

Lieberman gets Israel foreign minister job

by UPI

JERUSALEM -- Avigdor Lieberman, leader of Israel's right-wing Yisrael Beiteinu Party, will be appointed the country's next foreign minister, officials said Monday.

Lieberman's pending appointment came as part of a coalition deal reached Sunday between Yisrael Beiteinu and the Likud Party, whose chairman, Binyamin Netanyahu, is Israel's prime minister-designate, Ynetnews reported.

Yisrael Beiteinu, which takes a hard line toward Palestinians and views the loyalty of Arab-Israeli citizens with suspicion, will gain the Tourism, National Infrastructure, Immigration Absorption and National Security portfolios in the new government, the news service said.

Gideon Sa'ar, head of the Likud team in the coalition talks, said, "The negotiations were firm but conducted in good spirits and this has set the foundation for good partnership."

The deal, however, contains provisions that would change the arrangements should the Kadima Party leader Tzipi Livni decide to drop her opposition and join Likud and Yisrael Beiteinu in a unity government, The Jerusalem Post reported.

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