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New Israeli Labor Party Officially Launched Amid Pleas for Unity

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22 (JTA)--Israel's new united Labor Party which was launched here last night and festivities and the well wishes of 2,250 delegates and guests from all over the world, began its first task today -- the search for effective leadership to govern it.

The new party, created by the merger of Mapai and two former dissident labor factions, Rafi and Achdut Avodah, will command 58 setas out of 120 in the Knesset (Parliament). But the party leadership is yet to be defined. As of today there is still no secretary general. Mrs. Golda Meir, who held that post in Mapai, relinquished it and so far has declined to serve the new party in the same capacity; but Prime Minister Levi Eshkol hopes to persuade her to change her mind. Proposals were made to establish a five-member secretariat as the party's supreme governing body. It would be composed of three former Mapai members and one each from Rafi and Achdut Avodah. Meanwhile, a 3-man committee was formed to recommend practical measures to cement party unity.

Another prominent figure who opposed the merger, former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, took his usual seat in the Knesset this afternoon as other Rafi members moved over to the former Mapai section of the chamber. Mr. Ben-Gurion, who has declared that he would not join the merged party under its present leadership, has not announced his secession. But the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was reliably informed that Mr. Ben-Gurion has inquired about the facilities granted to one-man factions of which there are others in the Knesset.

Mr. Ben-Gurion was the only major Israeli labor party leader absent from last night's merger conference held in Jerusalem's 3,300-seat convention hall. The occasion had all the trappings of an affair of state. President Zalman Shazar was present in the auditorium, decorated with blue and white Israeli flags and the red flags of the Socialist International which were raised in honor of the presence of its chairman, Bruno Pitterman, former vice chancellor of Austria.

Eshkol Stresses Need for Unity and Constructive Initiative

Also present was a French Socialist delegation headed by former premier Jules Moch, who received a tremendous ovation when introduced, and Jan Haeckerrup, of Denmark, secretary general of the International Union of Socialist Youth. Socialist delegations from numerous Asian and African countries, from Malagasy to Singapore, were also on hand. The Socialist parties of 22 countries were represented.

The need for unity, particularly in face of the danger confronting Israel since the June war, was the main theme of the new party's inaugural. It was stressed by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol who was present with his entire cabinet, to deliver the keynote address. Mr. Eshkol declared that the spirit of national unity that emerged before and during last June's war tore down all barriers, narrowed differences and revived labor unity in Israel. The new party, he said, will require every constructive initiative from whatever source. Mr. Eshkol said that Israel's economy is pluralistic and will remain so, meaning that it is a distillation of Socialist endeavor and private enterprise.

The secretary-general of each of the three parties to the merger -- Mrs. Meir for Mapai, Shimon Peres for Rafi and Israel Galili for Achdut Avodah -- declared in turn that the merger was undertaken to provide strong leadership for the nation. They stressed, however, that freedom of discussion will prevail and all members will abide by majority decisions.

Inauguration ceremonies began yesterday afternoon when a "scroll of unity" was signed by the 187 members of the new party's secretariat. Appeals were voiced by veteran party members for the remaining dissidents to return to the fold, particularly Mr. Ben-Gurion. Calls were also issued to Mapam, the left-wing labor party which had announced previously that it would seek alignment with the new party and present a common list of candidates in the next Knesset elections. But the religious workers faction -- Haoved Hadati -- which had joined the Mapai-Achdut Avodah alignment when it was formed three years ago, announced that it would re-establish itself as a separate faction.

The new party's charter, read at the inaugural convention, called for the establishment of permanent peace, the reawakening of Jewish consciousness in the diaspora, the maintenance of a creative partnership between Israel and world Jewry, continuation of the struggle against racialism, anti-Semitism, Fascism and the remnants of colonialism and solidarity with the Socialist parties and labor movements throughout the world.

The charter also urged Israel to prepare for the economic, social and cultural absorption of immigrants and to cultivate in each Israeli citizen, a sense of obligation to help new immigrants adjust.

Tito, Mrs. Gandhi Reportedly Will Urge Arabs to Take More Moderate Stand

NEW DELHI, India, Jan. 22 (JTA)--Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia arrived here for talks with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the speculation is that the two leaders of the so-called unaligned nations will urge a more moderate approach by the Arabs in their dispute with Israel. Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin is expected to join them here on Jan. 25.

Jarring Confers With Eban; Bull Arrives to Report Canal Clearance Plans

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22 (JTA)--Gunnar Jarring, U.N. Secretary General U Thant's special Mideast emissary, arrived here today on his sixth visit and consulted for 90 minutes with Foreign Minister Abba Eban.

Mr. Jarring, who came from Amman by car and crossed the bridge over the Jordan River, went on to his Cyprus headquarters following his meeting with Mr. Eban.

Official sources had no information on the subject of his talks. It is believed that Mr. Jarring's present effort is geared to finding points of contact between Israel and the Arabs while at the same time smoothing out differences to reduce friction. A main peacemaking attempt is expected to come at a later stage.

General Odd Bull, the Secretary General's representative for cease-fire matters, returned here last night from Cairo and was expected to inform Israeli authorities of Egyptian plans for freeing the vessels stranded in the Suez Canal.

According to the Egyptian radio, plans call for a preliminary survey of the canal to begin next Saturday. Israel has agreed in principle to the extrication of 15 ships moored in the canal since last June.

Eban Tells French-Jewish Delegation Israel Wants to Keep Friendship of France

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban said today that Israel would not easily surrender its friendship with France and will strive to protect and enrich it. He told a delegation of the United Israel Appeal of France, headed by Baron Ely de Rothschild, that the Franco-Israeli relationship had developed to a point where both peoples had recognized its intrinsic value and he noted that French leaders had given many proofs of their friendship.

The Foreign Minister said that the embargo on sale of French arms to Israel, coupled with the withdrawal of French political support had been a double blow for Israel. He pointed out that since 1955 French arms for Israel had served to offset the Soviet deliveries of weapons to Egypt and he stressed that the Franco-Israeli understanding had long been regarded by both governments as a major factor in the avoidance of war. He expressed the belief that peace would provide the framework in which all other problems could be resolved.

French Military Delegation Weighs Sale of Mirage Jets to Iraq

PARIS, Jan. 22 (JTA)--A French military delegation, now in Iraq, is studying the possibility of selling Mirage III and Mirage V jets to that country, it was reliably reported here today. But the Iraqi government is insisting, as a pre-condition of such a sale, that France continue its embargo on the sale of Mirage jets to Israel.

The French embargo on arms shipments to the Middle East applied only to Israel and the Arab countries that took part in last June's war, of which Iraq was one. Should the embargo be lifted on Iraq, the French Government could also lift it on Israel, informed quarters said.

M. Salomon Siderich, an official of the Franco-Israel Alliance, a group of Jewish and non-Jewish personalities interested in furthering relations between France and Israel, said today he had reason to believe the embargo on arms shipments to Israel would be lifted soon. He made this statement after conferring with members of the French cabinet, including M. Schumann, Minister of Scientific Research, and with members of the Gaullist party center.

Israel To Reserve Action on Proposed Non-Proliferation Treaty

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22 (JTA)--Foreign Ministry sources indicated today that Israel will withhold any public statement of her position on an international treaty for the non-proliferation of atomic weapons until she has further information on guarantees to non-nuclear states that may be faced with nuclear aggression. Israel is also waiting for the reaction to such a treaty by other states considered capable of producing nuclear weapons.

The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed on the draft of a non-proliferation treaty, worked out at Geneva, to be signed by non-nuclear as well as nuclear powers. The draft has been endorsed by Britain though not by France or Communist China which also possess nuclear weapons. The fate of the treaty depends to a great extent on its acceptance by such countries as Israel, Sweden, India, Poland, West Germany and Italy all of which are considered capable of producing nuclear weapons, including megaton bombs. Israel is known to be experimenting with nuclear reactors at a secret installation in the Negev.

Oklahoma Company to Prospect for Oil on Israeli Coastal Plain

TEL AVIV, Jan. 22 (JTA)--The Mayflower Oil Co. of Oklahoma signed up with the Israel National Oil Prospecting Co. today to search for oil near Nathanya on Israel's coastal plain between Tel Aviv and Haifa. Mayflower is a 10 percent partner in the project and other American oil companies have expressed an interest in joining the venture. The first of three projected drills is expected to begin within three months.

Rumania Expresses Interest in Israeli-Assembled Small Cars

TEL AVIV, Jan. 22 (JTA)--Rumania which recently bought 80 Leyland buses assembled in Israel, has expressed interest in the Israeli-assembled Gilbo car, a small vehicle in the style of the British sportscar, the Triumph. The Gilbo bodies are made of fiberglass and the Rumanians are interested in acquiring know-how in the production of fiberglass.

Israel Says It Seeks To Provide Conditions For Normal Life in New Territories

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Jan. 22 (JTA)--Israel told Secretary-General U Thant today that its policy in the occupied territories "is to ensure normal life and development for the inhabitants." Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, in his first formal action since presentation of his credentials last Friday, assured the Secretary-General that Israeli authorities "will take all necessary measures to protect the lives and property of the population against any illegal activities, including acts of terrorism, wherever threatened or committed."

Mr. Tekoah's communication to the Secretary General was in reply to charges against Israel made Friday by Egypt and circulated at Egypt's request to all members of the Security Council and General Assembly. The Egyptians had charged that Israeli forces in the occupied areas were carrying out "military operations" aimed at "intimidating, terrifying and coercing the civilian population" to force them to flee or to accept "foreign occupation."

In his reply, Ambassador Tekoah charged that the purpose of the Egyptian letter was purely propaganda. He told the Secretary General that "bearing in mind that Arab Governments, including that of the United Arab Republic, persist in fostering and encouraging belligerent incursions and sabotage acts in violation of their cease fire obligations, it is a matter of surprise that public complaint is now being made of the fact that Israel is taking normal measures to protect life and property and to maintain public order."

Ambassador Tekoah stressed that the Israeli actions were "in pursuance of their duty to insure the safety, welfare and security of the population of the area concerned." He expressed regrets that "instead of seeking avenues toward peace, the United Arab Republic continues on its own course of belligerency and hostile propaganda."

Observers here noted the coincidence in the timing of the Egyptian complaint and the meeting in Cairo of Arab guerrilla organizations and expressed the belief that the Egyptian letter was probably the opening gun in a new war of words by the Arabs in the United Nations.

Jordanian Businessmen Visiting West Bank Seeking Trade Connections

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22 (JTA)--Several Jordanian businessmen are now visiting the West Bank and East Jerusalem, presumably in connection with expanding the brisk two-way trade between the occupied areas and Jordan, which both Israel and Jordan continue officially to ignore.

The trade continues to grow and both countries avoid hampering it because it is to the benefit of both but again this week a Jordanian Foreign Ministry spokesman claimed the flourishing commercial exchanges were "unofficial!" and stemming from the ability of Jordanian drivers to "bribe" Israeli guards at the Jordan River crossings where the two-way traffic flows.

Apparently in line with maintenance of the fiction, Israeli military government sources acknowledged today the visits of the Jordanian businessmen but said the visits were "private."

Israel, Jewish Communities Increase Assistance to Sicilian Earthquake Victims

ROME, Jan. 22 (JTA)--An Israeli military transport plane flew from Israel to the Trapani airfield in the Sicilian earthquake area carrying blankets, medicines and a complete regimental first-aid unit, the gift of Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Maj. Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev, the Israeli chief of staff, to their Italian counterparts.

The plane also brought three Israeli doctors and two nurses to work among the earthquake victims as long as their services are required. The plane's cargo supplemented previous shipments of blankets, medical supplies and blood plasma sent from Israel to the Italian Red Cross.

The United Hias Service announced here a gift of one million lire to the relief fund for Sicilian earthquake victims, now estimated to number about 100,000. Special contributions were announced today by the Rome and Genoa Jewish communities. President Saragat's office announced receipt of a message of sympathy from President Zalman Shazar of Israel.

Torah Scrolls Rescued From Obliterated Rumanian Communities; Presented to Israel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22 (JTA)--The first of 3,000 Torah scrolls rescued from Jewish communities in Rumania that were obliterated during World War II, were presented to recipients in Israel today as a gift from surviving Rumanian Jewry. The presentation was made by Eumanian Chief Rabbi M. Rosen to H. Trobe, director of Malben, the Israel welfare agency maintained by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The scrolls are between 50 and 200 years old.

Rabbi Rosen dedicated the scrolls to the memory of the late Charles Jordan, executive director of the JDC, who was drowned in Prague last summer under mysterious circumstances. The ceremonies were attended by the chief rabbis of Israel and by the Minister of Religious Affairs.

Most of the scrolls are badly damaged. The task of restoring them has been assigned to a group of 40 yeshiva students who will work under the supervision of scribes. It is expected to take at least five years and will cost about \$300,000.

Granados Award Is Presented to Former Uruguayan Foreign Minister

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22 (JTA)--The Jose Garcia Granados award for outstanding service in strengthening the ties of friendship between Israel and Latin America, was presented here last night to Prof. Oscar Secco Allau, former Foreign Minister of Uruguay. The presentation was made by Yaacov Tzur, president of the Jewish National Fund.

Haggar Ouster Not Based on His Anti-Israel Activities, Paper Reports

TORONTO, Jan. 22 (JTA)--A 32 year-old political science professor who has been an active anti-Israel, pro-Arab propagandist on the campus of Waterloo Lutheran University, is facing dismissal from the faculty, but not because of his political views, it was learned here today.

The popular assumption had been that Lebanese-born Dr. George Haggar was informed that his contract with the university would not be renewed next May because of his frequent public denunciation of Israel and of American policy in Viet Nam. This won him support among the student body, some 250 of whom submitted a petition for his re-instatement on the grounds of freedom of speech.

It was not Dr. Haggar's Arab propagandizing but his vitriolic personal attacks on the University's administration, particularly the chairman of its board of governors, that brought about his dismissal, the Toronto Globe and Mail disclosed in an article based on campus interviews. Dr. Haggar, who is president of the 3,000-member Canadian-Arab community organization, characterized the University that employs him as "autocratic, bigoted and unprogressive." He heaped scorn on his fellow members of the faculty who he called "clerks" who are "obsequious and expect others to be obsequious too." He called the chairman of the board of governors, Harry D. Greb, a local shoe manufacturer, "a cobbler who wants to run the university like a cobbler's shop." These and other remarks were made by Dr. Haggar in the student newspaper, in his classroom lectures and before open student meetings, the Globe and Mail said.

Haggar has filed a complaint against his dismissal with the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

Eichmann Nemesis Calls For End to Statute of Limitations on War Criminals

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (JTA)--A demand that Germany abolish, "at least until the year 2000," the statute of limitations that will protect Nazi war criminals from prosecution after Dec. 31, 1969, was made here today by Tuvia Friedman, the man who set in motion the events that led to the capture and trial of Adolph Eichmann.

Mr. Friedman, an Israeli, is touring the United States with an exhibit titled "from the days of the holocaust in Europe to the Israeli victory in June, 1967." It was displayed here yesterday at a meeting attended by 1,200 persons representing Jewish fraternal, religious and service organizations and concentration camp survivors. Mr. Friedman is seeking their support to bring pressure on the Bonn Government to abolish the statute of limitations and to revise its laws of 1955 and 1960 which exempted large categories of Nazi war criminals from facing trial. Mr. Friedman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that a demonstration will be held in front of the German Consulate here on March 10, the 30th anniversary of the Nazi occupation of Austria.

Mr. Friedman contended that the German Government had no right to establish a statute of limitations for the crime of genocide — the murder of Jews and other minorities and nationals of conquered nations — committed outside of Germany's borders. He also called for revision of the law of May 1955 which exempted from prosecution SS and Gestapo men who brutally beat concentration camp victims and the May 1960 law which did the same for Nazis whose victims died of beatings, but not immediately.

Mr. Friedman said he will demand that transcripts of Nazi war crime trials be provided in copy to Israel and other countries whose nationals give evidence. Up to now, the German practice has been to refuse copies of trial proceedings against war criminals.

Mr. Friedman, a native of Radom, Poland, spent nearly five years in Nazi concentration camps and has devoted his life ever since to tracking down Nazis. His persistence and the voluminous records he compiled on Eichmann are credited with motivating the search that brought to justice the architect of the Nazis' mass extermination program. Mr. Friedman also contributed to the arrest of several hundred lesser Nazi criminals. An account of his activities since the end of World War II is contained in his book, "The Hunt," published here in 1961.

'Anti-Social Behavior,' Not Drug Addiction Seen As Major Jewish Youth Problem

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 (JTA)--The rising incidence of Jewish teenage "anti-social behavior" was discussed at length by 51 professional workers who recently participated in a conference here of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization's national staff.

The group did not regard narcotic addiction as an overriding problem among Jewish teenagers but some individuals said they have observed a significant increase in the use of drugs among Jewish youth in recent years. They asserted that "it has now become fashionable and a status symbol among many Jewish middle class teenagers to smoke 'pot' and to 'pop' amphetamines."

Acts of vandalism and irresponsibility by these middle class youth are "widespread and increasing," the group felt. Ben Barkin, national chairman of the B'nai B'rith Youth Commission, opined that the rise in errant behavior indicates the "aimlessness and restlessness" of youth in an affluent society. He urged that the BBYO and other youth movements "accelerate their efforts to involve young people in relevant learning and action programs within the Jewish tradition."

Gallant Named Executive Director of American-Israel Chamber of Commerce

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (JTA)--Samuel Gallant, 38, an attorney, has been appointed executive director of the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce. A former assistant counsel to the Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor, Mr. Gallant was an officer and counsel to RASSCO, Rural and Suburban Settlement Co. He is a graduate of Brooklyn College and received his law degree from Columbia University.