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MAPAI WINS IN ISRAEL ELECTIONS; GENERAL ZIONISTS SUFFER SERIOUS LOSS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben-Gurion and his Mapai party drove today to an impressive victory in Israel's elections to the fourth Knesset.

The moderately Socialist party which has held power in Israel in a succession of coalition governments since 1948, increased its percentage of the total vote and won at least six and possibly as many as nine additional seats in the new Parliament, giving it a minimum of 46 as compared to 40 in the old Knesset. In addition, Premier Ben-Gurion could count on three more seats won by the Mapai-sponsored Arab parties.

The Mapai surge checkmated the Herut party's drive to power. The right-wing party apparently won two additional seats, bringing its total in the new Parliament to 17, but it failed to make any appreciable increase in the proportion of the vote it captured.

The middle-of-the-road General Zionist or Free Enterprise Party took the worst beating of the election. It won slightly more than six percent of the vote and lost an estimated five of the 13 seats it had held. The left-wing Achdut Avodah party also suffered losses and will have seven or eight seats as compared to ten in the last Parliament. The Communist Party, polling about 2.8 percent of the vote, will have three seats in the new Knesset as compared to six in the last.

The left-wing Mapam party, polling 7.2 percent of the vote, actually fell behind its showing in the last general elections but managed to keep its nine seats. None of the splinter parties--the North African settlers list headed by David Ben Haroush, the Bundists or the communal lists--managed to win one percent of the vote.

Along with Mapai, the Religious party and the Progressive party could claim success today. The National Religious party, composed of Mizrahi and Hapoel Hamizrachi, won 9.9 percent of the votes and was sure at least to retain its 11 seats. The Progressive party received 4.6 percent of the vote and was slated to increase its representation from five to six.

Final composition of the new Knesset had to await counting of the Army vote which was generally expected to follow the general pattern, and readjustment of the party percentages following elimination of the vote for the dozen or so parties that failed to qualify. This was not expected to alter the overall picture materially and it appeared that Mapai, with its long-time ally, the Progressives, and the pro-Mapai Arabs, could obtain a solid Knesset majority in a coalition embracing the Mapam and Achdut Avodah.

Same Government Coalition Foreseen; New Ben-Gurion Program Predicted

Jubilant Mapai leaders stressed today that the election results considerably strengthened Ben-Gurion's hand in negotiations for formation of a new coalition. They pointed out, too, that with Mapai's increased strength, it was not restricted in its choice of coalition partners to the left-wing parties.

However, observers were confident today that the new Government Mr. Ben-Gurion will form will have the same components as before--Mapai, the Progressives, Mapam and the Achdut Avodah. The coalition would control some 70 seats in the 120-man Knesset.

They said that when Mr. Ben-Gurion resumes office at the head of a new Government, with a parliamentary majority at his command, he will act swiftly on a program to prepare Israel for the time when West German reparations cease and United States Government aid diminishes. At the same time, lower European tariffs and a shift of the East-West conflict to the economic field will greatly intensify competition on world markets where Israel must seek expanding sales.

Mr. Ben-Gurion, therefore, is expected to seek a wage freeze and abolition of various hidden subsidies, plus higher customs and taxes which may increase prices on the domestic market. Mapai leaders were understood to consider the increased vote for their party as a mandate for action and their increased strength in the Knesset as freeing them from undue concern over the opposition from left and right to unpopular changes.

Mapai's success is believed to have been due partly to the development of apprehension among many voters that Herut might become a major factor in Israel political life. The huge General Zionist losses were attributed to internal dissensions, lack of appealing issues and organization and possibly to resentment over the inclusion of the son of the Sephardic Chief Rabbi in a bid for Oriental votes.

MAPAI'S VICTORY IN THE ISRAEL ELECTIONS WELCOMED IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4. (JTA) -- A highly-placed U.S. Government source today welcomed the Mapai party's election success as heralding greater stability for Israel.

This source expressed a view that the election results might bring an increased measure of consolidation of authority that may facilitate Israel's handling of difficult problems. In general, the election was viewed here as one that would aid the Ben-Gurion Government in coping more effectively with problems, both domestic and foreign.

(The victory of the Mapai party in yesterday's Parliamentary elections was received with great satisfaction in British Foreign Office circles today, the JTA reported from London. Sources in the Foreign Office emphasized that the results were considered a contribution to Middle East regional stability. The Mapai results, following on the re-election of Prime Minister Harold MacMillan, indicated that no change was likely in Anglo-Israel relations which are now considered harmonious and without any special problems.)

ELECTIONS MAY BRING CHANGES IN MAYORALTY OF JERUSALEM AND TEL AVIV

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4. (JTA) -- A religious coalition was expected today to name the next mayor of Jerusalem to succeed the late Mayor Gershon Agron who died last week-end.

Although the Mapai party obtained the largest vote in the municipal elections and won eight of the 21 seats in the Municipal Council, the religious parties won an equal number of seats and were expected to pick up allies from among the five remaining seats to form a fusion administration. The Herut Party won three of the council seats, and the Progressives and Achdut one each.

The religious group's designate for the mayoralty was expected to be Ernst Nebenzahl, 52, a banker-attorney, who headed the National Religious Party slate. A native of Frankfurt, Germany, he settled here in 1933 and is chairman of the advisory committee of the Bank of Israel and honorary Swedish Consul here. This was his first political venture.

The 30-year history of the General Zionists' control of Tel Aviv's municipal government seems to have ended, as the Mapai party increased its representation in the Municipal Council. The Mapai percentage was increased from 29 to 40 percent of the votes cast. Not only Mapai, but Herut also was ahead of the General Zionists. In some of the slum areas of this city, Herut votes ran ahead of both Mapai and the General Zionists.

Mayor Abba Khoushy, long the mayor of Haifa, has been re-elected on the Mapai ticket. He has increased his majority over the number of ballots he received four years ago.

EGYPTIAN FIGHTER PLANES FLY OVER NEGEV; DRIVEN OFF BY ISRAEL JETS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4. (JTA) -- Israeli Air Force jet fighters today chased four United Arab Republic MIG-17 fighter planes back across the UAR border, after the Arab craft had penetrated about 18 miles inside Israel air-space, over the central Negev desert. A Defense Ministry communique announced the action, declaring that the Israeli fighters returned to their bases without any losses.

The invaders had penetrated "deep within Israeli airspace," the communique stated, sweeping in from the direction of Egypt, over the Sinai Desert and into the Negev area. Israel has lodged a complaint against the attack with the United Nations Emergency Force.

JORDAN ACCEPTS ISRAEL'S OFFER ON ADMISSION OF 200 BEDOUINS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4. (JTA) -- Jordan today withdrew a complaint filed with the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission that Israel had driven a group of 200 Bedouins across the border into Jordan. The withdrawal followed an offer by Israel to admit the Bedouins after an investigation by the Commission found no proof that the Bedouins had ever resided permanently in Israel.

Israel's delegate told the Commission that Israel's readiness to admit the Bedouins was to be considered as a one-time gesture without prejudice and should be construed as an earnest policy of cooperation and good relations with neighbors.

CHIEF OF U.N. FORCES REPORTS ISRAEL-EGYPTIAN BORDER IS "STATIC"

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Nov. 4. (JTA) -- Lt. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, commander of the United Nations Emergency Force, who is visiting United Nations headquarters today, has declared that the situation along the Israel-Egypt border is "static," with fields being worked by Israelis and by Egyptians "right up to the border." However, the UNEF commander cautioned, "in that part of the world, you never know when the wind is going to change."

Gen. Burns arrived here yesterday to make himself available for questioning by the General Assembly's Budget and Administrative Committee, which has scheduled its annual debate of the UNEF budget.

JEWISH CONGRESS APPEALS TO GREECE TO RECONSIDER ITS AMNESTY FOR NAZIS

LONDON, Nov. 4. (JTA) -- An urgent appeal to the Greek Government to reconsider a bill to drop all prosecutions of war crimes committed during the Nazi occupation of Greece was made today by the World Jewish Congress.

The bill was passed by the Greek Parliament and awaits the King's signature to become law. However, the Central Council of Jewish Communities of Greece filed an action in court against the measure after making a strong protest to the Government.

The World Jewish Congress appeal cited "the profound indignation of Jews throughout the world" against the possible liberation under the measure of Maximilian Merten, who was sentenced to a 25-year prison term by a Greek military tribunal. Merten had been found guilty of active complicity in the Nazi deportations and mass murder of 50,000 Greek Jews out of a total Jewish population in Greece of 70,000.

The appeal "earnestly expressed the hope that the Greek Government will reconsider an act which would be held universally to be a concession to inhumanity and lawlessness and that it will give consideration to this most earnest appeal to take into account the deeply-felt emotion of all lovers of justice and international morality."

The statement added that "the purpose of this law is all the more inexplicable in view of the Federal German Government's oft-declared intention to bring to justice all those guilty of war crimes during the Nazi regime."

British Jews Deplore Greek Plans to Release Nazi War Criminal

LONDON, Nov. 4. (JTA) -- Plans under way in Greece to release Maximilian Merten, Nazi war criminal serving a prison sentence, are "deplorable," R. N. Carvalho, president of the Anglo-Jewish Association, declared here today.

Addressing a meeting of the AJA Council, Mr. Carvalho expressed his surprise that "Greece, which suffered grievously during the Nazi occupation, would turn this notorious Jew-baiter free. It is particularly distasteful to note that, according to authoritative reports from Athens, it is pressure from West Germany that has persuaded the Greek Government to take this action," the AJA leader said.

Germany Issues Arrest Warrant for Nazi Whom Greece May Release

BERLIN, Nov. 4. (JTA) -- A warrant for the arrest of Maximilian Merten, in case he is released from a Greek prison where he is serving a 25-year sentence for complicity in the deportation and murder of 50,000 Greek Jews, has been renewed here by the public prosecutor, it was announced today.

Criminal proceedings against Merten were first started here in 1957. The renewal of the warrant was motivated by the fact that the Greek Parliament adopted a bill granting amnesty to war criminals. Merten was originally sentenced by a military tribunal in Greece. His release awaits only the signing of the new law by the King of Greece.

WITNESSES FROM U.S. AND ISRAEL TESTIFY AGAINST NAZI CAMP GUARD

HAGEN, West Germany, Nov. 4. (JTA) -- New charges have been made against a Nazi forced labor camp guard already sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment, following testimony which disclosed that he served as a guard in two additional labor camps.

Paul Thomanek, a Sudetan German, was convicted in 1957 of the murder of five Jewish forced laborers in the East Galician camps of Kamionki, Hluboczeck and Czortkow. At that time, the prosecution had accused Thomanek of the murder of more than 100 persons.

The Hagen prosecution reopened inquiries when witnesses in the United States, Israel and Austria testified that the 50-year-old Nazi also guarded prisoners in labor camps in Swidowa and Jagielnica. During the 1957 trial, Thomanek repeatedly claimed: "I never shot a Jew."

PUBLISHER OF JEWISH NEWSPAPER IN GERMANY GETS HIGHEST FEDERAL AWARD

DUSSELDORF, Nov. 4. (JTA) -- Karl Marx, publisher of the Jewish weekly "Die Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland," was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit here today. The citation, one of the highest Federal awards, was presented to Mr. Marx by North Rhine Westphalia Premier Heinz Meyers for his "untiring efforts to reconcile nations and races."

Convening of a world conference to combat anti-Semitism was proposed today in Cologne at a meeting of "Germamia Judaica," the newly-established institute here, comprised mainly of non-Jewish intellectuals. The purposes of the institute, which is in the process of establishing a comprehensive library of Judaica, is "to enlighten the German reading public in regard to Jewish history."

Some 800 members of the Social-Democratic Youth Movement are planning to visit the site of the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland, it was announced today. The project will reciprocate for a visit Polish youths paid West Germany last month.

JEWISH CLAIMS CONFERENCE DISTRIBUTED \$6,000,000 IN REPARATIONS FUNDS

GENEVA, Nov. 4. (JTA) -- Nearly \$6,000,000 in West German reparations funds has been distributed by the Jewish Material Claims Conference Against Germany during the past six years, Saul Kagan, secretary of the Claims Conference, reported today. He spoke at the 14th annual session of the overseas directors of the Joint Distribution Committee.

He said that \$5,993,800 had been distributed to aid victims of Nazi persecution. He appealed to the leaders of the European Jewish communities to intensify their efforts to become self-supporting in preparation for the time, five years from now, when compensation from West Germany will end. Claims Conference money for Nazi victims in the 25 countries where the JDC operates is administered by this organization and becomes part of a common fund known as JDC-Claims Conference Funds.

Mr. Kagan, dealing in his report mainly with Jewish communities in Western Europe where 75 percent of Claims Conference money is distributed, stressed that the Claims Conference regarded the development and re-building of the Jewish communities of Europe which bore the brunt of Nazi brutality as one of its principal objectives.

He said the efforts of the Claims Conference, in cooperation with the JDC and central community organizations in each country, had contributed greatly to the revitalization of Jewish communities in Europe. He reported that in western and central Europe capital grants have been contributed to build or re-model more than 200 Jewish institutions, including youth centers, homes for the aged, kindergartens, hospitals and clinics. The session was presided over by Moses A. Leavitt, JDC executive vice-chairman and treasurer of the Claims Conference.

J. D. C. CONTRIBUTES \$5,000 TO FUND IN MEMORY OF BISHOP OF CHICHESTER

LONDON, Nov. 4. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has contributed \$5,000 to a fund being raised here in memory of the late Bishop of Chichester, the Right, Rev. George K. A. Bell, the Church of England prelate who was one of the first to recognize the menace of the Nazi movement in Germany and who took a prominent role in efforts in this country to assist the Jewish refugees from Germany, it was announced today.

The Bishop of Chichester was the first outspoken critic of the Nazi persecution of the Jews and was credited with being the man who did more than anyone else to inform British public opinion on Nazi racism.

ROME JEWISH COMMUNITY THANKS CITY FOR HONORING JEWS KILLED BY NAZIS

ROME, Nov. 4. (JTA) -- The president of the Rome Jewish community, Odo Cagli, has sent a message to Mayor Urbano Ciocchetti expressing the "satisfaction and gratitude" of Rome Jewry for commemoration by the City Council of the extermination by the Nazis in 1943 of 2,000 Roman Jews.

Mr. Cagli told the Mayor that observance by the Council this year of the 16th anniversary of the tragic event "gave high example of human solidarity." Mr. Cagli's message was fully reported today in Osservatore Romano, the Vatican daily.

CAPTAIN OF S.S. ISRAEL TESTIFIES ON COLLISION IN NEW YORK HARBOR

NEW YORK, Nov. 4. (JTA) -- Captain Jacob Francis Por, skipper of the Zim liner, Israel, testified today before the Coast Guard inquiry into the collision between the Israeli passenger liner and an American freighter in New York Harbor last week.

The session was largely concerned with technical details. Capt. Por, a veteran of 30 years at sea, described in detail what went on from the time the Israel left its pier to the moment of collision. The ship's log and other records were examined.

NEW YORK MAYOR LEAVES FOR FOUR-DAY SPEAKING TOUR FOR J. N. F.

NEW YORK, Nov. 4. (JTA) -- Mayor Wagner of New York flew today from Idlewild Airport to California on a four-day speaking tour for the Jewish National Fund. This is the first time that a New York mayor visits the West Coast in the interests of a pro-Israel fund. Mayor Wagner will appear today at a Jewish National Fund dinner in San Francisco. Tomorrow evening he will address a JNF dinner in Los Angeles. Appearing with Mayor Wagner at the Los Angeles functions of the Jewish National Fund will be Mendel N. Fisher, executive director of the JNF, and Theodore Strimling, president of the Los Angeles JNF Council.

BERNARD NATH RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CHICAGO JEWISH WELFARE FUND

CHICAGO, Nov. 4. (JTA) -- Bernard Nath was re-elected president of the Jewish Welfare Fund of Metropolitan Chicago. The organization is a partner with the Jewish Federation in the Combined Jewish Appeal of Metropolitan Chicago. Also elected by the organization were officers for the ensuing year and twelve men to the board of directors.