France, would condemn Israel's action but would not specifically refer to its attack on six Lebanese villages, informed sources said. They said it would call on Israel to repatriate the 13 Lebanese civilians it took prisoner in the raid. The draft is said to contain no reference to the massacre of 18 people in Kiryat Shemona but would contain a general condemnation of "all acts of violence," an implied rebuke to Arab terrorists and to Israeli retaliatory acts as well.

The resolution would require all parties concerned to respect the UN Charter and international law and urge them to take no action that might upset efforts to achieve a durable peace settlement in the Middle East. At one point Australia and Austria were reported planning to join in co-sponsorship of the draft but later dropped out. Australian co-sponsorship was conditional on specific mention of the Kiryat Shemona massacre. The Austrians were said to have taken a similar position.

A week ago, the British, with French support, were reportedly inclined to an even-handed resolution. The British UN Ambassador, Ivor Richards, sympathized with Israel's outrage over the Kiryat Shemona massacre. At the same time, Richards said his government could not justify government-organized operations into foreign territory.

SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO RULE ON THE DE FUNIS CASE

A 5-4 Opinion Says Case Is Now Moot

WASHINGTON, April 23 (JTA)--The Supreme Court declined today to rule on the complaint of Marco De Funis, Jr. that because of his race he had been denied admission to Washington University Law School as a result of the law school's policy of easing admission requirements for minority group students. In a 5-4 unsigned opinion, the court ruled that the case was moot because De Funis will graduate from the law school next month. After he was refused admission in 1971, an order by Justice William O. Douglas had enabled him to enter and stay in the law school while the case was in court.

The majority opinion said that the issue of what De Funis called "reverse discrimination" was certain to come up again in the future, a point emphasized by the fact that civil rights organizations, Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, labor unions and other law schools had filed briefs as "friends of the court" on both sides of the case.

Some of the Jewish organizations, including the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress, involved in the Supreme Court hearing had backed the stand of De Funis, a Sephardic Jew who is a Phi Beta Kappa and a graduate Magna Cum Laude at Washington's undergraduate college.

However, the National Council of Jewish Women and the Joint Commission on Social Action of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis supported the university's policy. The Reform movement, however, was split on the issue. The Association of Reform Rabbis of New York issued a formal position reaffirming commitment to the principle of affirmative action for minorities but that such action "need not and must not result" in reverse discrimination, as De Funis had contended.

BEAME PROCLAIMS MAY AS

UJA-FEDERATION MONTH IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, April 23 (JTA)--Mayor Abraham D. Beame today proclaimed May "UJA-Federation Month" in New York City and called for a generous response to mass solicitation efforts that will climax a drive by the Jewish community of the city and suburbs to raise \$280 million to meet human needs in Israel, in danger and distress zones for Jews overseas and here in New York.

Formal signing and issuance of the proclamation took place during a reception the Mayor tendered in City Hall's Blue Room to Israel's Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, world spiritual leader of Sephardi Jewry who is visiting New York this week under the sponsorship of the American Sephardi Federation and the Sephardi Leadership Council of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York.

The Mayor's proclamation was presented to former Congressman Herbert Tenzer, chairman of a special mass campaign in support of the Israel Emergency Fund and coordinated campaigns of the UJA of Greater New York and Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. Among the leaders of New York's Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jewish communities who witnessed the ceremony were Federation President Lawrence B. Buttenwieser and New York UJA President Laurence A. Tisch.

Tenzer described the effort he heads as an attempt to carry the message of the Israel Emer-

gency Fund and coordinated UJA-Federation campaigns to every one of an estimated 800,000 Jewish households in the five boroughs of New York City, Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Reporting that some \$160 million has already been raised, Tenzer said the coordinated UJA-Federation campaigns would have to reach far more than the 200,000 or so Jewish families already reached.

Plans For Campaign Described

Beame urged "all men and women of good will whatever their faith, to join their Jewish fellow citizens" in wholehearted cooperation and prompt and generous giving to the UJA-Federation mass campaign "in the critical weeks ahead."

Plans for the mass campaign, announced by Tenzer, call for a series of rallies for Jewish survival to mobilize volunteer workers and contributors, seven of which have already been scheduled. Other planned activities include a 10-day "dial-a-thon" telephone solicitation beginning June 4, participation in the "Salute to Israel" journeys affording contributors to the campaign an opportunity to observe personally the humanitarian programs financed in Israel by the Israel Emergency Fund and coordinated UJA-Federation campaigns. Groups will depart from JFK International Airport on May 13, June 10 and July 15.

ALLIANCE EXTENDING TEACHING OF JEWISH MATTERS, HUMANITIES IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, April 23 (JTA)--"For the first time in the 114-year-old history of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, a school in North America--the Montreal (Canada) Maimonides School--has now affiliated with the Alliance's network," Prof. Rene Cassin, president of the Alliance and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and honorary president of the Council of State of France, told more than 100 leaders of the American Friends of the Alliance at the Plaza Hotel in New York.

The gathering yesterday was told that the all-day schools of the Alliance with an enrollment of about 15,000 continue to fulfill a vital task, both in Israel and among the Jewish communities of various Moslem areas. It was also informed that after a two-year survey by a group of Israeli educators, the Alliance has now opened as a joint venture with the Association for Humanistic and Jewish Education in Israel an Institute for special training of teachers whose task will be to strengthen the teaching of Jewish matters and the humanities in Israel's secondary schools.

Yakov Tsaur, former ambassador of Israel to France, is the chairman of the Board of the new Institute, which was called "Kerem" (vineyard). Tsaur is also the head of the Jewish National Fund in Israel. David Lubart, vice-president of the American Friends chaired the meeting. Alan M. Stroock was re-elected chairman of the Board.

COPENHAGEN (JTA)--Israel's Independence Day will be celebrated throughout Scandinavia this year, but under strict security conditions. All Israeli Embassies will give receptions and the Jewish communities in Oslo, Copenhagen and Stockholm will hold public balls. Festive prayers and the "hallel benediction" will be recited in synagogues.

LONDON (JTA)--The Winston Churchill monument at Woodford, Essex, Churchill's constituency during his final period in the House of Commons, was defaced last night. A yellow Star of David was painted on the monument, and under it the word "traitor." Police are searching for the culprits.