

“ISRAEL INSIDER”

REPORT # **66**

SUMMARY OF A ‘MIDDLE EAST FORUM’ WEBINAR

25 APRIL 2022



In a brief ‘Webinar’ session organized by the Washington based MEF, Ashley Perry, an adviser to Israel's minister of foreign affairs and deputy prime minister in 2009-15, provides weekly updates on Israeli politics.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS BY ASHLEY PERRY

- Perry speaking after a two-week break because of the Jewish ‘Passover’ holiday period, focused mainly on the problems confronting the Coalition government that has placed its survival in serious jeopardy once the Israeli Knesset resumes its sessions following the current break in May 2022.
- The main reason for the Coalition’s problems is the defection of 2 elected members of the Yamina Party who have said that they will not be voting with the government and have been flirting with the opposition Likud party.
- In such a scenario, at best the life of the present government cannot last beyond March 2023 when the next Israeli Budget is to be voted upon and for which the present coalition is incapable of getting a majority as matters stand.
- In the meantime, problems with a divided Raam Party of Mansur Abbas could potentially trigger a situation that could hasten the fall of the current coalition well before `March 2023.
- One thing in favour of PM Naftali Bennet is the boost his government will receive following an agreement which has been reached for President Biden to visit Israel in the coming months (probably as part of a broader visit to some countries in the Middle East).
- Nonetheless, in an atmosphere of continued trouble with the Palestinians in Jerusalem and ‘Temple Mount’, the future survival of the government was looking increasingly bleaker.

