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ISRAEL TO HOLD ELECTIONS TODAY; NATIONAL HOLIDAY PROCLAIMED

JERUSALEM, July 25. (JTA) -- With national elections being held throughout Israel tomorrow, the number of campaign meetings reached an all-time high today. An average of 22 meetings were held each hour, with many prospective voters going from one meeting to another to hear the viewpoints of various political parties.

The meetings addressed by David Ben Gurion and Premier Moshe Sharett on behalf of the Mapai, Israel's Labor Party, attracted the largest audiences. Crowds were also attracted to meetings addressed by Menahem Beigin, leader of the Herut Party. It is expected that no party will gain more seats in parliament in tomorrow's election, but it is predicted that the Progressive Party, a moderate group, will receive more votes than in previous elections.

Since the national elections are being held simultaneously with the municipal elections, local issues have been overshadowed by national issues. Local issues are especially acute in Jerusalem.

The Central Elections Committee designated tomorrow a national holiday and ordered factories, offices and public services, with a few exceptions, to close down so as to enable the 1,000,000 Israel voters to go to the polls. The election campaign officially closed at 7 P. M. tonight, eleven hours before the polls open at 6 A. M. tomorrow.

Ultra-Orthodox Jews Campaign Against Going to Polls

Interest in the outcome of the elections mounted here from hour to hour today. A special dispute--whether to vote or not--raged in the Mea Shearim quarter where Israel's ultra-Orthodox Jews live. An unofficial canvass found that a minority of the eligible voters were planning to boycott the elections to underscore their refusal to recognize the authority of the Israel Government.

The Satmarer Rebbe, who arrived here from New York and who is considered the spiritual leader of the Neturei Karta, today offered to pay \$15 or the equivalent in "scrip" to any voter who does not cast his ballot. To collect his reward, a voter must deposit with the Rebbe both his identity card and his special voting card until the polls close.

All public cafes and other places selling alcoholic beverages were ordered to close down tonight through Wednesday night. Restaurants will remain open and newspapers will appear, but all forms of entertainment will be shut down from tonight through tomorrow. Medical clinics, hospitals and transportation facilities will remain open.

"GOOD PROGRESS" REPORTED IN ISRAEL-JORDAN TALKS ON JERUSALEM AREA

JERUSALEM, July 25. (JTA) -- "Good progress" was chalked up at today's meeting of Israel and Jordan representatives at which an extension of the local commanders agreement for the Jerusalem area was discussed. The meeting was under the chairmanship of Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, United Nations truce chief.

The joint communique which announced the "good progress" also announced that another meeting would be held next week. The meeting began, the communique said, with a general discussion of the drafts submitted by both parties for a new commanders pact. It resulted in "clarification" of various points.

While the Israel-Egyptian Mixed Armistice Commission condemned Israel today for the seizure of an Egyptian military jeep in the demilitarized zone June 14, two of three victims of the attack on the Patish settlement Saturday were still listed in "serious" condition in a hospital. Another wounded settler was released from the hospital.

Israel police investigating the raid on Patish--scene of an earlier bloody grenade attack by Egyptian marauders--discovered a container filled with explosives, a detonator and a fuse. The dud bomb was found outside the house into which two grenades were tossed Saturday night, injuring three elderly persons.

U. N. ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS ARAB-ISRAEL TENSIONS; AGENDA ANNOUNCED

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., July 25. (JTA) -- Israel-Arab conflicts and tensions will again be debated by the next session of the General Assembly, which is scheduled to open here Sept. 20, according to the provisional agenda for the Assembly made public today.

The first item touching upon the Palestine problem will come up with the report of the Security Council early in the 10th regular session of the Assembly. So far this year the Security Council at its meetings has handled only one issue, "The Palestine Question."

Following the Security Council's report will come other routine reports, one from the director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and another from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Other agenda items that will be of interest to Jewish organizations represented here will include: a draft convention on human rights; reports from the Economic and Social Council dealing with discrimination and prejudice against minorities; the proposed establishment of a Special UN Fund for Economic Development of underdeveloped areas, and various other matters pertaining to social and economic affairs throughout the world.

TURKISH GOVERNMENT REPORTED SEEKING TO MEDIATE ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT

ISTANBUL, July 25. (JTA) -- Newspapers close to the Turkish Government have confirmed Turkey's interest in mediating between Israel and the Arab states. Two such newspapers, "Milliyet" and "Tercuman" gave frontpage space to a statement by a Foreign Ministry spokesman who admitted the reports were true and added that so far no official approach has been made to the parties involved in the dispute.

"Milliyet" also reported that diplomatic circles in Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan favor Turkey's move. Ben Horin, Israel Charge d'Affaires in Ankara, refused to comment on his government's position, but said that such an offer would be given careful consideration.

ARABS ASK JOHNSTON TO DELAY HIS TRIP ON JORDAN WATER PROJECT

WASHINGTON, July 25. (JTA) -- Eric Johnston, President Eisenhower's personal envoy to the Middle East, has again postponed his trip to the Arab states and Israel to press for acceptance of the American plan for regional development of the Jordan River.

Ambassador Johnston, who was scheduled to leave for the Middle East Thursday, has now set the date ahead to mid-August. It is reported that he delayed his trip so that he could arrive in Damascus after August 16, the date of the forthcoming Presidential elections in Syria.

(It was reported from Amman, today that the Jordan Government had asked the United States Government to delay Ambassador Johnston's visit to the Middle East. The explanation given the American Embassy in Amman was that the government of Premier Said Mufti, in office only two months, has not yet acquainted itself with the details of the Johnston Plan.)

A broadcast from Beirut monitored here reported that Emil Bustani, leading deputy of the Lebanese Parliament, made public a statement opposing Lebanese participation in the Johnston Plan on that grounds that cooperation in the scheme would require recognition of the existence of Israel. M. Bustani said that Lebanon does "not want to give Israel one drop of our water, either directly or indirectly."

NAZARETH GETS WATER PIPELINE FOR FIRST TIME IN HISTORY

TEL AVIV, July 25. (JTA) -- For the first time in history today, the inhabitants of Nazareth, Israel's all-Arab city, were able to get fresh drinking water as they needed it.

The city was cut into a main water supply line of the Mekerot Water Company, ending "waterless days" in Nazareth. Previously, water was distributed only weekly in the city. The project cost an estimated \$135,000 part of which was born by the city and part by the Israel Government. This Spring and Summer the Israel Army had been trucking in water to supplement the failing springs which used to supply the city's water.

Turning the valve that linked Nazareth with the countrywide water system, Premier Moshe Sharett said that it was "a happy occasion to see the inhabitants of this city heaving a sigh of relief as their toil of drawing and carrying water in buckets comes to an end." He also told his listeners that water development "is the pivot of this country's development."

GERMANY TO PAY \$70,000,000 TO ISRAEL; \$340,000,000 ALREADY PAID

JERUSALEM, July 25. (JTA) -- Israel will receive 280,000,000 marks--the equivalent of \$70,000,000--from Germany under an agreement signed last week between German officials and Pinchas Saphir, director of Israel's Treasury, Mr. Saphir announced here today upon his return from a trip to the United States, Mexico, Britain, Switzerland, France and Germany.

Of the total of 280,000,000 marks in reparations payments, Mr. Saphir disclosed, 105,000,000 will be used for basic industrial development, 58,000,000 for expansion of the shipping industry, 58,000,000 for industry, 32,000,000 for irrigation projects, 14,000,000 for agriculture and 13,000,000 for electrification projects.

The Treasury head reported that by the end of this month Germany will have paid 1,370,000,000 marks--the equivalent of \$340,000,000--in reparations goods. The largest single category of goods, those used for development purposes, totalled 670,000,000 marks in value. Fuel oil purchases from British Commonwealth countries, for which Germany paid, amounted to 300,000,000 marks. In addition, Israel received 200,000,000 marks worth of wheat, raw materials and transportation charges.

Commenting on his trip to the United States, Mr. Saphir said that the new management of the Israel bond campaign had sold \$14,400,000 worth of bonds in the first half of 1955, some \$2,000,000 more than in the like period last year. He said that the United Jewish Appeal had also showed a 15 percent increase in receipts for this period. Reporting on the \$30,000,000 two-year loan he negotiated from the Bank of America of San Francisco, he said the money was needed to meet Israel's foreign currency debts and as a general reserve.

Mr. Saphir concluded his comments with a generally optimistic picture of Israel's financial situation. He also said there are signs that investment from abroad in Israel industry would increase.

BLAUSTEIN TO BE NAMED MEMBER OF U.S. DELEGATION TO UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK, July 25. (JTA) -- Jacob Blaustein, honorary president of the American Jewish Committee, will be nominated by President Eisenhower to the ten-member United States delegation for the tenth session of the United Nations General Assembly which opens in New York, September 20, the AJC reported today.

It is expected that Mr. Blaustein's nomination, along with the other nine nominees, will be sent this week to the Senate for confirmation before Congress adjourns. The delegation, in which Mr. Blaustein will be an alternate representative, will be headed by Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., U.S. Ambassador to the UN.

The American Jewish Committee announced today that it had received a citation from Secretary of State John Foster Dulles for its work as a voluntary organization during the past ten years in bringing about "everywhere a truer understanding of the United Nations," and for helping "to make the principles of the United Nations Charter vital and real to the citizens of this country and to the world at large."

BRITAIN CRITICIZED IN COMMONS FOR SELLING WARSHIPS TO EGYPT

LONDON, July 25. (JTA) -- The British Government was criticized in the House of Commons today for transferring two warships to Egypt. A number of Members of Parliament urged the government to delay the transfer of the two destroyers until Britain receives satisfaction for damages caused when a British vessel in the Gulf of Akaba was shelled by Egyptian shore batteries.

Replying to the criticism, Minister of State Anthony Nutting said that the Egyptian Government has already paid for the destroyers and is making the necessary arrangements to refit them in England. "The only consolation I can offer," he said, "is that the refitting will take several months at least and possibly a year." He drew attention to the fact that two similar destroyers were sold by Britain to Israel. He assured the House that no more warships will be sold to Egypt for the time being.

In leveling their criticism, Conservative and Labor Members of Parliament, emphasized that the British Government should not have sold the destroyers to a country which has used warships to fire at a British vessel. "Can we have assurance that these destroyers will not in any circumstances be used against British ships engaging in lawful open trading operations in the Canal," the Minister of State was asked. He replied that the warships were sold to Egypt "under the British policy laid down by the Tripartite Declaration providing for limited quantities of arms to Middle Eastern states for legitimate self-defense."

AMERICAN ORTHODOX RABBIS DEPART FOR SUMMER STUDIES IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, July 25. (JTA) -- A group of 64 American Orthodox rabbis, religious educators, and their wives, who are active in religious organizations, will leave for Israel tomorrow via El Al, Israel Airlines.

The rabbis and educators will join similar groups from other countries in a summer seminar on problems affecting Jewish religious lore and custom that have arisen in connection with the creation of the State of Israel. The faculty will be headed by the Chief Rabbi of Israel, Isaac Herzog. This seminar is sponsored by the Jewish Agency in cooperation with the Rabbinical Council of America. The rabbi's wives will join a special women's seminar sponsored jointly by the Jewish Agency and the Mizrahi Women's Organization of America.

On the eve of the departure of the group, Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, acting chairman of the Jewish Agency, disclosed that 512 Americans of all faiths, from high school students to professors of classical Hebrew, are enrolled this summer in a diversity of study seminars under the auspices of the Jewish Agency.

A total of 180 American young men and women are enrolled in an Israel Summer institute, the program of which includes intensive courses in the Hebrew language, Jewish history, and on the structure and aims of Israel society, its place in the Middle East, and its relations with all Jewish communities abroad and the free world. The Institute faculty comprises members of the staff of the Hebrew University and leaders of Israel arts, letters and politics. For two weeks before their return to the United States the students will be accommodated in agricultural settlements where they will divide their time between study and labor.

"An additional 38 young Americans are enrolled in Summer work programs in Israel," Mrs. Halprin said. "Sixty-five American young men and women have enrolled in a twelve-month leadership institute so that they might better qualify for leadership in Jewish communal life in the United States and as ambassadors of goodwill between the two countries, explaining American life and culture to Israel's immigrants from many lands, and interpreting Israel to Americans."

The Hebrew Culture Service Committee for American High Schools and Junior Colleges has joined the Jewish Agency in sponsoring a summer study tour of Israel by 50 U.S. high school students majoring in Hebrew. A group of 25 Jewish communal, educational and social workers from all parts of the country have left for Israel to participate in a special Institute for members of their professions sponsored jointly by the Jewish Agency and the National Committee of Jewish Communal Service.

ALLIANCE ISRAELITE TEACHERS CONCLUDE PEDAGOGICAL SEMINAR IN PARIS

PARIS, July 25. (JTA) -- The Alliance Israelite Universelle concluded its second annual pedagogical seminar yesterday. The seminar was attended by members of the Alliance teaching staff from countries in the Mediterranean area. The fifty teachers and school directors from Morocco, Tunis, Libya, Israel, Iran and Turkey came here to "reinforce their links with French culture and familiarize themselves with the latest conceptions in pedagogy."

The seminar was addressed by a number of members of the various faculties of advanced studies in Paris, many of whom are members of the Alliance central committee. Israel was represented by Dr. Moshe Avidor, director general of the Israel Ministry of Education, and M. Yellin, general secretary of the Union of Israel Professors.

DR. GONIK NAMED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WORLD OSE; WAS WITH J. D. C.

PARIS, July 25. (JTA) -- Dr. Alexander Gonik has been appointed director general of the OSE World Union, it was announced here today. A native of Poland, Dr. Gonik studied medicine in Italy and from 1937 to 1945 served in Italian hospitals and edited an Italian medical journal. In 1945, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration appointed him medical officer for Rome.

Two years later, Dr. Gonik joined the staff of the Joint Distribution Committee, as director of its health department. In that capacity, he helped to survey OSE's activities. He plans an immediate tour of OSE national branches and has announced the calling of a medical parley in connection with the organization's next biennial conference, as well as the OSE Pan-American conference--both to be held in 1956.