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KNESSET ELECTION CAMPAIGN APPROACHES CLIMAX; CALM PREVAILS

TEL AVIV, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- The national elections in Israel, which are to take place next Tuesday, reached a high point today when Premier Ben-Gurion, as well as top leaders of other political parties, started an intensive effort to win over the voters for their lists of candidates by making personal visits to various parts of the country, covering hundreds of miles.

Premier Ben-Gurion, speaking for his Mapai Party, and Yigal Allon, Achdut Avodah leader, competed today with each other in speeches in a number of settlements, while Herut leader Menahem Beigin similarly addressed several meetings in various places. The principal speakers of each party are now making two or three major speeches each day.

Premier Ben-Gurion began his itinerary today with visits to slum quarters of this city. Following disturbances by outsiders, who broke up meetings in the rural Lachish area, Mapai today called another meeting there with former Chief of Staff Moshe Dayan as the main speaker. While the various parties and their workers are working day and night turning out leaflets and other election material, most citizens seem indifferent to the situation.

An inquiry group of the Central Election Committee today expressed the opinion that an Israel army officer, whose name was withheld, was unfit for duty with the Army's Military Government section. The investigation disclosed that the officer, who represented the military government in an Arab village, had threatened one of the Arab elders of the village with exile if he would not withdraw his candidacy from an election list for the Knesset.

Contributing to the calm atmosphere which marks the election campaign is the fact that there are no major issues in this election as compared with the Knesset elections of 1951 and 1955. The security issue which was furiously debated during the 1955 elections is practically non-existent at present, since quiet prevails on the Israel-Arab frontiers and the Arab provocations which irritated the Israel population in the elections four years ago ceased after the Sinai campaign.

Similarly the economic situation in the country is today incomparably better than it was four years ago. Economic progress is noted in all fields although there are still thousands of newcomers who have not been fully absorbed. With the absence of other major issues, the Mapai, supported partly by the General Zionists, is hammering on the issue of changing the present electoral system to a two-party system similar to the one in the United States. At present 19 parties are represented in the Knesset which has 120 seats.

All kinds of predictions on the outcome of the elections are now being offered, but the prevailing opinion is that the Mapai will again win as it did in the previous elections. The slogans of the 24 parties which have put up election lists for seats in the Knesset have no stimulating effect on the average Israeli who knows in advance for whom he is going to vote. Most of the people attending the election meetings came to see the leading speakers rather than because of interest in what they have to say.

JEWISH GROUPS WILL NOT SEEK TO MEET WITH KHRUSHCHEV, GOLDMANN SAYS

PARIS, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, said today that international Jewish organizations have no intention of trying to meet Soviet Premier Khrushchev during his forthcoming visit to Paris.

"We do not want to turn the Jewish problem in the Soviet Union into an element of the cold war," Dr. Goldmann told the Le Monde in an interview. "That is why we do not think that the present time is opportune to raise this question with Mr. Khrushchev." He added the hope that French personalities who were not Jewish would raise the question with the Soviet leader.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT REPORTS 20 PERCENT INCREASE IN FOREIGN CURRENCY

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- A 20 percent increase in foreign currency receipts for the first five months of the fiscal year, attributed to a jump in exports, was reported today by the Israel Finance Ministry.

ISRAEL MINISTER ADDRESSES DELEGATES OF 41 NATIONS ON FOREIGN TRADE

TOKYO, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- Israel's accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is stimulating an expanded liberalization of Israel's economy, Pinhas Sapir, Israel's Minister of Commerce and Industry, emphasized today addressing the GATT conference here which is attended by 41 nations representing three-fourths of total world trade. He said that Israel plans within the next few months to liberalize part of its foreign trade.

Israel, he said, was ready to take an active part in an all-out effort to reduce barriers to international trade. Import restrictions could not provide the boost needed for expanding Israel's economy, he stressed. The solution must be found in additional liberalization of Israel's economic policies, he added. He expressed the hope that the reassurances given here by GATT members would result in definite multi-lateral solutions for countries such as Israel, which are dependent on an immediate expansion of their foreign trade.

Mr. Sapir expressed Israel's satisfaction over the fact that GATT was meeting in an Asian country. He said Israel was trying to develop joint economic ventures with African and Asian countries as part of an active trade policy. Declaring that Israel must make up her lack of raw materials and fuel, he said "we are prepared to devote all our efforts to promote exports with all countries and international trade corporations."

ISRAEL DELEGATION COMPLETES ECONOMIC TALKS WITH 12 EUROPEAN LANDS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- An Israel delegation in Paris completed preliminary negotiations with 40 representatives of 12 European nations on multilateral trade agreements, it was reported here today.

When these agreements are approved by the governments of the countries concerned, Israel's trade with those countries will not be restricted thereafter by individual import and export quotas or by clearing agreements. Instead, each year agreement will be reached on a total global sum of trade with all 12 and Israeli importers will be free to buy--within the limits of that total sum--from any of the 12 countries from a practically unlimited list of goods.

At the same time, Israel will be able to export goods to any of those countries under almost the same preferential conditions as are enjoyed by members of the Organization of European Economic Cooperation (OEEC). Israeli economic circles hope that the new multilateral agreements will ultimately open the way for Israel to come to a special arrangement with the European Common Market.

The various European economic unions are based on gradual lowering of customs and tariffs and the gradual elimination of various export and import restrictions. This has a profound importance for Israel. Though geographically not part of Europe, Israel's trade is very much "Europe oriented": Sixty percent of Israel's exports go to Europe and 40 percent of her imports come from there.

Unless Israel succeeds in achieving special arrangements with the European countries involved, the gradual elimination of trade barriers among the European countries would give each of them such advantages on the European market that Israel's own exports would cease to be competitive. A typical example cited is citrus fruit, one of Israel's most important items. Without special agreements, citrus fruit from Italy and countries of the French Union would be so much cheaper as to squeeze Israel fruits out of the market.

GHANA-ISRAEL LINE TO ORDER 12 NEW SHIPS; WILL INAUGURATE RUN TO U.S.

ACCRA, Ghana, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- The Joint Ghana-Israel Black Star Line submitted plans to the Government today to acquire 12 more ships by 1962 at an estimated cost of about 9,000,000 pounds sterling. It now has four ships.

The 12 vessels, mainly cargo ships, will be 7,000 to 8,000 tons each. A.R. Boakye, president of the line, said the company had received bids from 57 shipbuilding yards throughout the world. He also reported that because the United Arab Republic has black-listed Black Star ships, they will sail to the Far East around the Cape of Good Hope instead of through the Suez Canal.

Regular sailings of ships of the joint Ghana-Israel Black Star line between West Africa and the Eastern seaboard of the United States and Canada will start next month, it was announced here today. This has been made possible by acceptance of the Black Star line as a member of the American West African Freight Conference.

The service will be inaugurated early in December when the "Tano River" sails from the Takoradi port with New York its first port of call.

POLISH GOVERNMENT REPORTED DETERMINED TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- "There is a determined fight by the Government of Poland against any manifestations of anti-Semitism in the country," Mr. Jacob Blaustein, honorary president of the American Jewish Committee, said in a report made public today in connection with the opening of the four-day meeting here of the American Jewish Committee's national executive board.

Mr. Blaustein reported that "there are no anti-Jewish incidents" in Poland today and "at the present time there appears to be little discrimination with regard to employment." Before Hitler, there were 3,500,000 Jews in Poland. The latest estimates give the Jewish population at about 32,000, including about 12,000 repatriates whom Russia had been holding since the last world war.

The AJC leader said that the Polish Government officials had advised him they would prefer Jews to remain in the country since they believe "they can be desirable and useful citizens." At the same time, he expressed the belief that the Polish Government "will in no way oppose the continuation of the slow and orderly voluntary emigration of those who wish to leave."

Mr. Blaustein, who met with leaders of Jewish organizations in Warsaw, Cracow and other cities, reported that "a substantial number of the Jewish population will probably remain in Poland" since "most of them are personally well integrated." However, it appears a large number of the 12,000 repatriates "desire to leave the country since they have been away for years and no longer feel part of Poland."

For the 15,000 to 20,000 Jews who will remain in Poland as a permanent community, Mr. Blaustein stressed that "there will be a need for educational and intellectual institutions to make it possible for them to retain their Jewish identity." Currently, he said, there are two central Jewish organizations--the Cultural and Social Union of Polish Jews and the Union of Religious Congregations. He said the first, which is Communist dominated, has branches in 16 cities and publishes a Yiddish paper, organizes clubs, lectures, etc. The second is limited strictly to religious activities.

ARTHUR LOURIE SLATED TO BECOME ISRAEL AMBASSADOR TO BRITAIN

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- Arthur Lourie, Israel's Ambassador to Canada, was reported today to be slated to become ambassador to Britain, succeeding Eliahu Elath, who has returned to Israel to take up his new duties as political advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

An official announcement is expected soon of the appointment of Michael Comay, now Deputy Director General of the Israel Foreign Ministry, as permanent United Nations delegate. Mr. Comay will succeed Abba Eban who is bidding for a seat in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, in the November 3 elections.

Dr. Avraham Biran, head of the Foreign Ministry's Armistice Division, reportedly was under consideration to become ambassador to Canada. Mr. Elath arrived today from Leningrad, where he visited his 85-year-old mother whom he had not seen for 35 years.

JEWISH AGENCY CLARIFIES STAND ON FUND-RAISING DRIVE OF N. C. J. W.

NEW YORK, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- Commenting on a fund-raising drive announced several days ago by the National Council of Jewish Women, a spokesman of the Jewish Agency stated here today:

"According to an existing agreement with the National Council of Jewish Women, the NCJW may conduct among its own membership only a project to collect \$350,000 over the next four years for the purpose of establishing a new building for a Jerusalem secondary school associated with the John Dewey School of Education."

PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL RETURNS TO JERUSALEM FROM HIS VISIT TO BURMA

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- President Izhak Ben-Zvi arrived home tonight from a week-long state visit to Burma. The President was welcomed at Lydda Airport by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, members of the Cabinet, Knesset Speaker Nahum Nir, Chief of Staff Haim Laskov and the entire diplomatic corps.

President Ben-Zvi expressed great satisfaction with the Burma visit and noted the great friendship of Burma's leaders and the entire Burmese Nation towards Israel.

ZVI LURIE ARRIVES IN U.S.; CONSULTS WITH ZIONIST GROUPS ON CONGRESS

NEW YORK, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- Zvi Lurie, member of the executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel, in charge of the Agency's organization department, arrived in New York this week on his way to Israel after an extended tour of various South American communities.

While in New York, Mr. Lurie is consulting with the representatives of the major Zionist groups on a number of organizational matters, including the forthcoming meeting of the Zionist Actions Committee which will open in Basel, Switzerland, on Dec. 28, 1959 and the next Zionist Congress which will be held in Jerusalem in July, 1960.

C. J. F. W. F. TO DISCUSS STUDIES ON THREE ASPECTS OF U.S. JEWISH LIFE

NEW YORK, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- Recommendations of three major national studies will highlight the 28th General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, November 12-15, in San Francisco, it was announced here today by Herbert R. Abeles of Newark, president.

The three studies, which will be reported fully and discussed by more than 1,000 delegates to the four-day Assembly are: a national study of Jewish cultural services in America, coordination of health services to the chronically ill, and Jewish education. The first two were sponsored by the Council, and the Jewish education study was conducted by the American Association for Jewish Education.

Findings and recommendations of the cultural body, which were approved by the CJFWF board of directors, will be presented to the delegates at the opening general session of the Assembly. The study appraises current activities in Jewish research, scholarship, publication and archives and makes recommendations for the future strengthening of these programs.

The General Assembly is the annual meeting of representatives of the 216 local federations, welfare funds and community councils which constitute the CJFWF. These central community organizations, embracing more than 800 Jewish communities throughout the United States and Canada annually raise the bulk of all Jewish philanthropic funds for local, national and overseas Jewish needs. As the governing body of the Council, the General Assembly reviews its activities and programs and determines policies for the coming year.

AMERICAN ISRAELI PAPER MILLS REPORT 180 PERCENT INCREASE IN NET INCOME

NEW YORK, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- A record increase in net income of more than 180 percent after taxes for the five-month fiscal period ended August 31, 1959, was announced here today by Joseph M. Mazer, chairman of the board of American Israeli Paper Mills Ltd. of Hadera, Israel.

The American Israeli Paper Mills Ltd., which two months ago became the first Israel corporation to be listed on a major United States stock exchange, reported a net income after taxes for the five-month period of 1,168,000 Israel pounds (\$648,838) compared with 412,000 pounds (\$228,888) for the same period last year. Net profit before taxes for the five-month period totalled 1,677,000 pounds (\$931,666) compared with 766,000 pounds (\$425,555) during the same period in 1958.

The record increase was attributed to a combination of several unusual occurrences during the period, said Mr. Mazer. These included: a reduction incorporate taxes from 46 percent of net profit to 28 percent under a new law passed by the Government of Israel for the encouragement of capital investment. The company anticipates qualifying under the new law.

In addition there was an unusually high market demand for high-profit grades of fine paper during the period, said Mr. Mazer. Normally, by agreement with the Government of Israel, American Israeli Paper Mills Ltd. balances production with low-profit grades of paper. In this period only high-profit grades were manufactured in anticipation of a scheduled shutdown of the existing paper machine to provide additional production.

Mr. Mazer predicted a successful year based on current income figures, but added that the impending shutdown of the number 1 paper machine for rebuilding would involve necessary run-in and start-up periods and would prevent sales from maintaining the levels of the first five months.

ISRAEL PLANS ACQUISITION OF JET PLANES FOR EL AL WITH U.S. LOAN

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- Acquisition of pure jet planes by El Al Israel Airlines in 1962 was projected today in plans of the Israel Ministry of Transport for air transport development.

If the plans are approved, four jet airliners will be purchased initially at an expected cost of \$50,000,000. It is hoped that 80 percent of that sum will be obtainable as a loan from the United States Export-Import Bank. No decision was indicated as to what brand of planes would be purchased.

WORLD COUNCIL OF SYNAGOGUES TO HOLD CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Oct. 28. (JTA) -- The constitutional convention of the World Council of Synagogues, established under the auspices of American Conservative Judaism, will be held November 16, it was announced today. Delegates from 16 countries will attend.

The constitutional convention will be held at the Concord Hotel at Kiamesha Lake concurrently with the 1959 biennial convention of the United Synagogue of America, the central body of Conservative congregations, which will meet November 15-19. Delegates will attend from Australia, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, England, Germany, India, Luxembourg, Israel, Mexico, Panama, Switzerland and the United States.