

FIRST SESSION OF NEW GOVERNMENT/

The new Gottwald government met for the first time in Prague on the 5th March. Here are the ministers:

Dr. Jan Masaryk, minister of foreign affairs. /ind/ Mr. B. Laužna, Vice-premier. /soc. Dem./ Vice-premier V. Široký, is greeting Minister of Unification Šrobár /catholic/ Minister of Education, prof. Mejstřík.

New Prime Minister Gottwald is taking his place. Next to him Vice-premier A. Zápotocký /Trade Unions/. Minister of Industry, Fierlinger /soc. Dem./

Minister of Transport Petr /catholic/ and minister of Health Plešáček /catholic/.

Minister of Social Welfare Evžen Erben /trade unions/.

Dr. Šlechta /Czech Socialist/ - minister of Technics.

Minister of Justice, Čepička.

Mrs. Jankovcová, minister of food /soc. Democrat/

Minister of Interior Trade - Krajčír, of Exports and Imports - Dr. Gregor .

Minister of the Interior - Václav Nosek.

Minister of Post . Neumann /Czech soc./

State Secretary of Defence - Mr. Ševčík /Slovak democrats/.

Premier Gottwald opened the session, which dealt with several points: increasing the bread ration, increasing the pay of civil servants, reducing taxes for peasants, artisans and income tax generally, the new national insurance scheme. In short, the government discussed the tasks ahead of it, the carrying out of which will be the carrying out of the nation's wishes.

