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# JTA

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### FINAL RESULTS OF ISRAELI ELECTIONS ANNOUNCED; 440,080 CAST BALLOTS; MAPAI WINS 46 SEATS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- The final tabulations of the Israeli national elections and the distribution of seats in the Constituent Assembly were announced here today. A total of 440,080 ballots were cast in the elections, held January 25.

The 120 seats in the Assembly will be divided among 12 parties on the following basis: Mapai, 46; Mapam, 19; Religious Bloc, 16; Heruth (Irgun-sponsored) 14; General Zionists, 7; Progressives, 5; Communists, 4; Sephardim, 4; Arab Democratic Bloc, 2; MIZO, 1; Fighters (Sternist-sponsored) 1; and Yemenites, 1. Twenty-one different parties entered slates in the elections.

Israeli political circles today expressed the opinion that the Rhodes negotiations will come to a successful conclusion in the very near future, including the signing of an armistice agreement. After that, it is believed, Israeli representatives will sit down at a round-table parley with delegates from the Hashemite kingdoms—Transjordan and Iraq. This parley is expected to get under way February 13.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry has already received the name of the proposed British representative in Israel, it was learned today. Although his name was not disclosed, it is known that he is an important career diplomat who has not been connected with either Palestine or the Middle East in the past.

No decision has yet been reached on who shall represent the Jewish state in London, although several names are under discussion. It has also been learned that consuls are being appointed for the British Dominions of Canada, Australia and South Africa.

Dr. Bernard Joseph, Israeli military governor of Jewish Jerusalem, tonight told the inhabitants of the city that his military regime is winding up and being replaced by the regular Israeli Government machinery. Speaking on a local radio station, Dr. Joseph said that the life of the city has returned to normal and there is no longer any need for a special military administration.

### ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN DELEGATES AT RHODES MEET TOGETHER FOR FIRST TIME IN TWO WEEKS

LONDON, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- Israeli and Egyptian delegates at the Rhodes armistice parley today met together for the first time in two weeks, a Reuters report from the island said tonight.

It added that they met informally with acting U.N. mediator Ralph J. Bunche to discuss the latest compromise proposals for settling armistice lines in the Negev. The meeting was originally scheduled for this morning, but was postponed until late in the afternoon to give the delegates time to study Dr. Bunche's suggestions.

The Reuters report added that observers at the parley believe that Dr. Bunche's invitation to the remaining six members of the Arab League to join the parley was intended to "soften" the Egyptians' attitude. It is believed to be intended to impress the Egyptians that they are not the only ones desiring to make peace and that if they do not act decisively they may be left without support.

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IMPORT OF NON-ESSENTIAL MATERIALS BANNED IN ISRAEL; ANNOUNCE \$70,000,000 IMPORT PLAN

TEL AVIV, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- The import of non-essential materials has been banned to conserve foreign exchange available to the Israeli Government for the rebuilding of the country, it was announced here today at the same time as were plans for the importation of some \$70,000,000 worth of machinery and raw materials during 1949.

The office of the Controller of Supplies revealed that the imports will include materials for both light and heavy industry and for the chemical industry. The imports will be both materials not manufactured in this country and equipment which will be used to develop the capacity of Israel to manufacture new products. A large part of the imports bill will be paid out of funds made available by the U.S. Import-Export Bank loan.

The State Council's finance committee has ended discussions on a proposal to encourage the investment of foreign capital in Israel and has decided to grant tax exemptions to all such investors. However, the views of a special committee named by American Zionists are being awaited here before final action on the proposal is decided. It seems fairly certain, however, that the existing law which now exempts industrial equipment reaching here from all import duties will be expanded to include accessory equipment as well as machinery.

ISRAEL GETS FIRST COMMERCIAL ORDER FROM RUSSIA; APPOINTS ECONOMIC ENVOY TO U.S.

TEL AVIV, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- The Soviet Union today placed its first commercial order with Israel, purchasing a shipment of orange oil which will be delivered to the port of Odessa and payment for which is to be made through the Anglo-Palestine Bank. Several shipments of goods from Russia have already arrived in Israel.

The appointment of M. Sheinson as Israeli commercial attache in the United States was announced here today. He is a vice-president of the Tel Aviv chamber of commerce.

ISRAELI MINISTER TO HUNGARY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT; RECEIVES PLEDGE OF AID

BUDAPEST, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- Ehud Avriel, Israeli Minister to Czechoslovakia and Hungary, today presented his credentials to President Arpad Szakasitz at his official residence. Avriel was accompanied to Szakasitz' palace by members of the Israeli legation. The trip to the palace was made in a procession of automobiles draped with Israeli flags.

Responding to Avriel's formal Hebrew speech, President Szakasitz stressed that the Hungarian people were sympathetic to all who fight for liberty and pledged every assistance to the new state. Avriel is scheduled to meet with a number of Cabinet members to discuss various questions concerning relations between the two countries.

GREEK GOVT. PRESSED BY LEGISLATORS TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL; DECISION DUE THIS WEEK

ATHENS, FEB. 4. (JTA) -- Members of the Greek Parliament today renewed their demands that Greece accord recognition to Israel. Aleko Kostopolous, of Salonika, pointing out that "relations between the two countries will be rendered most difficult if recognition is delayed," noted that most member states of the United Nations had already extended recognition to Israel.

Other members of Parliament noted that Greek acceptance of Israel would not adversely affect Israeli-Arab relations since the Israeli-Egyptian armistice negotiations at Rhodes are continuing. It is generally believed here that under the weight of pressure that has already been leveled against the government on the subject, Greece will reach a decision on recognition for Israel some time next week.

JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE OPENS PLENARY SESSION IN N.Y.; JERUSALEM MEMBERS ATTEND

NEW YORK, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- The first meeting of the Jewish Agency executive's plenary session was held here today with 15 members of the executive in attendance. Eight of those who participated in the session arrived from Jerusalem last night. They are: Perl Locker, Eliezer Kaplan, Prof. Selig Brodetsky, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Rabbi Wolf Gold, A.Z. Shragai, Y. Werfel and Zvi Herman.

The other eight--all of them members of the American section of the executive--who participated in today's meeting were: Leon Gellman, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Baym Greenberg, Mrs. Rose Halprin, Zvi Lurie, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Dr. Joseph Schechtman and Baruch Zuckerman. A report on the Agency's activities in Jerusalem was presented by Locker, who presided. Kaplan reviewed the political, military and economic situation in Israel and Werfel reported on the Agency's immigration program. The plenary session's agenda will deal with immigration, land settlement and finance, it was announced.

Kaplan, in his capacity as Israeli Minister of Finance, will also confer with U.S. officials on arrangements for the \$100,000,000 loan approved by the Export-Import Bank for Israel. He told press representatives at the airport that he also hopes to arouse interest in this country for the investment of private capital in Israel.

ISRAELI ENVOY TO U.S. GOES TO CANADA ON OFFICIAL VISIT; FIRST SINCE RECOGNITION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- Eliahu Epstein, special Israeli representative to the United States, and Mrs. Epstein, will leave Washington on Sunday for a four-day official visit to Canada, the Israeli mission here announced today. This will be the first time since Canada's recognition of Israel that Mr. Epstein has visited the Dominion.

During his stay, the Israeli envoy will meet with leading members of the Canadian Government, including the Ministers of External Affairs, Finance and Trade. Mr. and Mrs. Epstein will also meet the United States Ambassador to Canada, Lawrence Steinhardt, and will meet with Canadian Jewish leaders. Accompanying them will be Colonel Ben-Arzi, military attache to the Israeli mission here, and Gideon Strauss, Israeli vice-consul in New York.

Palestine was high on the list of countries which have accepted the major portion of 300,000 displaced persons who have been resettled in 35 countries since the program began in July, 1947, the International Refugee Organization reported today. The report said that the United Kingdom, Palestine, Canada, France, Belgium, the United States and Argentina, in that order, have taken the greatest number of displaced immigrants.

LARGEST SINGLE GROUP OF CYPRUS JEWS TO LEAVE FOR ISRAEL SAILS ABOARD "INDEPENDENCE"

FAMAGUSTA, Cyprus, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- The S.S. Atzmauth (Independence) sailed for Haifa today with nearly 2,200 Israel-bound Cyprus refugees aboard, the largest single contingent of Cyprus DP's yet evacuated from the island to Israel since the release of the detainees was first announced by the British.

TWO NEW COLONIES FOR IMMIGRANTS FROM ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES FOUNDED IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- Two new colonies for immigrants from English-speaking countries were established today in Lower Galilee. One hundred members of Hashomer Hatzair founded a new settlement located seven kilometers from Mishmar HaZeken, scene of severe fighting last year immediately following the proclamation of Israel. The new settlement was named for Joseph Kaplan, one of the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto.

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SWEDISH FINANCE MINISTER CRITICIZED FOR APPOINTING ANTI-SEMITES TO GOVERNMENT POST

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- The liberal Stockholm daily, *Expressen*, today a sharply criticized Finance Minister Ernst Wigforss for appointing Elias Brandel--a former contributor to the Nazi newspaper *Dagepost* and a notorious anti-Semite who at one time advocated ousting of all Jews from important government posts--to the position of a country council clerk.

The shipment of prefabricated wooden housing units to Israel is being negotiated here by Dr. Isaac Gelfat, a representative of the Israeli Ministry of Trade, who is now visiting Sweden. The housing units under discussion are valued at \$1,000,000, for which funds are available in this country. Meanwhile, an agreement covering the delivery of 350,000 citrus crates to Israel has already been reached.

BERNARD BARUCH AWARDS IRENE DUNNE CITATION FOR COMBATTING INTOLERANCE IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- Bernard M. Baruch today presented Irene Dunne, noted screen and radio actress, with a special award for her efforts in combatting racial and religious bigotry in the United States. The citation was made at the 20th anniversary luncheon-meeting of the National Conference of Christians and Jews held at the Waldorf-Astoria.

In presenting Miss Dunne with the special N.C.C.J. award, Mr. Baruch said that she had been selected as this year's recipient for "her efforts to decrease intolerance and for bringing about better understanding between all creeds, peoples and nations." Citations were also awarded to Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II.

Other speakers at the meeting--at which the opening of Brotherhood Week on Feb. 20 was announced--included Mayor William O'Dwyer and Nelson Rockefeller. Louis Nizer served as chairman.

Jews IN SOUTH AFRICA ESTABLISH FIRST SCHOOL FOR NATIVE CHILDREN; LAUDED BY MAYOR

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Alexandria, a native township adjoining Johannesburg, was lauded here by the mayor of this city for establishing a school for native children. "This is the first time in South African history that a Jewish congregation has established such a school," he said at ceremonies marking the opening of the school.

The school is sponsored by the Jewish Reform Congregation and has been named in honor of the Congregation's rabbi, "The M.C. Weiler School for Africans." The opening ceremony was attended by a number of distinguished guests, including the Inspector of Native Education of Transvaal, the head of the Johannesburg Native Affairs Department, and representatives of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and other communal organizations.

The mayor said that in the course of his duties he had been "deeply impressed with the care which the Jewish people took of their own orphans, aged and sick, and the generous support" which Jews also give to non-Jewish charities. He was most happy to find the sisterhood of the Reform Congregation including "in its praiseworthy welfare activities this work to bring education to underprivileged native children."

Rabbi M.C. Weiler, spiritual leader of the congregation, traced the history of the sisterhood's school undertaking for native children, which started in 1945 with 36 children, and has now grown to "the extent where it has become necessary to erect the present new premises, which will cater to 200 children." The school had been recognized by the Government Education Department.

CATHOLIC GROUPS OPPOSE STRICTER SCREENING OF DP'S; WANT VOLKSDEUTSCHE ADMITTED TO U.S.

NEW YORK, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- A number of groups--chiefly Catholic--took issue yesterday with a suggestion advanced by six national Jewish organizations that careful screening be instituted for displaced persons prior to their admission to the United States, in order to prevent "Nazis, their collaborators and all others contaminated with racism and totalitarianism" from reaching this country.

"Those Americans who now urge additional screenings," the opposing groups said in a joint letter published in the New York Times, "should know that every DP under the U.S. Army of Occupation has passed through at least seven or eight different screenings. Some have been screened as many as 30 times."

The letter also advocates the admission to the U.S. of Volksdeutsche who are not recognized as DP's under the constitution of the International Refugee Organization because they are of German ethnic origin. It "warmly welcomes" the fact that the six Jewish organizations "have repudiated the recent sweeping attacks against Polish, Baltic, Ukrainian and certain other displaced persons," but regrets that "there has been widespread propaganda from other sources, implying that a large proportion of the non-Jewish DP's are former Nazi collaborators."

The six Jewish organizations which urged stricter screening of DP's seeking to enter the U.S. said that many former Nazi collaborators and other persons with Nazi sympathies are living in displaced persons camps. They declared that DP's should be excluded from entry to the U.S. only after the most careful investigation in each case justifies such action. They condemned "as irresponsible and indefensible any effort to cast blanket aspersions upon any national or religious group of persons." The Jewish groups include the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans and National Community Relations Advisory Council.

The non-Jewish groups which signed the letter to the N.Y. Times against a stricter screening process include the National Catholic Rural Conference, Refugee Defense Committee, Common Cause, Inc., Catholic Hungarian League, National Lutheran Council, United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, Brooklyn Diocesan Resettlement Committee, United Lithuanian Fund of America, Slovak Catholic Federation of America; League of Catholic Slovenian Americans, New York Archdiocesan Resettlement Committee and the Tolstoy Foundation, Inc.

JEWISH NATIONAL INSTITUTION URGES RE-EXAMINATION OF U.S. MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE LAWS

NEW YORK, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- Broadening of the laws of New York State to provide additional grounds for divorce and a recommendation that President Truman appoint a commission to "re-examine our laws regulating marriage and divorce" were urged today in a report of the past year's activities of the National Desertion Bureau made by Walter E. Liebman, president of the agency, at the annual meeting of the board of directors. Mr. Liebman was re-elected president of the Bureau at the meeting.

The recommendations were based on the work of the Bureau, which noted that a greater number of people turned to it for help in 1948 than ever before. The Bureau is a non-profit, voluntary family welfare agency which helps families suffering from marital difficulties arising out of desertion and non-support. It is an affiliate of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, which is now completing its \$16,500,000 campaign.

ARBOR DAY PROCLAIMED AS "AFFORESTATION DAY" IN ISRAEL; TO BE DEDICATED TO HEROES

TEL AVIV, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- Chamisha Asar B'Shvat, the first Arbor Day to be celebrated since the proclamation of Israeli statehood--which falls this year on February 14, when the Israeli Constituent Assembly is scheduled to open--was proclaimed today as "Afforestation Day."

Members of the Israeli Army, in cooperation with the Jewish National Fund, will dedicate four new forests in memory of the Israeli troops who lost their lives in the recent fighting. Funds for this project will be raised among members of the armed forces, the civilian population and school children.

LABOR ZIONISTS URGE CREATION OF CENTRAL REPRESENTATIVE ZIONIST BODY IN AMERICA

NEW YORK, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- A resolution urging the liquidation of the American Zionist Emergency Council and the establishment of an inter-Zionist body "elected on a democratic basis by an American all-Zionist congress to be convoked along the same lines as the World Zionist Congress," was adopted at a meeting here of the National Council of the Labor Zionist Organization of America.

The resolution says that the Zionist Emergency Council "has outlived its time" and that the inter-Zionist representative body proposed to take the Council's place is "to have the supervision over all Zionist matters" in this country, leaving to each affiliated Zionist group complete autonomy in the sphere of its own activities. "The Government of Israel and the world Zionist movement will have to recognize this democratically-composed Zionist body as the only representative organ through which they will conduct their work in the United States, except the work which will be undertaken directly by organs of the Israeli Government," the resolution states.

Another resolution called upon the Jews of America to make the maximum effort on behalf of the 1949 \$250,000,000 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal. It expressed thanks to Henry Morgenthau, Jr. for his leadership of the U.J.A. and expressed the opinion that he "should and must" retain the position of general chairman of the U.J.A. this year.

WEISGAL LEAVES FOR ISRAEL TO CONFER WITH DR. WEIZMANN ON PLANS FOR HIS VISIT TO U.S.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- Meyer Weisgal, executive vice-president of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute in Rehovoth, Israel, will fly to Israel on Sunday to consult with President Dr. Chaim Weizmann on new arrangements to be made for the testimonial dinner for Dr. Weizmann, which is scheduled to be held in New York April 23 and at which President Truman said he would be present, it was announced here by the Israeli mission.

The announcement indicated that the official opening of the Weizmann Institute will probably be delayed from the original date--April 19--to some time during the week of May 14, when the first anniversary of Israeli statehood will be celebrated.

LOUIS H. SOBEL ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF YIDDISH SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE

NEW YORK, Feb. 4. (JTA) -- The Yiddish Scientific Institute announced today the election of Louis H. Sobel as chairman of its board of directors. The Institute has been in existence for about 25 years as a world center for Yiddish scientific studies. It was established in 1925 in Vilna, Poland, and moved to New York in 1940.

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