

Monday, January 31, 1949

JTA Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

LAST MINUTE NEWS

FINAL PERCENTAGE RESULTS OF ISRAELI ELECTIONS ANNOUNCED; MAPAI WINS 44 OF 118 SEATS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- Final percentage results in Israel's first national elections were made known here today. They are:

Mapai, 35.82 percent; Mapam, 14.77; Religious Bloc, 12.35; Heruth, 11.52; General Zionists, 5.27; Progressives, 4.14; Sephardim, 3.51; Communists, 3.51; Arab Democrats, 1.72; Sternists, 1.24.

Approximately 3,500 votes are required for each seat in the Constituent Assembly. Some 85 percent of the eligible voters cast their ballots, it was announced. Mapai obtained a total of 152,972 votes; Mapam, 63,107; Religious Bloc, 52,633; Heruth, 49,220; General Zionists, 22,524; Progressives, 17,680; Sephardim, 15,017; Communists, 14,999; Nazareth Arab ticket, 7,387; Sternists, 5,299; Yemenites, 4,639. With the exception of WIZO, it is unlikely that any minor candidates have polled sufficient votes to seat any candidates.

With 5,000 votes still to be counted, rough distribution of the Israeli Constituent Assembly's 118 seats follows: Mapai, 44; Mapam, 18; Religious Bloc, 15; Heruth, 14; General Zionists, 7; Progressives, 5; Sephardim, 5; Communists, 4; Nazareth Arabs, 3; Sternists, 1, and Yemenites, 1.

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SHERTOK RECEIVES OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok today received British Consul-General Cyril Marriot who transmitted to him the contents of British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin's announcement in London yesterday that Britain has decided to accord de facto recognition to Israel. Shertok and Marriott conferred for 30 minutes.

Shertok told Marriott that he echoed Bevin's hope that this is the beginning of friendly relations between the two nations and promised to reply in writing to Britain's message of recognition as soon as a report is received from London concerning a meeting yesterday between Bevin and the acting Israeli representative in London, I.J. Linton. The Israeli Foreign Minister said he would await the arrival of Bevin's suggestions concerning the exchange of diplomatic representatives.

Official messages of recognition of Israel were received during the week-end from Holland, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. An official message is expected from Switzerland today while formal notification is due here very soon from the Scandinavian countries.

Davar, official organ of the Mapai party, said in an editorial today that recognition of Israel by Britain, the British Dominions and the Western European countries means an end of the fight for the existence of Israel. "Israel," the editorial continued, "must, however, continue its fight for its boundaries. The world is compelled to admit that Israel is a political and military fact, which can defend itself. Israel is assured of its place in the family of nations," the paper added.

Haaretz, leading General Zionist paper, saw in Britain's recognition of Israel "Bevin's surrender to the facts of reality," but emphasized that "never was such a gesture made with such a lack of good will." The Freedom Party's official publication, Haruth, warned that recognition by Britain means "small changes in details but no changes in the general line of Bevin's Palestine policy."

ISRAELI FLAG TO BE HOISTED IN LONDON TODAY; JEWISH STATE'S ENVOY RECEIVED BY BEVIN

LONDON, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- The blue-and-white flag of Israel will be hoisted over Israel's offices here tomorrow morning following the official announcement yesterday that Britain has decided to grant the Jewish state de facto recognition. The terse announcement read:

"His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have decided to accord de facto recognition to the Government of Israel. They hope to arrange with that Government for the early exchange of representatives."

Following the announcement of British recognition of Israel, I.J. Linton, acting Israeli representative here, was received by British Foreign Secretary Ernest

Bevin. Their meeting was described as "very cordial." He was accompanied by Dr. E. Noguera, of the Israeli mission in London. The two went to the Foreign Office on foot because of the Sabbath.

After the meeting, Linton declared: "I warmly welcome the decision of His Majesty's Government in according de facto recognition to the Government of Israel and trust it may lead to the earliest establishment of normal and friendly relations between Britain and Israel. I also hope it may hasten the process of bringing peace and tranquility to the Middle East to the advantage of all its peoples."

Jewish Organizations in Britain Hail Recognition of Israel

Prof. Selig Brodetaky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, issued a statement last night declaring that "the Board of Deputies welcomes with great pleasure the news of de facto recognition of Israel by the United Kingdom. It looks forward to this official and friendly act being followed by full recognition and Britain's support of the acceptance of Israel among the United Nations. It is an act which it is sincerely hoped and believed will bring nearer a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and lay the foundations of growing friendship and cooperation between Britain and Israel."

The Anglo-Jewish Association released a statement asserting that the organization "welcomes the decision of His Majesty's Government to accord de facto recognition to the state of Israel and trusts that this change of policy will materially contribute to the restoration of peace in the Middle East. It hopes that His Majesty's Government will now use the full weight of their influence to promote neighborly relations between Israel and the Arab states and friendly cooperation between them in the common interest of all."

The Association also sent a cable to Israeli President Dr. Chaim Weizmann stating that the "Association begs leave to assure you of the satisfaction with which it welcomes the British Government's recognition of the state of Israel and, in conveying to you sincere good wishes for its progress and prosperity, expresses the hope which it knows to be yours that we may now see happier relations between Britain and Israel and the development of close and friendly association in keeping with Britain's part in building up of the Jewish National Home and her traditional sympathy with Jewish needs and aspirations."

The European Executive of the Agudath Israel today sent a message to Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin expressing appreciation for Britain's recognition of Israel and stating the belief that "this will lead to the reestablishment of friendly relations between Britain and the Jews of Palestine and will enable Britain to render her fullest support in the peaceful upbuilding of the Jewish National Home."

The Sunday Observer declared editorially today that a "new start" was now needed in British-Israeli relations and said that "Bevin's fierce rear-guard action in Parliament must not be allowed to deflect us from the task of appreciating the new situation coolly and dispassionately and adjusting our policy accordingly." The paper stressed that Israel has emerged as the strongest local power in the Middle East. The victory of the moderates in the Israeli elections, "the Observer warned, "does not guarantee Israel's final course" and it is therefore essential to create a "territorially satisfied Israel, able to accommodate an expected 1,000,000 immigrants within its own frontiers, and feeling safe through the strong support of the two great powers and strong Middle Eastern interests--Britain and America."

The Sunday Times, castigating past indecision and inactivity, said that "de facto recognition of Israel will not alone put matters right. Britain must resume her active leadership if she is to retrieve her position." The Sunday Dispatch stated that "recognition now, instead of later is the result of the Cabinet's decision to override a new desire by Bevin for further delay" and adds that the decision was primarily a move to save the government internally.

MARSHALL PLAN AID TO ISRAEL IS BEING DISCUSSED IN OFFICIAL CIRCLES IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- An altogether sympathetic attitude has at last become evident throughout the government toward Israel, replacing the previous confusion in which high officials worked for Israel while functioning career officers--with the encouragement of powerful defense and diplomatic leaders--undercut the Jews and worked in behalf of the Arabs, it was learned here today.

The position of many officials now is that every effort must be made to be sure that Israel becomes a committed member of the Western bloc. Previous opponents of the new regime are twisting the old axiom in stating that "if you can't lick 'em, make 'em join with your team." In this respect there is a new-found unity of purpose toward the thorny Palestine problem with its consequences on the power structure of the Middle East. Old friends of the Jewish cause here are also naturally interested in the adherence of Israel to the West.

The method by which this is to be accomplished, if possible, is apparently the tried and true lure of the Marshall Plan. Suggestions have already seeped from official quarters that such aid will be available to Israel as well as Western Europe. The condition, of course, is that Israel must make its foreign policy crystal-clear regarding its position in the East-West battle.

At this point it is not determined whether any official advances along this line have already been made to the Israelis. It is plain, however, that if advances have not yet been made they are imminent.

Certain United States officials, aware of Israel's desire to keep out of the East-West battle, nevertheless maintain that such a position is undesirable if not impossible. They are increasingly fond of describing the Israeli position as "isolationist" and doomed to failure. They insist that Israel will have to take sides. Apparently the Marshall Plan will be used to tempt Israel into the struggle on the side of the United States.

Israel Must Apply for Marshall Plan Aid to E.C.A. Paris Office

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- If Israel wants Economic Cooperation Administration aid it will have to make formal application to the office of the E.C.A. in Paris, E.C.A. administrator Paul Hoffman said here. At the same time, State Department and E.C.A. officials said they knew of nothing to bear out reports that the U.S. might extend Marshall Plan aid to Israel and the Arab nations.

Hoffman was quoted as saying "if recognition is granted Israel, and if Israel wants E.C.A. aid, they would have to make formal application to the European Economic Cooperation office in Paris. If they are accepted," he said, "that would be fine. Then they could come here and start negotiating the required bilateral agreement with us," he added.

Celler Urges U.S. to Extend Marshall Plan Aid to Israel

NEW YORK, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- The U.S. Government was called on tonight by Rep. Emanuel Celler to extend Marshall Plan aid to Israel. Addressing the 41st annual Crandall dinner here of B'nai Zion, which served as a testimonial to Barry A. Pine, president of the organization, Celler asserted that the extension of E.C.A. aid to the Jewish state would "strengthen the new bulwark of democracy in the Middle East."

Other speakers at the dinner--which realized \$150,000 for the expansion of the organization's own settlement in Israel through the Jewish National Fund--included Louis Lipsky and Judge Morris Rothenberg, president of the J.N.F. Messages of felicitation were received from Israeli chief representative to the U.N. Aubrey S. Eban, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Zionist Organization of America, and other Jewish leaders.

ISRAELI ENVOY TO U.S. CONFERES WITH AMERICAN MEMBER OF PALESTINE CONCILIATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- Israeli special representative to the United States, Eliahu Epstein, conferred over the week-end with Mark E. Rudge, United States representative on the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission, who left today for his post in Jerusalem.

Mr. Epstein also conferred for over an hour with the State Department director of Near Eastern and African Affairs, Joseph C. Satterthwaite, and other officials of the Near East Division. They discussed the latest developments in Israel.

I.R.O. ADOPTS RESOLUTION TO REIMBURSE PRIVATE GROUPS FOR TRANSFER OF DP'S TO ISRAEL

GENEVA, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- A resolution empowering the secretary-general of the International Refugee Organization to reimburse private organizations for the movement of displaced persons to Israel, up to a total of \$4,000,000, was adopted here over the week-end by the I.R.O. executive committee. The resolution in effect rescinds an eight-month-old ban on financial assistance to refugees seeking to enter Israel.

The final draft of the resolution also provides that in the event any funds remain after the private organizations are reimbursed, further transportation to the Jewish state can be financed by the I.R.O. subject to consultations with the U.N. Conciliation Commission for Palestine. The director-general must also seek the executive committee's approval to expend more than \$4,000,000 for the resettlement of refugees in Israel. Officials of Jewish organizations here pointed out that approximately 60,000 eligible displaced persons were transferred to Israel since last May 18, when the I.R.O. prohibition on financial aid went into effect.

Z.O.A. OPPOSITION GROUP CRITICIZES LEADERSHIP; DECIDES TO RAISE \$250,000 FUND

NEW YORK, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- A resolution criticizing the present leadership of the Zionist Organization of America for "its attack on the Jewish Agency executive" was adopted here today at a conference arranged by the Committee for Progressive Zionism, an opposition group within the Z.O.A. Principal speakers at the meeting were Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Louis Lipsky and Judge Louis E. Levinthal.

The resolution expressed "confidence" in the Jerusalem members of the Agency executive, who are scheduled to arrive in this country this week and assured the executive members of "our loyal support in all their endeavors to achieve effective cooperation in American Zionism." Judge Levinthal, Michael A. Stavitsky, of Newark, and Carl Sherman, of New York, served on the committee which drafted the resolution.

Adopted in reply to a statement issued earlier by the Z.O.A. which characterized as "intervention" the proposal by the Agency executive to come to this country, the resolution said:

"The present administration of the Z.O.A. bristles with antagonism, resents and expresses justifiable criticism and constructive suggestions, has closed its ranks to representative and progressive leadership, has lost contact with the Government of the United States to the detriment of Israel and is even at war with the highest authority of the World Zionist Organization, the executive of the Jewish Agency. The best interests of the Zionist movement in America would be served by changing the present regime of the Z.O.A. at its next annual convention," the resolution said.

The conference voted to raise \$250,000 in a nationwide drive "to acquaint the American Jewish community with the issues at stake and with the urgent necessity of reforming the present leadership of the Z.O.A."

500 POLISH SCOUTS WORK FOR TWO MONTHS TO RESTORE DAMAGED JEWISH CEMETERY IN KIELCE

WARSAW, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- A detachment of 500 Polish scouts, working for two months under orders from Col. S. Vishnitz, governor of the province of Kielce, has completed the erection of a brick wall around the Jewish cemetery in the town of Kielce, it was reported here today.

The cemetery was used by the Germans during the war as an execution court and in 1946 a mob of Polish pogromists murdered 42 Kielce Jews. Many tombstones from the cemetery had been scattered by vandals through the streets of Kielce and the Polish scouts supervised the return of these monuments to their proper places in the burial grounds. They also exhumed the bodies of 1,000 non-Jewish Poles who had been killed by the Germans and buried in the Jewish cemetery.

A message of thanks to Col. Vishnitz for his role in restoring the cemetery was forwarded to him by the Congregation of Jewish Communities in Poland. Col. Vishnitz undertook the two-month task following a request made by Pinchas Aysenberg, chairman of the Kielce Jewish community.

J.D.C. SPENT \$2,250,000 IN JANUARY TO MOVE JEWS TO ISRAEL AND U.S., U.J.A. REPORTS

NEW YORK, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- The transfer to Israel and the United States during 1949 of more than 200,000 Jews from Europe and other areas is running well ahead of schedule, with nearly 22,000 having been brought to the Jewish state during January, it was reported today by the United Jewish Appeal.

The Joint Distribution Committee, a constituent agency of the U.J.A. which arranges the transportation of all Jewish refugees leaving Europe, expended a record \$2,250,000 for emigration purposes during January, and estimates it will require \$2,500,000 for February, the U.J.A. said. The J.D.C. expects to be called upon to help more than 20,000 Jews leave the Continent next month.

Mrs. Ernest G. Wadel of Dallas, Tex., has been named chairman of the National Women's Division of the U.J.A., it was announced by Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, Herman Weisman and William Rosenwald, national chairmen of the U.J.A.

GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT ASSURES W.J.C. HE WILL URGE REPEAL OF RESTRICTIVE LAWS

NEW YORK, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress revealed today that it has received word from Guatemala that President Arevalo will ask the Guatemalan Congress at its forthcoming session to rescind certain laws which discriminate against the economic freedom of immigrants from the Middle East and Poland.

Dr. Robert S. Marcus, W.J.C. political director, who is now touring Latin America, notified the Congress office in New York that he had conferred with President Arevalo on this question. The President assured Dr. Marcus that he would support abrogation of the laws in question which restrict newly-arrived immigrants in operating commercial establishments, obtaining work permits and in citizenship rights.

NATIONWIDE HEBREW PARLEY TO BE HELD IN N.Y. IN MARCH. DR. ALEXANDER ROSENWALD SAYS

NEW YORK, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- A nationwide Hebrew conference, attended by representatives of Hebrew and Zionist organizations throughout the United States, will be held in New York in March, it was announced over the week-end by Dr. Alexander Rosenwald, director of the Brith Ivrit Clamith (World Hebrew Union), who has just arrived in this country from Tel Aviv.