

100,000 VIEW GOLDA CASKET

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Golda Meir was laid to rest Dec. 12 on a cold and rainy day here.

Her grave on Mt. Herzl is next to Levi Eshkol, the man she succeeded as Premier of Israel. There were no eulogies at the service at the Knesset nor at the cemetery in keeping with the wishes of the 80-year-old former Premier who died Dec. 8.

But the 100,000 Israelis who stood in line

to pass her casket in the Knesset on Dec. 11 up to hours just before the funeral service spoke more eloquently than words. At the service the Chief Army Chaplain said the prayer for the dead, and Mrs. Meir's son, Menachem, said kaddish. Actress Orna Porat read a passage from Mrs. Meir's book, "My Life," and a 1970 speech pledging Israel's devotion to the cause of peace.

The overseas guests at the service included Mrs. Lillian Carter, the President's mother, who led an official U.S. delegation that included Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and former Secretary Henry Kissinger; former British Prime Minister Harold Wilson and others. Six colonels then carried the coffin, escorted by six generals, and placed it on an army command car.

Only 300 persons accompanied the bier to the National Cemetery on Mt. Herzl where there was no space for a larger crowd. Israeli President Yitzhak Navon, his wife, and Mrs. Carter were in the first car behind the coffin. They were followed by cars carrying Premier Menachem Begin, Knesset Speaker Yitzhak Shamir, Chief Justice Yoel Sussman and the two Chief Rabbis. Then came several buses carrying the others. At the gravesite, kaddish was recited again by Mrs. Meir's son. When the casket was laid in the grave, a special prayer was said and a team of women soldiers placed wreaths on the grave. Then each mourner passed the grave.

When Mrs. Carter arrived in Israel Dec. 11 she noted that she had planned to meet Mrs. Meir this year for the first time since they were both the same age. She noted that the former Premier did not want any eulogy. She looked up heavenward and said, "Golda, this is no eulogy, it's just me telling you how much I wish I had known you." Kissinger, speaking to Israeli reporters after the funeral, said "If it had not been for Golda, Israel would not have come out of the Yom Kippur War the way she did. If it had not been for Golda, you would not have overcome." Kissinger stressed that Mrs. Meir alone had the power to sign the separation of forces agreement with Egypt two months after the 1973 war. "One should remember that the agreement has worked for more

than five years and by all signs it would hold even longer," he said. "That was her achievement, but one tends to forget it."

WALTHAM, MASS: -- The American Jewish Historical Society with the cooperation of Brandeis University have received a matching grant of \$41,400 from the American Film Institute/Arts Endowment Film Archival Program to begin the rehabilitation of a major collection of Yiddish feature films recently acquired by the Society.

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