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HISTADRUT BALLOTING GIVES ESHKOL GROUP 50.5%; BEN-GURION 'RAFI' 13%

TEL AVIV, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- The first election test, following the extensive reshuffling of Israel's political ranks during the past few months, culminated today in a sharp setback for Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's Mapai-Achdut Avoda alignment, which polled 50.5 percent in preliminary results of yesterday's elections to the Histadrut, Israel's labor federation. Final results of the balloting, in which only about 70 percent of the eligible Histadrut electorate went to the polls, were not expected to be known until tomorrow.

Former Premier David Ben-Gurion's Israel Workers List, Rafi, polled only 13 percent of the votes, somewhat less than the results anticipated by the faction that broke away from Mapai. In the last Histadrut elections, in 1959, the two labor factions, which ran separately as Mapai (before Rafi was born) and Achdut Avoda, carried 72 percent of the vote, compared with a total of only 63.5 percent in yesterday's voting.

The Herut-Liberal (Gahal) joint list, which brought Herut into the Histadrut elections for the first time, emerged as the second largest political force, with 17.5 percent of the Histadrut votes. The Independent Liberals, the Liberal faction that refused to join with Herut, polled 4.7 percent of the votes.

Mapam's proportion of the Histadrut electorate declined to 13 percent in yesterday's balloting, from the 14 percent polled by the party in 1959. An even sharper relative decline was shown by the two Communist factions, which together polled 1.9 percent of the votes, compared with the 2.8 percent they totaled as one party in the elections six years ago.

Shift in Knesset Campaign Seen; 'Gahal' May Be Real Competitor

The results of the Histadrut balloting are expected to alter considerably the nature of the campaigning by the various parties for the Knesset (Parliament) elections, to be held November 2. The Herut-Liberal joint list, Gahal, is now expected to be the Mapai-Achdut Avoda alignment's main competitor in the Knesset election campaign. Observers also predicted that projected reforms within the labor federation would be accelerated as a result of the shift in party strengths.

In commenting on the preliminary tabulations today, Reuven Barkat, secretary of Mapai, and Israel Galili, secretary of its alignment partner, Achdut Avoda, said that "Rafi did not succeed in breaking the alignment, and the alignment will continue as the main central power in the Histadrut." Asserting that the results would have to be given further study, the two leaders also stressed that "Gahal's penetration into Histadrut alarms every worker."

Menachem Begin, leader of Herut, said that "the results are the turning point for us. Now we will do our best to ensure a change in the Knesset elections." Shimon Peres and Yosef Almogi, leaders of Ben-Gurion's Rafi, said the results were "an achievement" for their party, considering the fact that they had only two months to prepare and organize their campaign. They said the party hoped to double its strength in the Knesset elections.

The Histadrut election results underscored the fact that the main strength of Israel's Communist factions was among the Arab population. While both Communist groups polled less than 2 percent throughout the country, their combined total in the Arab areas was almost 20 percent of the votes, nearly all of these going to the pro-Arab New Communist faction.

WHITE HOUSE PARLEY 'REASSURES' U.S. SUPPORT ON SOVIET JEWISH ISSUE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- Jewish leaders today emerged from meetings with top White House officials and State Department authorities, reassured that yesterday's Eternal Light Vigil was an effective move toward ameliorating the plight of Soviet Jewry, and promised U.S. Government support at the United Nations and at various other levels of contact between the United States and Russia. The group, comprised of delegates of the

24 organizations that make up the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, met for over an hour at the White House with President Johnson's leading adviser on foreign policy, McGeorge Bundy, Special Assistant on National Security Affairs, and Special Counsel Lee White.

Rabbi Seymour J. Cohen, of Chicago, chairman of the steering committee of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, spoke for the group when it emerged from the White House. He said the group was "reassured" that American Government interest in the Soviet Jewish situation would be "amplified" on different levels. This would include action at the United Nations at Commission on Human Rights, in formal diplomatic exchanges; and on a people-to-people level, he said;

The Rabbi felt the Government showed a deep and sincere interest in the fate of Soviet Jewry. The hour-long meeting at the White House included a review and assessment of the situation generally, and a report on the Vigil. Different aspects of the problem were discussed, including various aspects of measures President Johnson could or should take.

An evaluation of the latest developments, Rabbi Cohen said, shows "the Soviet Union is not insensitive" to protests and "there is the beginning of pinpricks of light in a very dark situation." He thought it uncertain how far this tendency would extend, but was convinced that the Vigil and similar activities were the proper path to pursue until Soviet Jewry attains at least the same level of cultural and religious rights accorded other Soviet minorities;

(Reports received today by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency indicated that local observances of the Vigil against Soviet Jewish persecutions will be held in various important centers of American Jewry around the country. Among such events definitely scheduled are rallies to be held in Chicago, Los Angeles and Mobile, Ala.)

State Dept. Officials Fear Direct Intercession Might 'Backfire'

It was indicated that direct and formal intercession by the United States Government was considered a less effective strategy than less formal communications through diplomatic and other channels;

State Department officials stressed at another meeting today that direct intercession might backfire and do Soviet Jewry more harm than good. The Department felt the issue should be kept alive at various levels but that a massive demarche by the United States through formal diplomatic channels was undesirable. Soviet authorities would interpret this as an unwarranted intrusion by a foreign power into domestic affairs, it was explained;

The Department, however, thought well of maintaining public awareness of the problem and responses through such meetings as the Vigil. In the Department's view, it was learned, sweeping charges should not be made against Russia on the Jewish issue, but carefully detailed and precise indictments of actual anti-Jewish practices. The Department thought a more specific detailing of charges would be helpful. Over 100 Vigil leaders took part in the meeting at the State Department;

It was learned today that the Soviet Embassy deliberately kept its door bolted yesterday to shut out the Vigil delegation. Embassy personnel ignored the bell when rung by members of the Vigil group that sought to present petitions. But only minutes after the delegation was observed descending from the stairs, a telegraph messenger arrived, rang the bell, and was promptly admitted;

Jewish Veterans Leader Plans to Take Up Situation in Moscow

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20; (JTA) -- Milton A. Waldor, of Newark, N.J., whose election as new national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. was announced today, made known that he will go to Moscow and seek reception "at the highest levels of Soviet officialdom" to discuss the Jewish situation in the USSR;

Mr. Waldor, a 40-year-old attorney, is a Jewish communal leader and decorated Air Force veteran of World War II. He also announced that the JWV, under his command, will accelerate its nationwide campaign against the John Birch Society and other extremist right-wing groups. Joseph Tanenbaum, of Bayside, N.Y., was elected national judge advocate of the JWV;

In commenting on his projected visit to Moscow, Mr. Waldor said an approach on a "veteran-to-veteran basis" might prove useful. He said that, since both American and Soviet veterans of World War II took part in the struggle against Fascism, they could talk about current issues against "a background of mutual desire for peace and fair treatment of people of all races and religions."

NEW GERMAN NEO-NAZI PARTY POLLS 2% OF VOTES WITH 500,000 MEMBERS

BONN, Sept; 20: (JTA) -- The newly-established National Democratic Party, the first neo-Nazi party in West Germany to seek official nationwide recognition, emerged from yesterday's Parliamentary elections with only 2 percent of the vote. In view of the strong attendance at recent rallies of the neo-Nazi group, political observers had predicted that the party would poll up to 5 percent;

The observers warned, however, that the strength of the National Democratic Party should not be under-estimated, since the 2 percent ratio corresponds to nearly 500,000 votes. In Nuremberg, the birthplace of Hitler's racist policies, the neo-Nazi group won 6 percent of the vote;

With Chancellor Ludwig Erhard and his Christian Democratic Party retaining their leadership of the West German Government coalition, Bonn's pro-Israel policy is certain to continue; Two days before the elections, the Chancellor had told a press conference he intended to improve relations with Israel further, regardless of his desire to normalize relations with the Arab countries. He made it clear he wants to meet with the next Israeli Premier after Israel's forthcoming Knesset elections;

U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPENS TODAY; ARAB REFUGEE ISSUE ON THE AGENDA

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Sept; 20: (JTA) -- The Arab refugee problem and a number of human rights matters, including one specifically condemning anti-Semitism, will face the United Nations General Assembly here as that body opens its 20th regular session here tomorrow. Due to the fact that no substantive business at all was possible at the last Assembly, this year's principal forum of the United Nations faces an agenda heavier than ever, including almost 110 items;

The Arab refugee item, always a touchy issue here, debated at great length in the Assembly's Special Political Committee, is expected to be stormier than ever this year. That debate will center formally around the annual report to be submitted by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. But the report, to be filed shortly by UNRWA's commissioner-general, Laurence Michelmore, will be only the touchstone of the bitter debate;

The Arab delegations here are primed to bring into the discussion around the UNRWA report demands that the United Nations give official recognition to a so-called "Arab Palestine Delegation," probably to be headed by Ahmad Shukairy, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization;

The Arabs are expected also to complain about what they consider inadequate financing of the relief operations conducted by UNRWA. They will try to inject all of the Israeli-Arab disputes, some dating back to 1948 and others of a current nature like Shukairy's PLO and the efforts by the Arab states to divert the headwaters of the Jordan River in their countries, so as to lower or to salinize the Jordan waters which Israel is now using for partial irrigation of the upper reaches of the Negev Desert;

In the human rights field, the Assembly will have to consider proposals for the adoption of a declaration and convention spelling out steps for the elimination of all religious intolerance, and adoption of a convention outlawing racial discrimination. In the latter draft document, there is a proposal by the United States to condemn anti-Semitism. The Soviet Union will insist that, instead of mentioning anti-Semitism per se, the wording should concern itself with condemning "Nazism and other manifestations of atrocious racist practices and ideas;"

In the religious area, there will be efforts here to outlaw various discriminations against Soviet Jews, practices condoned by Soviet authorities. The draft document would condemn all religious intolerance, and another instrument would outlaw all types of race propaganda and racist organizations;

JERUSALEM POLICE ARREST 15 ZEALOTS RIOTING OVER SABBATH TRAFFIC

JERUSALEM, Sept; 20: (JTA) -- The second successive Saturday of demonstrations against Sabbath traffic here ended in the injury of two policemen and the arrest of 15 religious extremists;

Three demonstrations during the morning and early afternoon, in which buses were stoned, window smashed and policemen called Nazis, ended without violence. In a fourth, however, a group of religious zealots blocked the road, refusing to budge. Police cleared the road, arresting eight persons. Towards dusk, stones thrown from a building at the police patrol injured two officers, whereupon the patrol moved into the yard and arrested seven suspects;

UNDERCOVER AGENT REPORTS CANADIAN NEO-NAZI THREATS TO HANG JEWS

TORONTO, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- Plans of John Beattie's Canadian neo-Nazi group to "hang Jewish traitors on Parliament Hill" were described this weekend by Ron Battaro, a 28-year-old York University student, who joined the extremist group as an undercover agent on behalf of the Canadian Jewish Congress and another anti-Nazi group. Battaro testified in the trial of a number of Canadians charged with assault and creating a public disturbance in a clash at a Nazi rally in Allan Gardens last May.

Battaro told the court that he had attended numerous meetings of the neo-Nazi organization to learn the group's plans and propaganda techniques. He identified two others associated with him in the undercover work as John and Christopher Dingle, brothers.

Beattie, meanwhile, admitted in his testimony his admiration for Adolf Hitler, and said that all he knew about Jews being slaughtered by the Nazis was what he read in the "Jew press." He also admitted his close link with George Rockwell, head of the American Nazi Party.

One of the accused, Ignace David, 44, changed his plea to guilty from not guilty, after he explained that he had attacked Yves Moreau, a bystander at the rally, taking him for a Nazi. David, who will appear for sentencing on October 19, said that he had lost 50 relatives at the hands of the Nazis and that he himself had been an inmate in various concentration camps.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL RAISES THIRD OF \$150,000 GOAL

NEW YORK, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- A total of \$50,000 was raised by the National Committee for Labor Israel tonight at a testimonial dinner honoring William Hellman, toward the \$300,000 campaign by the Histadrut, Israel's labor federation, for the establishment of the Arthur Fiedler Music Library in Tel Aviv.

The National Committee has undertaken to raise \$150,000 toward the goal for the music library, to be matched with an equal amount by the Histadrut in Israel. The library will house orchestral scores and other materials essential for the musical development of Israel. Mr. Hellman was presented at the dinner with the Histadrut Freedom Award by Ambassador Michael Arnon, Israel's Consul-General in New York.

At a meeting last night of the board of directors of the National Committee, Dr. Sol Stein, executive director, reporting on last year's results of the Israel Histadrut Campaign, said that "more money had been raised than in any previous year since the drive was inaugurated 41 years ago."

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY BREAKS GROUND FOR WOMEN'S RESIDENCE

NEW YORK, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- Groundbreaking ceremonies were held here yesterday for a new women's residence hall by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, as part of a \$35,000,000 building campaign during the observance by the institution of its year-long 80th anniversary celebration. The building, which will contain two separate residence halls, will be the first of three new structures to be built on the Seminary's New York campus. The others will be a library and an academic building.

The women's residence, to be known as the Mathilde Schechter Residence Hall, is being sponsored by the National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America. Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller was principal speaker at the event. A highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the Seminary's Solomon Schechter Medal to Mrs. Louis Ginzberg, widow of the late scholar, who was professor of Talmud at the Seminary. Dr. Louis Finkelstein, chancellor of the Seminary, presented the medal to Mrs. Ginzberg.

DR. A. LEO LEVIN, ORTHODOX JEW, NAMED TO HIGH POST AT PENNSYLVANIA U.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- Dr. A. Leo Levin, professor of law at the University of Pennsylvania and a past president of the Jewish Exponent, has been appointed vice-provost of the University, with primary responsibility in the area of student affairs.

Dr. Levin is a former vice-president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, a member of the publication committee of the Jewish Publication Society, and has served on the board of the Federation of Jewish Agencies. He is president of the Lower Merion Synagogue, and has been active on behalf of the Jewish Community Relations Council, Beth Jacob School and Akiba Hebrew Academy.

AMERICAN RABBI TAKES PULPIT OF GREAT SYNAGOGUE IN STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- Rabbi Morton Narowe, who served as a rabbi in Satellite Beach, Florida, near Cape Kennedy, was inducted today as rabbi of the Great Synagogue in Stockholm. He is a graduate of Yeshiva University of New York, and of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.