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BEN-GURION ELATED OVER ELECTION RESULTS; STATES VIEWS ON COALITION

TEL AVIV, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion said today that he would give preference in the next coalition Government to those parties which favored a change of the existing election system to a regional arrangement.

In an interview in Yediot Achronot, an evening daily, given at his Negev retreat at Sde Boker, the Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction with what he called "the maturity of the nation" in Tuesday's national election, particularly the refusal of Israel's Sephardic community to follow the special Sephardic lists none of which won a single seat in Knesset, Israel's Parliament.

Observers, commenting on Mr. Ben-Gurion's expression of preference, noted that the only party, other than Mapai, on record for abolition of Israel's proportional representation election system, was the General Zionists party which suffered the heaviest losses in the election.

Mr. Ben-Gurion summed up the election outcome with the comment that Achdut Avodah--which dropped two or three seats--lost to Herut, which picked up two seats. He said the General Zionists, whose leaders he blamed for the party losses, also lost to Herut. He said also that he was convinced many Herut members voted for Mapai.

The apparent slight gain of Mapam, he said, was at the expense of the Communists. He was particularly critical of Gen. Yigal Alon of the Achdut Avodah and Menachem Begin of Herut. He said the two leaders were wrong in their campaigning and deserved their disappointments. The Prime Minister disclaimed any personal victory and said it was his party which deserved the credit.

New Government May be Formed of Mapai, General Zionists, Progressives

Initial gestures in the usual post-election coalition negotiations were made today although the actual struggle is not scheduled to begin for another two weeks.

With Mapai expected to have a possible 48 seats in the Knesset, plus three or four seats from Mapai-affiliated Arab parties Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion will be in a stronger than ever position in the choice of coalition partners. An indication of Mapai's feeling of greater strength emerged from criticism of Achdut Avodah, attributed to the Prime Minister, who also was quoted as saying that "the smaller labor parties should have learned the lesson of these elections."

The Mapai-supporting Jerusalem Post carried a report claiming the Prime Minister might take the General Zionists and the Progressives as partners in the next coalition. This proposal seemed to be in conflict with the fact that the three labor parties--Mapai, Mapam and Achdut Avodah--received together more than half of all votes cast, which was seen as an indication that the Israel electorate wanted a continuation of a labor coalition.

The National Religious Party, which emerged from the elections with an apparent slight increase in voter support, let it be known that it was ready to discuss terms for joining the next coalition.

Observers expressed the belief that when talks get underway, they will begin by conversations between the Prime Minister and all parties except the right-wing Herut and the Communists to ascertain minimum demands. Thereafter hard bargaining will eliminate the unacceptable parties until a coalition is formed.

There were reports that Mr. Ben-Gurion might personally prefer the "cheaper" terms of the badly-beaten General Zionists and of the Religious party. Most Mapai leaders, however, particularly the younger generation, were reported as convinced that a coalition with Mapam and Achdut Avodah would be more stable, efficient and reasonable in a long-term coalition, even though such a coalition would probably require more concessions from Mapai.

ISRAEL ENVOY MEETS ON SUEZ CANAL ISSUE WITH STATE DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- Israeli Minister Yaacov Herzog met today with Parker T. Hart, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, for a lengthy talk that is believed to have covered the Suez Canal issue. Mr. Herzog met also with Francis O. Wilcox, Assistant Secretary of State for United Nations Affairs. It is believed that the United States favors a continuation of the so-called quiet diplomacy pursued by UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld.

IRAQ'S PREMIER THREATENS 'TO LIBERATE PALESTINE' WITH IRAQI TROOPS

LONDON, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- Premier Kassem of Iraq threatened today to "liberate Palestine from the Jewish yoke" with Iraqi troops. He issued the threat in an interview with the Tunis daily, Al Thawra, warning that "our dear Palestine, beloved to all Arabs and Moslems, will be liberated only by the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi people."

He asserted that Egypt and Jordan had taken no action against Israel "in spite of their 30,000,000 inhabitants." He said it would be the Iraqi people alone and unaided who would "chase out the criminal Jews now in power."

Simultaneously the Cairo radio announced the United Arab Republic plans a campaign to close the Gulf of Akaba to Israeli commerce. The broadcast said the UAR delegate has been instructed to raise the issue in the United Nations legal committee. He was described as working in harmony with representatives of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab states.

The broadcast said the Arab drive on the Akaba gulf will be directed not only against Israel but against all states trading with Israel via the gulf.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CRITICIZES RENAULT FOR WITHDRAWING FROM ISRAEL

PARIS, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- The Franco-Israel Chamber of Commerce declared today that the decision of the partly Government-owned Renault Company to cancel operations in Israel was "incompatible with French conceptions of law and equality within the framework of international legislation."

The statement, which was widely publicized in the French press, urged the auto company to reconsider its decision to halt assemblies of its small car at the Kaiser-Frazer plant in Haifa "in a spirit of conciliation." The statement also urged the French firm to supply Israel with the previously-scheduled 1,600 cars so that the Haifa enterprise could switch over gradually to other production without causing a shock to Israel's economy.

The Renault decision continued to preoccupy the French press. Many dailies and weeklies, including the influential L'Express, contained long articles on the controversy. The issue also was raised in Parliament when Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville replied to questions from deputies.

MORE JEWISH MEN THAN WOMEN IN ISRAEL, CENSUS BUREAU REPORTS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- There are more Jewish men than women in Israel, according to figures released today by the Israel Census Bureau. Paralleling the situation which existed in the United States 50 years ago, census figures show a ratio of 103 Israeli Jewish men for 100 women, a proportion typical of countries undergoing significant immigration trends.

Immigrants from North Africa have contributed the highest ratio of males to females-- 107 to 100--while immigrants from Asian countries showed a ratio of 102.5 males to 100 females. Native-born Israelis also showed an excess of males over females by a ratio of 105 to 100, according to the census figures.

Statistics released by the Census Bureau indicated that 34.6 percent of Israel's population are native-born with 28.9 percent coming from Asian and African countries. While the ratio of the native-born Israelis to the total population is about the same as ten years ago, there has been a significant rise in the proportion from Asian and African countries with a corresponding decrease in the proportion of European-born Israelis.

ISRAEL EXPORTS TO EASTERN EUROPEAN LANDS REPORTED INCREASED

GENEVA, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- Israel exports to Eastern Europe have increased by nearly 60 percent in the first half of 1959 compared with the same period in 1958, Ephraim Haran, the Israel delegate to the Committee on Development of Trade, told a meeting of the committee today. The meeting is taking place within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe.

Mr. Haran said also that Israel's trade with Eastern Europe now represented 39 percent of Israel's total foreign trade which this year reached a peak of \$600,000,000. He pointed out that while Israel's commercial relations with Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Czechoslovakia were satisfactory, the Soviet Union had not resumed a relationship with Israel on purely economic considerations, despite the Soviet declared intention to maintain reciprocal trade relations with all countries.

Israel is continuing efforts to increase trade with Eastern Europe and intends to increase participation in trade fairs in those countries, he said. The Committee on Development of Trade meets annually to encourage East-West trade relations within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe of which Israel is an associate member.

J.D.C. SUGGESTS FORMATION OF BODY OF EUROPEAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES

GENEVA, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- A permanent organization of European Jewish community leaders for regular consultations on Jewish education, health and welfare problems was proposed today at the final session of the 14th annual overseas conference of the Joint Distribution Committee.

The proposal was made by Charles H. Jordan, JDC overseas director general, who was chairman at the session which was devoted to consideration of future needs and policies of European Jewish communities. The four-day meeting was attended by 125 religious and welfare leaders from 25 countries who reviewed JDC policies and programs. Mr. Jordan suggested the organization be called the Standing Conference of European Jewish Communities.

Henry S. Villard, United States Consul General in Geneva and resident delegate to the European office of the United Nations, told a dinner session tonight, presided over by Edward M. M. Warburg, that a government by itself cannot adequately meet the intimate variety of human needs without the efforts of voluntary agencies in the fields of relief, rehabilitation, education and social welfare.

Presenting greetings to the conference on behalf of the United States Government, Mr. Villard said that governments and private organizations have complementary roles in the task of helping the less fortunate.

U.S. and Israel Envoys Laud J.D.C. Aid to Needy Jews

Noting that the United States Government "carries out social welfare programs of its own," Mr. Villard added: "It has embarked on a very ambitious program overseas generally known as Point Four; its established refugee assistance program will receive almost \$30,000,000 in appropriated funds this year and another \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000 has been allocated to the food distribution program."

He said there were other "large special projects" to assist in realizing the aims of World Refugee Year "but we cannot fail at the same time to lend encouragement and moral support to the work of such non-official, non-political and highly-respected agencies as the Joint Distribution Committee."

Joseph J. Linton, Israel Ambassador to Switzerland, also paid tribute to the work of the JDC. He said that one of the facts which has kept the Jewish people in existence is their readiness to help fellow Jews in need or in peril. The envoy expressed his appreciation of such specific JDC projects in Israel as Malben, the program for the aged, ill and handicapped and extended to the JDC his wish for "every success in its great-hearted efforts."

Dr. William Haber, University of Michigan economist and president of the World ORT Union, credited the reconstruction of Jewish communal life in Europe to the joint efforts of American Jewry and the JDC, working in partnership with the newly-emerging European Jewish leadership. He said that the partnership had made possible achievements in 15 years which otherwise might have required generations of effort. He called the new European Jewish leadership "a small but fittingly effective group of men of the highest calibre."

POLAND RE-OPENS TRIAL OF NAZI WHO DIRECTED MASS-KILLING OF JEWS

FRANKFURT, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- The re-trial of former Nazi Gauleiter Erich Koch was underway today before the Polish Supreme Court in Warsaw. Koch, who directed the mass annihilation of Jews in occupied Poland and Nazi-held Ukraine, was condemned to death last March 9 for war crimes. He appealed his sentence to the highest court and won a new trial. The proceedings are expected to last four or five days.

The trial of former S.S. Capt. Franz Johann Hoffman, opened yesterday before a court in Hechingen, West Germany. Hoffman was charged with the murder of thousands of inmates of German death camps at Auschwitz, Dachau and Bisingen.

ANTI-JEWISH PLACARDS APPEAR IN BOGOTA; POSTED ON WALLS OF SYNAGOGUES

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- Repeated anti-Semitic activities are occurring in Bogota, Colombia, according to reliable reports received here today from Bogota. The reports described swastikas painted on the walls of Jewish institutions, shops, cars and homes.

The report also said that anonymous placards have been posted at synagogues with such inscriptions as: "Foreigners and Jews--you eat the bread of the people. Leave Colombia--do not wait until we chase you out." It also listed incidents of stone-throwing at Jewish homes and described the outrages as well organized and possibly created by non-Colombians.

GRENADE THROWN INTO JEWISH SHOP IN ALGERIA KILLS THREE MOSLEMS

ALGIERS, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- A grenade thrown by a terrorist into a Jewish shop in Bou Saada on Sunday, killed three persons--all Moslems, it was reported here today.

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES TEN-YEAR \$30,000,000 BUILDING PROGRAM

NEW YORK, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of Yeshiva University, announced today a ten-year \$30,000,000 building program to develop two campus areas of the university in New York City. He said he expected the program to be launched within a year with both phases underway by 1962.

The major project will be construction of a mid-town center on Manhattan's West Side as part of the Riverside-Amsterdam Title I project which has been approved by the New York City Committee on Slum Clearance. The other project will be the addition of facilities at the University's Main Center in upper Manhattan.

Dr. Belkin said that a trustee development committee headed by Louis J. Glickman, New York realtor, was finishing plans for the building program and for a major fund-raising effort to be undertaken as part of the University's 75th anniversary in 1961.

JEWISH SEMINARY TO BUILD AMERICAN STUDENT CENTER IN JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- First payment of \$50,000 on the building contract for construction of The Jewish Theological Seminary's American Student Center in Jerusalem was made today, according to Charles Rosengarten, president of the American corporation, who last week signed the contract with Rassco Co., Israeli construction firm.

Construction of the residence building, to be located near the government buildings and adjacent to the new campus of the Hebrew University, will begin immediately, and it is anticipated that the unit will be ready for occupancy in the 1960-61 academic year.

The building, which has been made possible by gifts and pledges of more than \$350,000 from more than 400 interested laymen affiliated with conservative Judaism, will house 20 single students, and 12 married couples. First use of the new unit will be for students in the Graduate Rabbinical School of the Seminary, who will spend a year in Israel studying at various Israeli institutions of higher learning.

U.S. JEWS URGED TO STIMULATE JEWISH ART IN EVERY POSSIBLE FORM

NEW YORK, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- The survival of the Jewish people and its heritage depends to a large degree upon their ability to respond in Jewish terms to the spiritual, cultural and artistic needs of our time, Dr. Joachim Prinz, president of the American Jewish Congress, declared today.

Addressing the biennial meeting of the Jewish Music Council of the National Jewish Welfare Board held at the Harmonie Club here, Rabbi Prinz said that "survival is not merely the continuation of a time-honored and well-tested tradition. It is the creation of viable Jewish living, contributing out of its own spirit to the very best in all fields of human endeavor of our time." To stimulate Jewish art in every possible form, Dr. Prinz said, "is one of the great opportunities of the present Jewish day and age. The large building program of synagogues and Jewish Community Centers all over the country has afforded one such opportunity."

Theme of the Council meeting, chaired by Rabbi Emanuel Green, Council chairman, was: "Commission a Jewish Musical Work." In the past three years the Council has encouraged the commissioning by local Jewish organizations of more than 60 new Jewish compositions. Many of these were given their premiere performances during Jewish Musical Festival, which is celebrated nationally each year under the Council's auspices.

EDWIN WOLF 2ND., BECOMES PRESIDENT OF PHILADELPHIA JEWISH FEDERATION

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- Edwin Wolf, the 2nd., librarian of the Library Company of Philadelphia, historian and author, took office last night as president of the Philadelphia Federation of Jewish Agencies at the Federation's diamond jubilee annual meeting and dinner.

Mr. Wolf became the second president of the Federation since it was formed in 1956 by the consolidation of the Federation of Jewish Charities and the Allied Jewish Appeal. He succeeded Abraham L. Freedman, who served three one-year terms in accordance with Federation by-laws limiting officers to three successive terms in any elective position.

CHAIM GERSHATER, EDITOR OF 'ZIONIST RECORD' IN JOHANNESBURG, DEAD

JOHANNESBURG, Nov. 5. (JTA) -- Chaim Gershater, editor of the Zionist Record here, died suddenly yesterday at the age of 54. He had undergone an operation recently and had returned to his post fully recovered.

Mr. Gershater was born in Krekenava, Lithuania and came to South Africa in 1926. He became editor of the weekly Zionist Record in 1943. Well known in local Jewish cultural life, he had been the correspondent for British and Israel periodicals. He was the author of "Thirty Days in Israel."