

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

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MINORITY GOVERNMENT FOR ISRAEL, NO RELIGIOUS PARTY COMPROMISE

ATTEMPT TO FORM ISRAELI CABINET

JERUSALEM (WNS)-Addressing the central committee of the Labor Party, Premier Golda Meir made an impassioned plea to Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Transport Minister Shimon Peres to serve in the new Cabinet after meeting with the Rafi wing of the Labor party. Peres stressed earlier that the eight former Rafi members would not support the new government.

As Dayan sat in the front row, his head bowed, Mrs. Meir said "You have no right to go" at a time when "I know fateful decisions will have to be taken." Mrs. Meir again repeated her firm opposition to a national unity

government which included Likud. Likud, she said, has the word "no" on the masthead of its ideology and would prevent any peace prospects as well as endanger friendship, with the U.S.

Labor Minister Yosef Almagi who initiated the meeting said he feared a possible split in the party. However, Dayan and Peres were expected to participate in the talks with Sec'y. of State Henry Kissinger when he arrives in Israel in an attempt to work out a disengagement of forces agreement with Israel and Syria.

The influential Cairo newspaper, Al Ahram, said Kissinger would come to Israel with a list of Syrian-held Israeli prisoners, as Israel has demanded, thus setting the stage for detailed disengagement talks. While there was no official confirmation of the report either in Jerusalem or Washington, political observers in Jerusalem said it was true and Kissinger's visit meant that talks would soon get under way.

KISSINGER TO SYRIA

WASHINGTON (WNS) Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is scheduled to make another trip to the Middle East in an effort to establish disengagement talks between Israel and Syria.

The announcement was made by President Nixon in the presence of Kissinger & Foreign Ministers Ismail Fahmy of Egypt and Omar Saquaf of Saudi Arabia. Nixon said the talks with the two Arabs uncovered "mutual problems regarding a permanent settlement" in the Middle East & "normal relations, economic and otherwise.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- With a compromise with the National Religious Party collapsing at the last moment, Premier Golda Meir told President Ephraim Katzir that she will lead a Cabinet based on only 58 votes in the Knesset, less than a simple majority in the 120-member body.

Her government will include the Labor Alignment's 51 Knesset seats plus four votes of the Independent Liberal Party and three of the Labor-affiliated Arab lists.

The establishment of the minority government was forced on the Premier shortly before her 21-day mandate to form a new government expired when the NRP, acting under the orders of the Chief Rabbinate Council, refused to join the coalition on the basis of a compromise to defer resolution of the controversial "Who is a Jew" issue for one year. NRP leaders had at first appeared to accept the compromise and thus add their 10 seats to the Labor Alignment and ILP giving the government a clear majority. But then the NRP asked the Rabbinate to give it a ruling and the Chief Rabbinate Council, chaired by Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren decided unanimously against NRP entering the government under the compromise.

The Orthodox establishment in Israel has been under severe pressure from ranking Orthodox rabbis in the U. S. to stick to its demand for a government commitment to amend the Law of Return so as to invalidate conversions made by non-Orthodox rabbis abroad.

Mrs. Meir, who said she was surprised by the last minute turn of events, said she would leave open for the NRP the three Cabinet

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TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



Appeal to Rabbis

American Jewish leaders, predominantly Rabbis, returning from a trip to Israel, could be very detrimental to Israel and the allover Jewish cause, by taking sides and spreading propaganda about the present controversy raging in Israel.

The controversy upsetting the equilibrium, which may cause the demise of the Golda Meir administration, is the "Who is a Jew" issue. It concerns the Law of Return. Orthodox Jews seek to invalidate conversions made by non-Orthodox Rabbis outside of Israel.

Make no mistake. We believe it is a very important issue. But we contend it is an issue concerning only citizens of Israel, not Jews throughout the rest of the world. It is strictly internal and should be decided by those directly involved, those who have to live with it, and those who will have to abide by its conditions.

Before you rise to protest that it is the Jews of the world who support and built and own Israel, and have every right to be involved in everything concerning their mother country, stop and consider the menace of creating factions. We, the American Jew, affected by the welfare and progress of this brave little nation in all its trials and tribulations with outside forces, have learned to respect, admire and adore Golda Meir. She has brought us to the brink of a possible lasting peace with the Arabs. To discard her now, at this crucial stage of the history of Israel would be calamitous. To hear rabbis, upon returning from Israel, denounce Mrs. Meir to their congregation is not only distasteful but confusing.

As Rabbis are entitled to their personal opinion, so are we. And we strongly appeal to their sense of reason not to split world Jewry on a religious issue when survival itself is at stake.

Once before we opined a view and almost had our head ripped off. But we believed we were right then and since are more convinced than ever of our stand.

It was during the Ecumenical Council of the Roman Catholic Church which meets every 400 years, Jews were delighted with the many reforms we had hoped would be instituted. Unfortunately a sympathetic Pope died and one less sympathetic was installed. However, we did get some major improvements in our relationship with Gentiles, for which we expressed gratitude. Anti-Semitism reached its lowest ebb. But some Jews were indignant.

(Continued on page 4)



JERUSALEM...ISRAELIS FREQUENTLY DESCRIBE THEIR PEOPLE AS "ONE FAMILY." GOLDA MEIR, AS DO ALL ISRAELI OFFICIALS, REGULARLY VISITS THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS FOR CHATS WITH THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES. HADASSAH IS THE CENTER FOR SPECIAL CASES REQUIRING SOPHISTICATED TREATMENT.

YAHREZITS TONIGHT AT BETH SHOLOM

(Friday, Mar. 1, 1974)

- Morris Soskin
- Aaron Siden
- Nathan Sorkin
- Louis Serota
- Hyman Cossid
- Israel Zumar
- David Seideman
- Morris Cupshan
- Nathan Behrens
- Samuel Book
- Harry Weinstein
- Isadore Suranowitz
- David Roth
- Benjamin Cohen
- Harris Fullman
- Nathan Seideman
- Joseph Goldstein
- Jack Entratter
- Samuel Feinstein
- Benjamin Weiss

- Bella Cohen
- Bertha Brown
- Rose I. Herst
- Sarah Sklar
- Mary Sidrane
- Yetta Jaffe
- Karoline Peilte
- Rose Hyzen
- Lillian Lieberman
- Fannie Tuttelman
- Rose Rabinowitz
- Lillian Rosensweig
- Cela Seif
- Ida Minker