

WASHINGTON DATELINE

By Trude B. Feldman

ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

Dayan with Pres. Nixon

Moshe Dayan, Israel's Defense Minister, was received by President Nixon at the White House.

During the 45-minute conference they were joined by Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird; Brig. Gen. Alexander Haig, Nixon's Deputy Assistant for National Security Affairs, and Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Ambassador to the U.S.

Dayan, in a dark suit and colorful tie, was in a jovial mood. He chatted with Mr. Nixon about Israel's Army and exchanged banter about what happens to generals who retire from the Israeli Army.

The President kibbized with Gen. Dayan about his Navy days and said that the colors of his oval office were the same as those in his former Navy Mess hall.

During the photo session prior to the meeting, President Nixon appeared surprised at the unusually large number of photographers who

came to photograph them. "Where did you all come from?" he asked in amazement as their cameras clicked.

According to Presidential Press Secretary Ron Ziegler, the purpose of the conference was "not to talk in any specific terms about U.S. military aid to Israel."

He would not say whether or not they discussed prospects for initiation of the Israeli Arab peace talks. Administration sources are hopeful that the peace talks will be resumed very soon.

Gen. Dayan indicated that he didn't come to Washington to talk, but mainly to listen, to what Mr. Nixon and other officials have to say and would subsequently relate their views to the Israeli Cabinet.

Dayan also met with Secretary of State William Rogers on two occasions during the same day; once, before his session with Mr. Nixon, and again, immediately afterwards. Sitting in on the meetings with Rogers and Dayan were Aharon Yariv, Chief of Army Intelligence for Israel; Joseph Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs; Alfred Atherton, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State; Heywood Stackhouse, Desk officer at State for Israel; and Shlomo Argov, Israeli Minister.

After his first meeting with Rogers, Dayan said: "I enjoyed the conversation. It was very instructive for me."

He was very reluctant to answer questions about his meetings with administration officials. To numerous questions he would only reply: "I can't say anything." And with his disarming smile, he wished us a Happy Chanukah.

However, reliable sources here indicated that Dayan's talks with officials touched on American aid to Israel; ways and means for coping with increased Soviet involvement in the Mideast and in general, they exchanged ideas on how to achieve a peace settlement.

Before he departed for New York to address the United Jewish Appeal banquet at the Hilton Hotel and to tape "Meet the Press", he described his Washington visit as meaningful and enjoyable. "Everyone was very kind to me," he said.

At the NBC Studios prior to taping MEET THE PRESS, Dayan and his panelists exchanged small talk. Peter Lisagor, of the Chicago Daily

News, asked him how he prefers to be addressed, Mr. Minister or General Dayan. "Moshe Dayan is my best title", he replied. He said he does not want to be Prime Minister of Israel, and would not take any hypothetical questions on the subject.

Asked if Israel has military superiority over the Arabs, he said if the Arabs would renew a war or try to attack Israel that they would lose it.

Dayan said that the 1967 victory over the Arabs could not be repeated--"not exactly, it would be under different conditions."

He emphasized that Israel is ready to sit down and negotiate with the Arabs--knowing that they have different points of view--and really negotiate peace without prior conditions.

Dayan has been Israel's Minister of Defense since June 1967. He was accompanied to the U.S. by his wife, Ruth, who is well known for her work on Masika's "Cobalt" boutiques featuring Israeli-made handbags and fashions.

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