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## BEGIN CERTAIN HE WILL BE CALLED UPON TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT

Final Election Results Show Likud With 48 Knesset Seats, Labor With 47  
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Menachem Begin told the Cabinet today that there is "no doubt whatever" that he would be called upon by President Yitzhak Navon to form a new government. He said he hoped to succeed in this assignment quickly. Begin read out to the ministers the final -- though still unofficial -- vote results as they assembled for their first weekly session following last Tuesday's elections.

The final results, tabulated minutes earlier at the Central Election Committee's counting room at the Knesset, gave Likud 48 seats, Labor 47, National Religious Party 6, Hadash (Rakah Communists) 4, Agudat Israel 4, Tami 3, Tehiya 3, Telem (headed by Moshe Dayan) 2, Shinui 2, and Citizens Rights Movement (headed by Shulamit Aloni) 1.

The official results will not be announced until Tuesday because seamen's votes are still to be counted. But their number is too small to make a difference in the outcome, according to political sources. Meanwhile, soldiers' ballots gave Likud a sharp edge over Labor. With about half of the soldiers' vote tallied, Likud led Labor by 43 to 36 percent, far better than it did among the general population June 30. Tehiya won six percent of the soldiers' vote, three times its strength among civilians. Telem also did better among the soldiers.

Begin said that by whatever criterion the President chose to operate -- largest party or the party with best prospects of forming a government -- it was Likud that would be called to undertake this task after Navon has conferred with all the factions, as required by law.

Begin said he hoped to be able to set up a new government before the new Knesset is convened to take the oath of loyalty, in just over two weeks time. He called for national reconciliation and an effort to overcome the divisions and bitterness engendered by the election campaign.

### Spirit Of Reconciliation

As a demonstration of the spirit of reconciliation, Begin said it was appropriate that the Cabinet's first decision after the election should be to grant university status to the Labor Party's Teacher's College at Beit Berl. He praised the role of Berl Katznelson, who died in 1944, as the "father of the Labor movement," after whom the college is named. The Cabinet's decision, proposed by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, means that the institution can now award recognized bachelor degrees to its students.

Begin said it was important in terms of foreign policy that he should have his new government set up before his scheduled meeting with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt later this month.

The Labor Party, it is reliably understood, has all but given up the efforts to form a govern-

ment and is now focussing on preparations for the opening of the Knesset where it plans to play the role of a fighting and effective opposition. There were reports today that Labor would form a unitary parliamentary bloc with Shinui and the CRM to become the largest single faction. That would give Labor first choice in the allocation of the key committee chairmanships in the house.

Labor now hopes that the new Begin coalition will be vulnerable to opposition assault and will fall within a few months. Likud observers too do not expect the government to last out its term, and there is talk of early elections coinciding with the municipal elections scheduled for November, 1982.

### Basis For Begin-Led Coalition

A Begin-led coalition (if it can be formed) would be based on the present Likud-NRP-Aguda combination, but would require bolstering from at least one other party since the three together add up to only 58 mandates.

The likeliest choice appears to be Aharon Abu Hatzeira's Tami group, which has declared its preference for Likud over Labor. The problem there, however, is deep personal and political animosity between Hatzeira and NRP leader Yosef Burg, and between the two parties. Hatzeira defected from the NRP shortly before the elections and clearly took votes from it.

Kol Israel Radio reported today that leading rabbis, including the Chief Rabbis, are launching a reconciliation bid between the NRP and Tami with a view to getting them both in a coalition government headed by Begin.

Another possibility for Begin is the at least passive support of the ultra-rightist Tehiya which won three Knesset seats. Begin made a point of noting at today's cabinet that the "Eretz Israel parties" (Likud and Tehiya) had scored a majority among the soldiers' votes.

A third option which Begin will himself seek to clarify Monday, in a tete a tete with Moshe Dayan, is the participation of Telem (two seats) in a Begin Cabinet. In return, Telem is expected to demand that Dayan be named minister in charge of the autonomy negotiations -- with a view to applying autonomy unilaterally as Dayan has long advocated if it proves impossible to reach agreement with Egypt.

Dayan had earlier indicated his preference for Labor over Likud. But, it was clear that he would agree to go with Begin if Labor was unable to form a government and if Likud gave him the foreign policy role he seeks.

## BEGIN CONFIDENT HE WILL FORM THE NEXT GOVERNMENT BASED ON AN "ABSOLUTE MAJORITY" IN THE KNESSET

By William Saphire

NEW YORK, July 5 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin expressed absolute confidence today that he will form the next Israeli government based on an "absolute majority" in the Knesset, probably in partnership with three religious parties.

Interviewed on the ABC-TV "Issues and Answers" program, Begin said the vote count completed today gave his Likud party over 750,000 votes to over 705,000 for the Labor Alignment which, he said,



translates into 48 Knesset seats for Likud to 47 for Labor. "We are the largest group. By all the rules of democracy we expect to be invited by the President next week to form a government", Begin declared.

Although he declined to say he had firm commitments from any potential coalition partners, he indicated that he was almost certain to reach agreement with the National Religious Party, the ultra-Orthodox Aguda Israel and the new Sephardic religious party, Tami, which will have 13 Knesset mandates between them. Such a coalition led by Likud would command a bare majority of 61 seats in the 120-member parliament.

#### No Difficulty With Slim Margin

Begin, in vigorous, almost combative tones rejected suggestions that he may have difficulty governing with so slim a margin. In a democracy, he declared, one vote is a majority, "an absolute majority," and he might have one or two additional seats. He said he would meet with former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan tomorrow to discuss the possibility of Dayan's Telem Party adding its two seats to a Likud coalition.

Begin also insisted that a small majority makes the most stable government. He said this was the case because it was more difficult to reach consensus in a broader-based government where some members sometimes "vote their conscience" on certain issues. In a small government, every member feels his responsibility for the government, Begin said.

He insisted that his government will be "the strongest, most stable, most efficient" government Israel has ever had and predicted that it will govern "for the next four-and-a-half years."

#### Rejects National Unity Government

He dismissed a proposal by Yosef Burg, leader of the NRP, to form a national unity government of Likud and the Labor Alignment. "These are hectic days and all sorts of suggestions are heard," he said. But he lashed out at Labor Alignment leader Shimon Peres who, he said, flatly rejected his own past invitations to form a national unity coalition.

Begin, who frequently interrupted his questioners, seemed to take umbrage when it was pointed out that his new coalition would not include moderates like Dayan or former Defense Minister Ezer Weizman who were members of the Cabinet he formed in 1977, and therefore was likely to take a harder line than ever on many issues.

"Moderate, extremist, empty phraseology," he said. "I quote Shakespeare -- 'words, words, words.' I am a moderate not an extremist. I conducted affairs -- I signed a peace treaty with Egypt at great sacrifice, great risks" to Israel. "All words ... My government will be good, efficient, compact ... Government is composed of groups, they discuss matters. The majority decides. Usually it is by consensus. There is no problem of moderates or hard line. Problems are solved on their merits."

He enumerated the problems he expects to face. "The Syrian question, the peace process, the missiles (in Lebanon), a comprehensive peace, the terrorist so-called PLO in Lebanon. We shall deal with them in all seriousness, without hard line or soft line."

Begin said Israel "knows everything" about the joint naval maneuvers being conducted by the

Soviet Union and Syria off the Syrian coast. He said they were no threat to Israel. They may be a problem for the U.S., "for the commander of the Sixth Fleet and the government that gives him orders," not for Israel, he said.

#### More Time To Solve Missile Crisis

Begin also reiterated that he would give U.S. special envoy Philip Habib more time to find a diplomatic solution to the Syrian missile problem.

"We are prepared to see the diplomatic course through," Begin said. "Habib shuttled until now ... He is a brilliant man. Until now he didn't solve the problem with all his brains. He may come (to Israel) this week. I will ask him what results ... U.S. policy is to return to the status quo ante. The missiles must be removed. We can't wait forever ... We could have destroyed them in two hours ... President Reagan and Secretary of State (Alexander) Haig asked for time. I agreed. But we can't wait forever. If they are not removed we will have to use our own means to remove them."

Begin claimed that the Reagan Administration's suspension of delivery of four F-16 jet fighters to Israel after Israel's destruction of Iraq's nuclear reactor on June 7 hurt the U.S., not Israel. "It (the suspension) shouldn't have taken place at all," he said. He said Israel expects to receive six F-16s not affected by the embargo on their delivery date, July 17, and also the four embargoed planes, possibly later.

He reacted with anger when asked if Israel would continue to use American equipment to attack Palestinian terrorist bases in Lebanon. "We have a perfect right. It is legitimate self-defense. It is in self-defense. This is exactly what is stated in our agreement" with the U.S., he said.

#### No Knowledge Of U.S.-PLO Contacts

Begin said he had absolutely no information to substantiate a report in the Los Angeles Times today that for the past seven years, and up to the present, the U.S. has had secret contacts with the PLO.

"I heard it the first time," Begin said. "Ask the Los Angeles Times where it got its information." He said he was certain no such contacts took place during the Carter Administration, and are not taking place in the Reagan Administration. He said he could not be certain what transpired during the Ford Administration and said he would ask Yitzhak Rabin who was Israel's Prime Minister at the time.

He conceded that Israel knew of indirect U.S. contacts with the PLO in efforts to release the American hostages held in Iran last year. He said Israel didn't object, "for the sake of the hostages who we wanted free."

Begin said that under Israeli law, President Yitzhak Navon will hold consultations with the leaders of the main factions this week. "He will then invite the man who can form a government, who I happen to be," he said. He said that the President may summon him next Sunday or Monday. He noted that under law he has 21 days to form a government which can be extended for another 21 days if necessary. But he predicted that he would be able to form a government in ten days to two weeks.

#### 25,000 BRITISH JEWS HOLD RALLY TO CONDEMN BRITAIN'S PRO-ARAB POLICY AND THE EEC By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, July 5 (JTA) -- A huge rally of Jews from all parts of Britain was held today in central London to condemn the pro-Arab policy of Britain and the European Economic Community (EEC). More than 25,000 people, from as far away as Dundee in Scot-



land and Plymouth in southwest England, packed Trafalgar Square to hear politicians, spiritual leaders and show business personalities reject the EEC demand that the Palestine Liberation Organization be involved in a Middle East settlement.

It was one of the biggest meetings held in Trafalgar Square in recent years and it was the biggest ever rally organized by Britain's 400,000-strong Jewish community.

The theme of the rally, organized by the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Zionist Federation, was "No to the PLO." A massive portrait of PLO chairman Yasir Arafat was propped against the pedestal of Nelson's column, Trafalgar Square's monument which dominates the London skyline. It was captioned: "Wanted for Murder."

#### Carrington Under Fire

Most speakers aimed their remarks at Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, president of the EEC Council of Ministers, and who has said he would be ready to meet Arafat before the end of the year.

Peter Shore, who until recently was Labor's foreign affairs spokesman, said Carrington should not be so foolish as to believe that anyone regarded Britain or the EEC as an impartial mediator in the Middle East. Urging Carrington to "tear up the Venice document," Shore said he should back the Camp David peace program. The only initiative the Europeans should take was to "stop destabilizing the Middle East by their disgusting competition in arms supplies to the area," he added.

Sir Immanuel Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi, set the tone by exclaiming: "Any recognition of the PLO or negotiations with it are a betrayal of civilization." He was followed in similar vein by Sir Hugh Fraser, MP, chairman of the Conservative Friends of Israel, Shore, shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, and 94-year-old Lord Shinwell.

At the end of the meeting Greville Janner, MP, president of the Board of Deputies, led a deputation of the main speakers to the Foreign Office with a resolution condemning the EEC's Venice declaration of June 1980 which called for associating the PLO with the Mideast peace process.

#### Venice Declaration Condemned

Sir Hugh, recounting the violence which had swept the Middle East's Moslem countries in the past year, called the Venice declaration "a gondola of disaster that is sinking without trace." Accusing the PLO of being bent on the genocide of Israel, Sir Hugh also castigated politicians and journalists in the West who had been "bribed by the PLO. 'Their hands are covered with the filth of sacrilege,'" Sir Hugh said.

Shinwell delighted the mass crowd by saying Jews were "sick and tired of persecution." His advice to Israel was "don't yield an inch. You get nothing by being weak."

Actor Chaim Topol, the only Israeli speaker, said that Lebanese democracy had been destroyed by the PLO. "Do you wish for us what happened to Lebanon?" he asked.

The hour-long rally concluded with a tape recording of Carrington saying the PLO was not a terrorist organization followed by Arafat saying: "The destruction of Israel is the goal of our struggle."

#### USSR, SYRIA HOLDING JOINT NAVAL MANEUVERS OFF THE SYRIAN COAST

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union and Syria are holding joint naval maneuvers off the Syrian coast. Israel's Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori said today that they are intended

as a reply to the joint U.S.-Egyptian military exercises held in Egypt recently or as a warning to Israel not to attack Syria's SAM-6 anti-aircraft missiles in Lebanon.

Zipori told reporters after today's Cabinet meeting that they were probably intended for both purposes. According to Cabinet sources the maneuvers were noted by the ministers but not discussed. They include practice amphibious landings on the Syrian coast. Israeli Air Force pilots who flew over the Mediterranean reported sighting a "gigantic armada" of Soviet ships west of Lebanon, steaming toward the Syrian coast, Uri Porat, the Premier's spokesman, said the Cabinet had deliberately refrained from discussing the exercises because they "are directed against the United States."

#### ANOTHER DROP IN ALIYA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- Unless Soviet authorities loosen their tight grip on the emigration of Jews, 1981 may prove to be the poorest year for aliya, Jewish Agency sources said this weekend. Only 5,300 immigrants came to Israel since the beginning of the year -- an ebb related largely to the small number of exit visas granted by the Soviets.

Only 866 Jews left the Soviet Union last month, and 84 percent of them dropped out in Vienna. Since the beginning of the year, 6,669 Jews left the USSR; 5,567 dropped out in Vienna and 1,102 came to Israel.

Rafael Kotlowitz, head of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department, said two factors were responsible for the small number of Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel: the decrease in the number of exit visas and the fact that the Soviets were allowing emigration only from those areas which have a history of high dropout rates. To compensate for this loss, Kotlowitz said his department is making intensive efforts to increase the number of emigrants from Western countries.

#### AMERICAN MISSILE GIVES ISRAEL NAVY LONGER REACH

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA) -- The Israel Navy has disclosed that it has been employing for some time the American-made "Harpoon" surface-to-surface missile which is far superior to the Israeli-made "Gabriel" missile. It has extended greatly the range of Israel's attack capability at sea, the report issued on the occasion of Navy Day said.

The "Harpoon" which can hit targets beyond the horizon, is manufactured by the McDonnell Douglas Co. Its range is considerably greater than the "Gabriel's" and unlike the Israel-made weapon, it does not have to be directed at a target but seeks it out automatically. It is known in naval circles as a "fire-and-forget" missile. It travels close to the sea surface and is therefore difficult to detect with radar.

Israeli missile boats are also equipped with landing pads for small helicopters used for nearby reconnaissance. They too fly below normal radar range. Their pilots need intensive training to land on the narrow decks of the missile boats which travel at high speeds even in rough seas.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Bernard Henry Levy, regarded as one of the most prominent young writers and philosophers in France, told a press conference here that anti-Semitism is not a new phenomenon in his country but "an integral part of French culture." He said that while "it is not true there is more anti-Semitism than there was in the past," it now takes a different form.



## BEHIND THE HEADLINES TIME FOR COALITION-MAKING

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- President Reagan's timetable for Middle East peacemaking allows ample time for Israeli coalition-making, and Premier Menachem Begin will not therefore be under foreign policy pressures in the weeks ahead as he goes about the task of setting up a government.

The U.S. President invited Egypt's President Anwar Sadat to meet him in Washington in August, and Israel's Prime Minister -- whomever he may be -- to follow early in September. Until September, therefore, no significant diplomatic movement is expected, according to a high source close to Begin.

The pre-planned hiatus, the source added, will effectively freeze any notion that Britain's Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington might have of reviving the European Middle East initiative at this time.

### Waiting For Summit Meetings

Carrington took over last week as chairman of the European Economic Community's (EEC) Council of Ministers for the next six months. He is one of the most ardent and energetic advocates of the European initiative in the Mideast. But he can scarcely attempt to move ahead with it before a new government has been formally established in Israel or before Reagan meets with the two main Mideast protagonists.

Begin took the opportunity last week following the elections to lash out at the European initiative which he said Israel "utterly rejects." He asserted that Carrington would be "wasting his time" to try and promote the initiative. The initiative is based on the EEC's Venice declaration of June, 1980 which called for the Palestine Liberation Organization to be "associated with" the Mideast peace process.

The summer hiatus will also apply to the long dormant autonomy talks with Egypt and the U.S. "Israel did not break off the talks," the high source close to Begin recalled, "and it's not our duty to initiate their resumption." But in practice, he was certain, neither the U.S. nor Egypt would propose the resumption of the talks before the Reagan-Sadat and Reagan-Begin or-- just possibly-- the Reagan-Shimon Peres summit meetings.

### Authority To Act

In his address, Begin made a point of stressing that the government had full constitutional authority to act, to take decisions and to formulate policy during the transition period. He rejected as "ignorant and unschooled" Labor Party leader Peres' assertion that the government was "morally" limited to taking only necessary and noncontroversial measures during the transition until a new government is sworn in.

In practice, however, as far as can be foreseen, the immediate foreign policy issues likely to arise are non-controversial. Begin would act forcefully if the U.S. Administration goes ahead with its intention to seek Congressional approval for the sale of AWACS intelligence-gathering planes to Saudi Arabia. Israel is pledged to fight this move in the court of American public opinion and this Israeli opposition to the proposed sale is a matter of broad national consensus.

Similarly, the prospect of Italy or France reestablishing nuclear knowhow supply channels to

Iraq would be fiercely opposed by Israel under the transition government if it seemed imminent. On this, too, there is broad bipartisan agreement.

## MONDALE HITS SUSPENSION OF F-16 DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- Former Vice President Walter Mondale was sharply critical of the Reagan Administration's freeze on the delivery of four F-16 jet fighters that had been scheduled to go to Israel last month. Speaking to reporters here, he said, "I am opposed and always have been, to withholding essential security assistance to Israel to try to achieve other political purposes."

Mondale, who is here to analyze Israel's election results for American television and to receive an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew University, observed that "Our two nations ought to respect each other. If we do have differences -- as we will from time to time -- we ought to go at it as equals," otherwise the U.S. would undermine the basis of trust.

Mondale met with Premier Menachem Begin and with President Yitzhak Navon. Earlier, Begin told a group of visiting U.S. Congressmen that Israel will honor its promise to give special envoy Philip Habib more time to find a peaceful solution to Israel's missile dispute with Syria. Habib, who was recalled to Washington during Israel's elections, is due to return to the region this week.

## MK SAYS LIKUD GOVERNMENT WILL PURGE RADIO, TELEVISION SERVICES

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA) -- Likud Knesset member Ronnie Milo told a public forum here yesterday that a newly-formed Likud-led government would purge the state-owned radio and television services as one of its first tasks. Milo said it would "deal" with the state radio and television networks because of what he termed the anti-government bias of most broadcasters who have been referred to in the past as the "anti-Likud Mafia."

Yosef Lapid, Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA) head, a Likud appointee, vigorously denied Milo's charges and said the IBA will continue in the future as it has in the past, without government interference. Israel television personnel are said to be discussing informally the position they will take if attempts are made to muzzle them.

Histadrut director general Yeruham Meshel has promised Histadrut support for anybody dismissed or discriminated against on political grounds.

## FRENCH, PLO OFFICIALS HOLD TALKS

PARIS, July 5 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson conferred today with Farouk Kaddoumi, foreign affairs spokesman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. It was the new French Administration's first meeting with a ranking PLO official.

French officials stressed that Kaddoumi was here on a "private trip" and noted that President Francois Mitterrand has made it clear that France does not recognize the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. But Palestinian spokesmen have expressed the hope that France will play a more active role than in the past to extend West European recognition of the PLO.

Cheysson said in an interview published in Le Nouvel Observateur that Mitterrand plans to visit Israel "as soon as circumstances permit." He added that France can maintain good relations with both sides in the Middle East conflict and thereby help further the achievement of peace.