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GOLDA MEIR NO STOP GAP PREMIER



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"SUSPECTED SABOTEUR IN GAZA BEING LED FOR INTERROGATION. (Israel Sun Photo).

JERUSALEM (WSN) -- goes on." Mrs. Golda Meir became Israel's fourth Prime Minister as her coalition government composed of the same members of the national unit cabinet of the late Premier Levi Eshkol received an 84-12 vote of confidence in the Knesset (Parliament).

In an hour-long speech to the Knesset and a few days later a news conference, the 70-year-old former Milwaukee school teacher emphatically rejected any solution to the Middle East conflict imposed by the Big Powers. "In matters affecting our existence, the conditions for our physical survival, no decision can be adopted without us, nor can any recommendations be formulated without our consent," Mrs. Meir said.

Approval of the new government came amidst signs of a widening gulf between Jerusalem and the Nixon Administration in Washington over how to best achieve peace in the Middle East. Mrs. Meir acknowledged this at the press conference when she said "there is no doubt that President (Richard M.) Nixon has the best intentions regarding Israel," but noted that only the first contacts had been made between the two governments and "therefore, it is too soon to expect that complete agreement could be reached on all matters and the dialogue

(Reports from Washington indicate that Foreign Minister Abda Eban was unsuccessful in his attempt to persuade the United States to abandon attempts to have the Big Powers take the initiatives for a Mideast settlement. It was also reported that King Hussein of Jordan would be the next Middle East visitor to Washington. He is due April 8-9 for top-level talks with Nixon Administration officials.)

In Mrs. Meir's view, there was little likelihood that the U.S. and the Soviet would come to an agreement on the Middle East conflict. She added Israel had "valid doubts" about the intentions of the Soviet Union and France in the Mideast.

The Prime Minister said that the Cabinet had not dis-

cussed the future of the new territories and other issues related to the Six-Day War such as the economic integration of the West Bank with Israel borders and any outside forces in the area because such considerations were academic in the absence of peace talks with the Arabs. "When there is an Arab partner to discuss" such matters, she said, the cabinet will reach a decision "and it will be quite able to do so."

Mrs. Meir said that recent incidents in the area were not a sign that war was imminent but rather was an attempt by the Arab govern-

ments to create such an impression as a political means to pressure the Big Powers to impose an outside solution to the conflict.

She also said she had never described herself as a "stop-gap" Premier but had not given any thought to how long she planned to continue in office. It had been speculated that she would hold office only until the national elections in October and that her selection was a compromise to avoid a showdown between the two leading contenders for the Premiership, Deputy Premier Yigal Allon and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan.

LONDON (WNS) -- The semi-official Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram claimed that an Egyptian guerrilla organization has been operating against Israeli forces in the Sinai since shortly after the Six-Day War. The guerrillas reportedly call themselves the "Organization for the Liberation of Sinai."

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Israeli economists who are now working on a forecast for 1969 said the national economy may continue to grow at the spectacular rate of 11 percent a year.

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