



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16. N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXVIII - 43rd year

Thursday, August 17, 1961

No. 157

MAPAI LOSES SEATS IN KNESSET ELECTION; REMAINS DOMINANT PARTY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion's Mapai Party lost an estimated six seats in yesterday's national elections to the fifth Knesset, Israel's Parliament, according to incomplete returns made public this morning.

The figures are based on tabulation of 95 percent of the total vote in the country. The untallied five percent of the votes, still being tallied, is from servicemen and women in the Israel army installations and from some of the Arab districts. These tallies are not expected to be completed for several days, after which the final results will be announced.

Mapai polled an estimated 34.1 percent of the vote to hold 41 seats against 47 in the last Parliament. In the previous national elections in 1959, Mapai polled 38.2 percent of the total vote. The total number of seats in the Knesset is 120.

The Liberal Party, contesting an election for the first time as a merger of the General Zionist and Progressive Parties, won 13.6 percent of the vote and will have 16 or 17 seats in the new Knesset. The two parties had 14 seats in the old chamber.

The Herut Party, with 13.4 percent of the vote, stood to hold its 17 seats or face the loss of one. The National Religious Party, with 9.9 percent of the vote, retained its 12 seats. The Mapam Party increased its vote fractionally to 7.7 percent and was sure of holding its nine seats and, possibly, of gaining one.

The Achdut Avodah Party likewise scored a fractional increase in its share of the vote, obtaining 6.4 percent to hold its seven seats. The Agudah and Poalei Agudah Parties increased their share of the vote to 5.8 percent and will have seven seats in the new Knesset as against six in the last Knesset.

The Communists scored heavily in the Arab areas. They increased their share of the vote from 2.8 percent to 4.3 percent, increasing the number of their seats from three to five. Returns early today failed to indicate the fate of the other three seats formerly held by these parties.

Most Parties Disappointed in the Elections; Hoped for Better Results

The election results provided no great surprises. Mapai, despite an intensive campaign effort, had been expected to lose some seats. The Liberals had hoped to win at least 20 seats and both the rightwing Herut and the leftwing Mapam and Achdut Avodah Parties had expected to capitalize on dissatisfaction and unrest over Mapai economic policies and the Lavon Affair.

The election leaves Premier Ben-Gurion just where he was before the elections, with no clear and decisive mandate to form a new government and obliged to find new bases for collaboration in a coalition government with the partners with whom he fell out in the previous regime. The Government will, in all likelihood have to be composed of Mapai, the new Liberal Party, the religious group and left-wing labor groups.

Though the tallies as they stand now are not complete, they are close enough to the expected final tabulations to indicate that both the Mapai Party and the new Liberal Party did not quite accomplish what they had hoped to achieve. Mapai can perhaps save 43 seats in the next Knesset, after the final election results are announced, but not the 47 seats it held in the last House.

The Liberals gained about 3 percent of the vote above the percentages totaled in the last Knesset by the new group's two components, the Progressives and the General Zionists. But in Knesset seats, they will have gained no more than two or three members in the new Parliament, compared with the old, where the combined seats held by the Progressives and the General Zionists numbered 14. The Liberals, despite indications that the new grouping was not taking the country by storm, had hoped to gain at

least 20 seats. Mapam, too, is probably disappointed, since it looks as if Mapam will have no more than 10 seats, at best only one seat more than in the last Knesset; The left-wing Achdut Avodah is certainly disappointed. For months, it had beat the drums on the Lavon Affair, and had hoped to cash in on that issue in the campaign; Instead, it will have no more than the seven seats it had in the old Parliament.

Only Herut seems satisfied, although in its ranks too there may be some disappointment. Herut has simply held its own, and may even lose one seat of the 17 it had in the last Knesset when the final count is in. The Communists gained, rather surprisingly, increasing their total ballots from about 2.8 percent in the last elections to more than 4 percent this year. That increase came largely from Arab voters, especially in Nazareth.

Largest Shift to Liberal Party Shown in Tel Aviv Voting

Mapai had lost much less in rural areas than some political experts had expected. The Liberals gained most in the large cities. The largest shifts to the Liberals was shown in the balloting in Tel Aviv.

Pending the final tabulations, which are not expected to alter the situation materially, it seems that the key to major decisions in the next Knesset will be in the hands of the six major parties. Sixty percent of the seats will be controlled by Mapai, the National Religious Party, Mapam and Achdut Avodah -- all of which were represented in the last Cabinet.

The figures indicate that Mapai will, once more, have to form a coalition Government. Though it could obtain a comfortable majority by teaming up with the Liberals and the religious parties, there is a greater possibility that the old coalition of labor parties with the National Religious group will probably be revived to form the next Government.

J. T. A. Flooded with Inquiries on Results of Israel's Elections

NEW YORK, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Unprecedented interest was displayed today by Jewish communities throughout the United States in the results of Israel's elections. The office of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was kept busy since early hours of the morning with answering telephone calls coming in from Jewish leaders and from newspapers in all parts of the country.

Telephone calls were received by the JTA from cities as far as Los Angeles, Miami and Chicago. There were also calls from Detroit, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Newark, Cleveland, Columbus and other cities. Queries on the results of the elections were also received from various cities by telegraph. Jewish organizations and leaders in New York kept the JTA telephone lines busy for several hours asking for the outcome of the elections. A special staff was engaged in answering the calls.

Calls asking for the results of the Israel elections began to come into the JTA office here late last evening and continued until after midnight. They were resumed in the early morning hours when the JTA cables from Israel carried tabulations of about ninety-five percent of the votes with more details coming in.

STATE DEPT. CHARGED IN CONGRESS WITH FAILING TO ACT ON ARAB BIAS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Pursuing the need for withholding U. S. aid from Arab nations that practice bias against Americans, Rep. Seymour Halpern, New York Republican, said today in a House speech that an analogy existed between new Communist restrictions on free movement of Germans in the Berlin area and "the arbitrary barring of United States citizens, on a basis of religion, by Arab recipients of our assistance."

As the House continued debating the foreign aid bill, Rep. Halpern charged the State Department with "failing to do all it can to implement the anti-bias and freedom of the seas clauses that are part of the various foreign assistance acts." He pointed out that the State Department did not hesitate to ask Congress to vote funds for the Arabs but paid no heed to the will of Congress in failing to implement anti-bias measures.

Rep. Alfred Santangelo, New York Democrat, told the House that "in view of the large amounts of money" recommended in the new bill "for the Arab nations, which (recommendations) I have seen in the classified documents, I think it behooves the Foreign Affairs Committee in the light of these discriminatory practices against the Jewish people, and against American citizens of the Jewish faith, that the Committee should re-evaluate the contribution that this foreign aid program is giving to Jordan, the United Arab Republic, and other countries in that area."

MOROCCO RELEASES 50 JEWS ARRESTED ON CHARGE OF SEEKING TO EMIGRATE

GENEVA, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- The 50 Moroccan Jews who were arrested last week and charged with attempting to illegally emigrate to Israel, were released in Rabat yesterday, but will have to stand trial on charges of attempting to leave the country without exit visas.

World Jewish leaders, currently meeting here for a number of Jewish conferences, expressed their pleasure at the Moroccan move which was taken without any external pressure from Jewish groups.

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS MEET IN GENEVA; DISCUSS VARIOUS BASIC PROBLEMS

GENEVA, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Seventy-five delegates representing 10 major Jewish organizations on five continents convened here today for a two-day session of the Conference of Jewish Organizations, facing a broad agenda. Among the topics up for consideration are the situation of the Jews in North Africa, the Arab boycott against Israel, the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly debate on the Arab refugee situation, the world reactions to the Adolf Eichmann trial concluded this week at Jerusalem, and plans for a 1962 international conference on Jewish education.

A three-man presidium was elected by the Conference, comprised of Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress; Sir Barnett Janner, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews; and Label A. Katz, president of B'nai B'rith. All three members of the presidium addressed the conference today, and the delegates were also greeted by Eliahu Sasson, Israel Ambassador to Switzerland.

Among the organizations represented here, in addition to those headed by the three members of the presidium, are the American Jewish Congress, Canadian Jewish Congress, Jewish Labor Committee, Conseil Representatif des Juifs de France, DAIA, the central representative body of Argentine Jewry, and the Executive Council of Australian Jewry.

Tomorrow, the conference is scheduled to take up plans for the convening of an international conference, next year, dealing with Jewish education. There is general agreement that such a world meeting be convened. But, while some delegates urge that the meeting be held in Jerusalem, others are of the opinion that it should be held in Europe instead.

EICHMANN'S AIDE DISCOVERED IN GERMANY; RECOMMENDED POISONING JEWS

HANOVER, Germany, Aug 16 (JTA) -- The State Attorney General announced here today that he has opened a special investigation into the activities of Dr. Ehrhardt Wetzel, an associate of Adolf Eichmann during the Nazi regime, who has been found living in a village near this city. He has been drawing a monthly pension of 1600 deutschmarks (about \$400) as a former army officer.

Dr. Wetzel was honorary chairman of the Nazi Party's Bureau for Racial Policy, and head of the Jewish Affairs bureau in the Nazi Ministry of the Interior. According to the Lower Saxony Ministry of Justice, the first report of the investigators showed that, in 1941, Wetzel and Eichmann were co-signers of a letter recommending the use of poison gas to kill all Jews in occupied Eastern Europe.

Dr. Wetzel was arrested by Soviet authorities in 1945, and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment at hard labor. However, he was freed in 1955, and returned to Germany, taking up residence in the village near here. It is understood he was able to keep his identity secret because a Jewish historian, who had identified the name of Wetzel as a war criminal, had mistakenly referred to him as Ernst Wetzel, whereas his true first name is Ehrhardt.

Argentine Jewish Leader Says Hitler's Deputy, Bormann, Is in Brazil

GENEVA, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Martin Bormann, principal deputy to Adolf Hitler, is definitely alive, hiding out in the Curitiba district of Brazil, it was reported here today by Marc Turkow, representative of DAIA, the Central Jewish organization of Argentina, attending the current meeting of the Central Conference of Jewish Organizations here.

According to Mr. Turkow, Bormann was recognized on a street in Buenos Aires, where he had been living, by a former Italian army officer. The latter had met Bormann during the war, when the Italian officer accompanied the late Italian dictator, Benito Mussolini, on a visit to Hitler's headquarters in Berlin. Bormann was previously reported having fled Buenos Aires in May, 1960, almost immediately after Adolf Eichmann was captured there.

ARGENTINE NATIONALISTS ATTACK JEWISH YOUTH CAMP; SEVERAL INJURED

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Several Jewish boys and girls attending a training camp for pioneer work in Israel were injured early this morning when their camp, located at Mercedes, about 100 miles from this capital, was attacked by a group of extreme nationalists lined up with the right-wing "Tacuara" movement.

The right-wingers stormed the camp at 5 a.m. and beat many of the boys and girls with sticks. The camp for the training of pioneer youth planning to join kibbutzim in Israel is conducted by Hachsharah Ichud Habonim, an organization of Argentine Jews with headquarters in this city.

The incident created great excitement in the Jewish community here. DAIA, the central representative organization of Argentine Jewry, lodged a strong protest with the Ministry of the Interior. The Ministry immediately assigned strong security guards to protect the Mercedes camp.

INTENSIFIED JEWISH EDUCATION SEEN AS NEED FOR JEWS WORLD OVER

PARIS, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Label A. Katz, president of B'nai B'rith, said today there is a "universal need" for intensified programs of Jewish education "to avert cultural shallowness" throughout the Jewish world.

Addressing the annual meeting of the B'nai B'rith International Council, Mr. Katz said the problem is "as acute" for the postwar Jewish communities of Europe, Latin America and elsewhere as it is for those in the United States.

"To some degree this conclusion is valid even for Israel," he said. Mr. Katz called for closer "person to person relationships among the Jewish communities of the world" if we are to understand each other's problems in realistic terms.

He told the 150 representatives of the B'nai B'rith districts from four continents that "Jewish life can no longer conduct itself with the affectionate detachment and nostalgia with which the preceding generation of American Jews accepted the Jewish communities of Europe."

JEWISH CONGRESS PRESENTS SUGGESTIONS TO U.N. ON STATELESS PERSONS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Aug. 16 (JTA) -- An amendment to a proposed international agreement concerning the legal status of stateless persons, outlawing any country's deprivation of nationality to any person on the basis of racial or religious discrimination, was suggested here by the World Jewish Congress today.

The WJC made its suggestion in a memorandum to the second United Nations Conference on Statelessness, which convened yesterday. The purpose of the conference, being attended by representatives of 29 states, including Israel, is to attempt to complete work on an international agreement drawn up by the International Law Commission in 1954.

The WJC pointed out in its memorandum that some countries deprive persons of their nationality on racial or religious grounds, proposing that such practices be termed "not permissible" in the draft agreement. The Congress cited the United Arab Republic as one country practicing such discrimination, pointing out that U.A.R. law provides for the possibility of depriving any UAR citizen of his nationality if "he has been known at any time as a Zionist." According to the WJC, "it is rather obvious that this provision is directed against the Jewish minority as such."

The draft convention on statelessness, adopted by the International Law Commission in 1954 has, to date, been ratified by only eight countries. Israel, Britain and France are among the states that have ratified the convention, but the United States has so far not adhered to the proposed international instrument. The U.S.A., like Israel, is represented at the conference that opened today.

24,000 TOURISTS ARRIVED IN ISRAEL IN JULY; 14,000 ISRAELIS WENT ABROAD

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- More than 24,000 tourists arrived in Israel during July, an increase of more than 50 percent over the number of tourists who arrived in the country in July 1960, it was reported here today. Last month's visitors brought the total number of tourists since the beginning of the year to 99,208 as against some 72,000 for the corresponding period last year.

Income from tourism for the first five months of this year totaled \$12,800,000, an increase of 17 percent over the tourist income for the same period last year. The figure does not include income earned by the State's national carriers, El Al Airlines and the Zim-Israel Navigation Company. Some 14,000 Israelis traveled abroad last month as compared with 11,000 in July 1960, the figures indicated.