



# daily news bulletin

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## RABIN DISMISSES NRP FROM CABINET

**WAY OPENED FOR EARLY ELECTION IF THE GOVERNMENT IS FORCED TO RESIGN**  
Cabinet Majority Approves Rabin's Move, But Labor Alignment Caught By Surprise By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin abruptly dismissed the National Religious Party from his Cabinet this morning and opened the way for early elections should his government be forced to resign. The Rabin coalition is now in the minority, commanding only 57 of 120 Knesset seats. It faces a motion of no-confidence which the Likud opposition is expected to introduce in the Knesset tomorrow for action Tuesday.

Rabin's move was approved by a majority of the Cabinet but it came as a surprise even to his Labor Alignment colleagues. At the opening of the weekly session and without prior debate, he informed Religious Affairs Minister Yitzhak Rafael and Welfare Minister Zevulun Hammer that they could no longer serve in his government.

Both had abstained when the Orthodox Aguda bloc presented a motion of no-confidence in the government on Dec. 14 for alleged Sabbath desecration. The motion was defeated by a vote of 55-48 with nine abstentions. But according to Israeli law, a member of the government who fails to oppose a no-confidence motion is subject to dismissal by the Premier.

Rabin did not ask for the resignation of the third NRP member of his Cabinet, Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who had voted against the Aguda motion. Burg said, however, that the ouster of his colleagues gave him no choice but to resign.

### Stage Set For Major Changes

Today's events ended the long, uneasy partnership between the Labor Alignment and the NRP, the largest and, relatively, the most moderate of the various religious-political factions. More important, it set the stage for major political changes in Israel almost a year before the elections set for October 1977.

If the Likud motion to unseat the government is successful--and there is a strong possibility that it will be--the Rabin administration would become a transition regime. President Ephraim Katzir may then ask another Knesset member to form a new government, which is unlikely under the present circumstances, or the Knesset can dissolve itself and set an early date for elections. Rabin could undercut the Likud motion by submitting his resignation to the President before the Knesset votes. In any case it appeared today that Israelis might be going to the polls months before they expected to.

The Interior Ministry said today that it could prepare for elections within 60 days after the Knesset dissolved itself. Likud leader Menachem Begin said elections could be held in April or, at the latest, May. He recently introduced a Motion calling for elections May 3.

### NRP Viewed As Unreliable Partner

It was clear that Rabin did not fire the NRP

ministers in a moment of anger over their breach of coalition discipline. He apparently concluded that the religious faction was no longer a reliable partner and would increasingly oppose government policies as election day neared. He is known to have sought the advice of Justice Minister Haim Zadok who felt that the strongest measures had to be taken against the NRP lest its defiance make a farce of the coalition government.

There is the possibility that the Labor Alignment can defeat Likud's no-confidence motion and continue to govern as a minority regime. The favorable reaction to Rabin's move from the various independent "doveish" factions today indicated that they may support the government in a showdown with Likud.

Dr. Binyamin Halevy, an independent MK who split from Likud, Meir Payil of the leftist Moked, Shmuel Tamir of the Free Center, Arie Eliav of the Independent Socialist faction and Shulamit Aloni of the Civil Rights Party were obviously delighted to see the NRP removed from the Cabinet. They said today that they would back the government on issues they regard as important, such as a substantive initiative toward peace with the Arabs.

Halevy remarked, "I am glad that the government finally had the courage to fight hypocrisy and political blackmail. His (Rabin's) decision will purify the political atmosphere in the country." Payil said, "This is good news. It's good they (the NRP) are out." Prof. Yigal Yadin, leader of the newly formed Democratic Movement for Change, approved the NRP ouster but said he thought Rabin should have resigned as well. The good of the country demands early elections, he said.

### Other Views Expressed

Gen. (Res.) Ariel Sharon who recently quit Likud to form the Shlomzion faction which hopes to win Knesset seats in the next elections, said Rabin's action marked another stage in the disintegration of the system that has governed Israel since its independence. "One should welcome the developments because they bring closer the moment of truth we are waiting for, the elections which will overthrow the present system," he said.

Uzi Baram, secretary of the Labor Party's Jerusalem region, said Rabin's move came as a surprise to him. He said he understood the Premier's reasons but hoped there would be early elections instead of a minority government. On the other hand, Laborite Yisrael Kargman, chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee, observed that there were many minority governments in the world that govern successfully. But "if we have elections, the Alignment has a lot to tell the people of its achievements," Kargman said.

The Alignment itself is on shaky ground. A large section of Mapam has been urging for months that the faction split with the Labor Party and stand on its own in the next elections. The Alignment's remaining coalition partner, the

Independent Liberal Party, has already decided in principle to leave the government and its central committee is expected to take a final vote on the matter shortly.

#### Hopes Labor Will Get Strong Mandate

Some observers here expressed the view today that Rabin deliberately provoked a government crisis in order to have early elections that, he hopes, will give Labor a strong new mandate from the people. These observers say that the present government is too weak to go to Geneva to negotiate a peace settlement that inevitably will require substantial territorial concessions by Israel. They point to the Dec. 14 vote in the Knesset which came uncomfortably close to toppling the Rabin regime on a parochial issue that was of importance only to the religious minority.

Rabin, of course, will run serious risks in early elections, considering the precarious state of the economy, the recent exposure of high level corruption in Labor ranks and the rising wave of labor unrest. On the other hand, heavy political pressure is expected to be brought to bear on Israel to negotiate with the Arabs next year. This can only be done if the government has a united electorate behind it and Rabin has taken the first step to bring it about, the observers say.

#### SECOND THOUGHTS ON F-16S

TEL AVIV, Dec. 19 (JTA)--Israel is having second thoughts about whether it wants to purchase 250 F-16 jets from the United States. The reason, as hinted by Defense Minister Shimon Peres while in the United States earlier this month, is the steep increase in the price of the planes.

The F-16, which Israel hopes will be the leading warplane of the 1980s, originally was to cost \$7 million per unit, but now has climbed to \$11.5 million. This is without the necessary equipment and accessories which may bring the price of each plane up to \$20 million.

In addition, while the U.S. has agreed in principle to sell the planes to Israel, it has not approved allowing Israel to manufacture parts for the plane. This has now apparently become a major obstacle to Israel's final decision to buy the planes.

#### AJ COMMITTEE WELCOMES MOON'S CONDEMNATION OF ANTI-SEMITISM, SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (JTA)--The American Jewish Committee today welcomed a statement by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, leader of the Unification Church, in which he condemned anti-Semitism and supported the State of Israel's right to a secure existence. Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of the AJ Committee's interreligious affairs department, said the statement, which appeared as a full-page advertisement in today's New York Times, is a "constructive response to the issues raised in our recent study of" Moon's book the 'Divine Principle.'

However, Tanenbaum added, "Nevertheless, we hope the Rev. Moon's assertion that the Unification movement 'categorically condemns anti-Semitism, the most heinous, violent and cruel form of hatred' will lead to a conscientious effort to reform and revise the sources of anti-Semitism in the basic teachings of the Unification movement."

The AJ Committee in a study released at its national executive council meeting in Dallas earlier this month, accused Moon of "unrelieved hostility to Jews and Judaism" and described his teachings as a "breeding ground for fostering anti-Semitism." Tanenbaum said today that the AJ Committee has accepted an invitation from the Unification Theological Seminary to discuss these issues.

#### Critical Of 'Divine Principle'

Moon, in his statement, attributed the murder of six million Jews in the Holocaust to "political short-sightedness and lack of moral responsibility on the part of Germany's political and religious leaders, and statesmen from among other nations, in the period between the two world wars."

Tanenbaum noted that "while these factors cannot be denied, the groundwork for the Holocaust was laid centuries before that, and the destruction of European Jewry cannot be viewed apart from the centuries-long traditions of anti-Semitism which dehumanized Jews, heaped contempt upon them and justified their persecution on 'religious' grounds. The reference to Jews and Judaism documented in the AJ Committee study of the 'Divine Principle' conformed to that tradition and bolstered it."

Tanenbaum said "If Rev. Moon is sincere in extending his hand of friendship to the Jewish people and Israel, we urge him to re-examine the negative and hostile teachings in 'Divine Principle' and to temper his sweeping accusation of collective sin and guilt in the light of recent biblical scholarship and the precedents established by major church groups."

Moon in his statement also said his Unification movement "recognizes and divine and natural right of the Jewish people to physical survival and preservation of its specific religious traditions" and supported the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel.

#### JDL Hopes To Eclipse Moon

Meanwhile, the Jewish Defense League announced today that it will embark on a program of helping parents get back their children who have been lost to Moon's movement. The JDL said it "will now make the destruction of Rev. Moon's movement and the Unification Church a priority in as much as the organized Jewish community has failed to do so. Thousands of Jewish youths have been lost to Rev. Moon and the JDL will no longer sit by while this happens."

The initial move by the JDL took place this afternoon as some 100 militants led by Rabbi Meir Kahane staged a demonstration against Moon at the New Yorker Hotel in midtown Manhattan, the headquarters of the Unification Church. They carried placards stating: "Save Jewish Youth"; "Unification Church is hell, led by satan Moon"; "We will not stand idly by while our brothers' souls are brainwashed"; and "Kill hate."

#### CARTER VOWS ACTION AGAINST BOYCOTT

MIAMI BEACH, Dec. 19 (JTA)--President-elect Jimmy Carter, reaffirming a campaign pledge to fight the Arab boycott, told the American Jewish Congress last night there was "no room in the international arena" for "foreign discrimination" against Americans "on grounds of their race, their religion or the countries with which they trade."

"I deplore it and want to work with you to end it," Carter said in an apparent reference to the Arab boycott of Israel and U.S. firms that trade with Israel. Carter's letter, addressed to Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, AJ Congress president, said he welcomed the organization's recommendations about "how foreign discrimination can be soon ended." The President-elect's statement was released at the opening session of the AJ Congress' policy-making National Governing Council meeting here. The AJ Congress has called for strong federal anti-boycott legislation and has worked for the enactment of state anti-boycott laws in New York, California and other states.

**CARTER: MIDEAST POLICIES WILL NOT BE DETERMINED BY SAUDIAN OIL STANCE; SIMON: SAUDIA'S POSITION IS POTENTIAL FOR MIDEAST SETTLEMENT BREAKTHROUGH**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (JTA)--President-elect Jimmy Carter declared yesterday that his Administration's Middle East policies will not be influenced by the price of Saudi Arabian oil. "I don't believe an oil-price decision should be a factor in ultimate decisions concerning the Middle East," he told reporters at a press conference in Plains, Ga.

However, Treasury Secretary William Simon said today on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press" that Saudi Arabia's "position of moderation" would "provide the new Administration with a potential breakthrough" in its efforts to bring about a Middle East settlement. He added that he is "extremely pleased" with the Saudian position. Simon, who was this country's former energy chief, made these comments when asked whether the U.S. should give Saudi Arabia favorable treatment in its Mideast policies in return for the lower price increase.

Carter was responding to Friday's statement by the Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, Ahmed Zaki Yamani, that he expected the West and especially the United States, to show "appreciation" for Saudi Arabia's opposition to the 10 percent increase in oil prices agreed to by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) nations at a meeting in Qatar last week. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced that they would raise the price of their oil by only five percent.

Their move was widely interpreted as a signal to the United States to press for an early resumption of Arab-Israeli negotiations next year and, by implication, to exert strong pressure on Israel for major concessions. Most observers here agreed that this development, with its far-reaching economic and political ramifications, makes a settlement of the Middle East conflict the top priority facing the Carter Administration in the foreign policy field when it takes office Jan. 20.

**Initially Welcomed By Carter, Ford**

The Saudian and UAE decision to limit their oil prices was welcomed initially by the Carter camp and the Ford Administration. Secretary of State-designate Cyrus Vance praised the "courageous and statesmanlike action" of Saudi Arabia in a statement Friday and said that Carter would send messages of appreciation to the Saudian and Emirate governments. Carter's press secretary, Jody Powell, told newsmen Friday that the President-elect "appreciates the statesmanlike action of the Saudis and Emirates."

However, Carter stressed in his news conference yesterday that in his earlier messages to Saudi Arabia urging restraint in oil prices, both he and Vance had given "no insinuations" that "special consideration" would be given to Saudi views "or in Middle East political decisions because of their actions on the oil price levels."

President Ford, on Friday, called the 10 percent oil price rise ordered by the 11 other OPEC nations irresponsible and fraught with destructive consequences. But in a separate statement he praised the Saudis and the UAE for refusing to go along with the price hike.

**A Clear Warning Sounded**

The Saudian message was obviously directed less to the Ford Administration, which leaves office in little more than four weeks, than to the incoming Carter Administration. Both the State Department, under Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and the Carter team have stressed that they opposed any linkage between oil prices and political moves in the Middle East. Nevertheless, analysts point out, there always has been an implicit link and the Saudis have now made it more explicit.

Yamani's announcement contained a clear warning that Saudi Arabia retained the initiative to boost the price of its oil if it was not satisfied with the course of Middle East negotiations. Economists here said that even with the Saudis holding the line, U.S. oil imports would cost about \$7 billion more next year or over \$40 billion. The U.S. imports about a million-and-a-half barrels a day from Saudi Arabia and the UAE which is about 30 percent of OPEC's output. U.S. consumption is 17 million barrels a day of which seven million are imported.

The U.S. economy has still not fully recovered from the Arab oil embargo and subsequent price increases that followed the Yom Kippur War. The memory of that episode and the possibility of sharp new increases are expected to have strong effects on public opinion, especially in the business and industrial community, which could be translated into public pressure on the Carter Administration to move vigorously to end the Middle East impasse.

**PROTEST AGAINST TRIFA**

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (JTA)--Four rabbinical leaders participated with 300 members of Concerned Jewish Youth in a demonstration last Thursday renewing demands that the governing board of the National Council of Churches expel Archbishop Valerian Trifa on charges he joined in the murders of thousands of Jews and Christians in Bucharest in 1941.

The rabbinic leaders were Rabbi Walter S. Wurzburger, president of the Rabbinical Council of America; Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Rabbi Saul Teplitz, vice-president of the Synagogue Council of America and of the Rabbinical Assembly; and Rabbi Benjamin Blech, chairman of the National Council of Young Israel.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Soviet Jewish activists Boris Levitas and Alexander Mizruchin and former Prisoner of Conscience Lazar Ljubarsky have received permission to emigrate, it was reported here this weekend.

**WORLD NEWS BRIEFS**

**TRENTON, N.J. (JTA)**--A resolution calling for action against alleged Nazi war criminals residing in the U.S. has been unanimously adopted by the State Senate. The resolution, which was proposed by the Jewish Federation of North Jersey, calls on the U.S. Justice Department and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to act "diligently and expeditiously" on the charges against some 80 ex-Nazis. It calls on the State Department and INS to "cooperate fully in seeking evidence from foreign sources and in making foreign witnesses available for judicial action in the U.S." \*\*\*

**AMSTERDAM (JTA)**--The municipal council of Groningen in the northeast of Holland has unanimously decided to buy the former Groningen synagogue as an historical monument. The synagogue, which was inaugurated some 75 years ago when the Jewish community still flourished, proved much too large after World War II when the majority of Groningen's Jews were deported to death camps. The Jewish survivors now meet in the former youth synagogue. The main synagogue was sold some time ago and in recent years served as a laundry. \*\*\*

**SOFIA (JTA)**--The Bulgarian film industry has started shooting a film on the efforts of the partisans to save the country's Jews from deportation during World War II. The film, "The Death Transports Will Not Leave," is based on a book by Haim Oliver. \*\*\*

**BOGOTA, Colombia (JTA)**--The Latin American Jewish Congress Human Rights Award was presented here last week to the former President of Colombia, Alberto Lleras Camargo, at a dinner attended by incumbent President Alfonso Lopez, five former Presidents, Cabinet ministers, members of Parliament, senior military officers and intellectuals. Camargo, former Secretary General of the Organization of American States, recalled in his speech that when he came to Buenos Aires 50 years ago seeking work, he was befriended by the prominent Argentine Jewish writer, Alberto Gerchunoff. The latter introduced him to the editors of the newspaper La Nacion where Camargo was employed. \*\*\*

**NEW YORK (JTA)**--Four college presidents will lead an academic conference on "The State of Jewish Culture in the Soviet Union" Dec. 21 at the City University Graduate Center in Manhattan. The conference here, one of eight being conducted throughout the world to coincide with the conference by Soviet Jewish academicians in Moscow, is sponsored by City University in cooperation with the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. The four presidents are William McGill, Columbia University; Norman Lamm, Yeshiva University; Harold Proshansky, CUNY Graduate Center; and Gerson Cohen, Jewish Theological Seminary of America. \*\*\*

**JERUSALEM (JTA)**--Some 170 Jewish high school graduates from Australia arrived last week in Israel for their summer holiday. They will stay here for three months. \*\*\*

**GENEVA (JTA)**--Danny Kaye was one of five recipients last week to receive UNICEF awards in recognition of distinguished volunteer services rendered to the United Nations children's fund. Kaye, born David Daniel Kaminsky, has made sev-

eral world-wide tours during which he helped raise millions of dollars for UNICEF. \*\*\*

**VIENNA (JTA)**--The Jewish community here elected a new board of governors a week ago. The "Union of Working Jews," a Socialist group, lost three of their former 14 seats, thereby losing their previous absolute majority on the 21-member board. The "United Jewish Bloc," headed by Simon Wiesenthal, which previously held four seats, won seven seats. The Zionists won two seats and the group of Orthodox Jews won one seat. Some 5600 Jews were registered to vote but slightly more than half actually voted. \*\*\*

**UNITED NATIONS (JTA)**--Israeli Ambassador Chaim Herzog submitted a petition Friday from 92 Jews in nine Soviet cities--including Moscow, Minsk, Riga and Vilna--protesting against the attempts by Soviet authorities to sabotage the Jewish culture symposium in Moscow scheduled for Dec. 21-23. The petition was originally sent to Israeli President Ephraim Katzir. Herzog, in submitting the petition to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim requested that it be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly. \*\*\*

**MONTREAL (JTA)**--For the past number of years, the Canadian Jewish Congress has been supplying matzo meal, wine, oil and other Passover products to the Jews in Cuba. The program is being continued this year and shipping arrangements are being made well in advance in an effort to make sure that the supplies reach their destination in time for the Passover holiday, the CJC announced. \*\*\*

**WASHINGTON (JTA)**--The American Historical Association announced that Clark M. Clifford, special advisor to President Truman during the time U.S. recognition of Israel was at stake, will break a 20-year silence on that issue. The Association said Clifford, whose views during that period have been reported in detail in hitherto unpublished memoranda issued recently by the State Department in its record of 1948--which was recently revealed here, will address the Association's annual meeting Dec. 28 in the Shoreham Hotel. \*\*\*

**JERUSALEM (JTA)**--The consumer price index rose by 4.5 percent during November, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced. The rise put inflation at a 34.4 percent rate since last January. It is expected that the annual rate of inflation will be 37 percent, about five percent higher than the annual budget projected. The price index rise reflects a general price increase, including almost all products. Food products increased at the highest rate, 8 percent in one month. \*\*\*

**ALBANY, N.Y. (JTA)**--Consumers who buy food products which are marked "Kosher for Passover" will be assisted by a new law which was signed by Governor Carey in July and which goes into effect on Jan. 1. The new law requires the producers or distributors of packaged food, which is labeled as "Kosher for Passover" to register the name, current address, and telephone number of the rabbi under whose supervision Passover products are prepared and processed. The information will be filed with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and available to the public. \*\*\*