

JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

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Vol. XXXV - Fifty-First Year

Tuesday, October 1, 1968

No. 187

NPD Showing In Lower Saxony Poll Is Seen As Setback For Neo-Nazi Party

BONN, Sept. 30 (JTA)--The extreme right-wing National Democratic Party polled 5.2 percent of the vote in Lower Saxony's elections yesterday. It was the first time the reputedly neo-Nazi party participated in county and local elections and apparently its first setback, according to political observers here. They noted that it failed to maintain the seven percent of the vote it won in the statewide elections in Lower Saxony last year and was far behind the 9.8 percent polled in the elections for the Baden-Wurttemberg state parliament last spring.

Based on returns from 60 out of 75 districts, Sunday's vote will give the NPD 78 out of 1,791 seats in various county and village legislatures. The Social Democrats won 42 percent, the Christian Democrats 39.2 percent, and the Free Democrats 9.1 percent. An NPD spokesman conceded that the party had not won a "victory" but said "we are satisfied." He attributed the results to fears that "the Russians would come in if people voted for the NPD."

(Although the elections were on a local level in a single West German state, the results were followed with considerable interest abroad as a possible bellwether of next year's Federal Republic national elections. The London Daily Telegraph said that the outcome was a "bad omen" for the NPD whose chairman, Adolf von Thadden, has predicted at least 10 percent of the nationwide vote in 1969. That estimate would give the NPD about 50 seats in the Bundestag (lower house). But it now appears that the party is hardly able to overcome the five percent hurdle needed to gain parliamentary seats, the paper said.)

(Mayor Karl Schutz of West Berlin, said in a radio broadcast yesterday that the city would seek a ban on the NPD which he called a successor to the Nazi Party. He said he hoped the West German states would take a decision soon about the NPD "in the interests of Berlin." The NPD plans to hold a convention in the city soon.)

Israelis Believe Johnson Is Rejecting Soviet Mideast Peace Proposals

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30 (JTA)--President Johnson's reiteration of his five-point Middle East program of June 19, 1967 in his address to the B'nai B'rith convention in Washington on Sept. 10 amounted to a rejection of the latest Soviet proposals for peace in the Middle East, according to authoritative sources here today. They said that Mr. Johnson knew of the Soviet proposals before he spoke, although it may have been too late for him to incorporate a reference to them in his speech. By repeating his own formula, these sources said, Mr. Johnson indicated that he did not consider the Russian proposals as a basis for a solution. They added that the announcement that the State Department was studying the Soviet plan probably meant that the United States was working out a reply. Even if the present Soviet proposals are rejected, it is believed here, the United States will not abandon its dialogue with the Soviet Union.

(A Washington correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor said today that Washington's initial reaction to the Moscow plan was that the Soviet Union was not trying to block or spoil the peace mission of United Nations envoy Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring. He said the plan was essentially "a reinterpretation" of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution. He said the Russians interpreted the resolution to mean a "step-by-step" procedure beginning with an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, while the United States position was that the "three sections of the resolution are inter-related and balanced. They are a package.")

(Foreign Minister Abba S. Eban, who arrived in New York yesterday to participate in the general debate in the United Nations General Assembly, was scheduled to meet this afternoon with Secretary of State Dean Rusk. He was expected to outline to Mr. Rusk details of the Israeli proposals for a Mideast settlement which he reportedly will present before the General Assembly. Israeli spokesmen denied agency reports that Mr. Eban would get involved in the territorial details of a proposed settlement when he addresses the Assembly and said he would deal with the principles of peace.)

Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon returned today from visits to Britain and the United States where he said Israel's requirements were understood and her peace aspirations supported. He denounced the Soviet peace plan as "worse than the Arabs' demands." He warned that the Soviet naval build-up in the Mediterranean posed a threat to the entire area.

Arabs, Soviets See Johnson Delay On Phantoms As Move Toward 'Neutrality'

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30 (JTA)--An impression is growing among Arab and Soviet diplomats here that President Johnson's failure to act on the Phantom Jet's sought by Israel indicates a new State Department-inspired tendency to seek a neutral posture between Israel and the Arabs. The new line in Arab and Soviet circles is that the United States sees an opportunity to disengage itself from Israel to some extent because President Johnson is not paying heed to domestic political considerations. The President is being depicted as following Secretary of State Dean Rusk's advice on Israel, with the State Department planning for the period between now and January when a new President takes office. U.S. diplomats reportedly wish to regain what they term "flexibility" and maneuverability for American

diplomacy in the Middle East and plan to continue such a policy after January. Mr. Rusk's thinking is said to be that Israeli and American interests are not necessarily parallel and that a unique opportunity now exists to set the stage for redemption of American influence in the Moslem world.

The Arabs and Russians are privately interpreting the President's inaction on the Phantoms and some points in his recent B'nai B'rith speech as a wavering of American support of Israel. They believe that a military build-up will assure more Arab strength in negotiations after January when greater Arab might will be a reality. Deferment of negotiations is also based on hope that an American detachment from the Israeli stand on direct negotiations and other issues may further Israel's isolation.

The strategic importance of 50 Phantoms is minimized by the Arab-Soviet coalition. But the deeper meaning of President Johnson's avoidance of a long-term commitment to meet Israel's emerging requirements for sophisticated weaponry is deemed of paramount interest.

Israel Will Slow Government Spending To Forestall Possibility Of Inflation

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30 (JTA)--Israel will put a brake on Government spending in order to forestall inflation. A ministerial committee on economic affairs has decided to freeze or slow down a variety of development projects because of manpower shortages and the fear that Government spending might lead to an increase in the prices of goods and services.

Most development projects, except those considered vital, will be postponed until the end of the current fiscal year next March. Payments for work already contracted will be made in promissory notes instead of cash so far as is feasible. The move was expected to save at least \$35 million in the current fiscal year.

Eshkol Schedules Second World Economic Conference For October

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30 (JTA)--Businessmen from abroad who participated in Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's world economic conference here last spring have been invited to a follow-up conference scheduled to open here early next month. Those invited served as area chairmen and committee heads at the last conference, which was attended by some 400 businessmen and industrialists from all over the world. Among the invited Americans are Victor Carter, Samuel Rothberg and Albert Parker. The conference will assess the results achieved since the last meeting and will hear reports on changes in Israel's economic position since then.

Israel Officials See Several Possible Motives Behind Soviet Naval Build-Up

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30 (JTA)--Israeli Government circles, questioned by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today, listed a wide variety of possible motives behind the recent build-up of Soviet naval and amphibious strength in the Eastern Mediterranean. In the last analysis, however, they admitted that Israel can only guess for the time being what Soviet intentions are - and remain alert for any possibility.

The question was put by JTA in light of reports that the new Soviet aircraft carrier, Moskva, passed through the Bosphorus last week bound for Egyptian waters. She carries a large complement of marine commandos and a fleet of troop-carrying helicopters and helicopter gunships. There were also reports of a Soviet dredge near the Mediterranean end of the Suez Canal which gave rise to rumors that the Russians intended to start clearing the waterway shortly.

According to Israel Government experts, the present Soviet moves were foreseen some years ago when it became apparent that Moscow had adopted a policy of "flexible response" utilizing conventional armed forces rather than nuclear strength to achieve its political ends. The presence of a Soviet fleet, numbering some 50 ships in the Mediterranean may be intended to prevent military action by an adversary such as the landing of American Marines in Lebanon in 1958, they said. The fleet may also be intended to provide an "umbrella" for Egypt against possible Israeli retaliation for commando attacks across the Suez Canal. Or, the experts said, the Russians may merely be building up pressure to coincide with the fall session of the United Nations General Assembly; they may be trying to bolster Arab morale; or the whole build-up may be for the benefit of Yugoslavia and Albania, both of whom long ago broke away from the Soviet bloc.

As for a Soviet attempt to unilaterally re-open the Suez Canal, Government authorities noted that the dredge has been moored at Alexandria for several months, but it has not been reported moving toward Port Said where work to clear the canal might begin.

Jewish Settlers Will Hold Yom Kippur Services At Patriarchs' Tombs In Hebron

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30 (JTA)--A meeting between Defense Minister Gen. Moshe Dayan and Moslem religious leaders in Hebron has paved the way for Jewish settlers in that West Bank town to hold their Yom Kippur services at the Patriarchs' Tombs, located in the Ibrahimi mosque compound. The Moslems agreed to permit the Jews to worship at the site throughout the day. Ordinarily non-Moslems are permitted inside the mosque compound only at specified hours.

Israel will shut down all normal activities tomorrow afternoon for the 24-hour Yom Kippur fast period and Jews, whether observant or not, will have no transportation or telegraph services and will be unable to leave or enter the country. Radio broadcasting will be suspended.

Observance of the holiday, in Israel a matter of law, will suspend for one day free movement between the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Israel proper. The Allenby and Damiyah bridges, main crossings between the West Bank and Jordan, will be closed for the day as will be Haifa and other seaports and Lydda Airport. The diplomatic corps has advised its personnel not to travel by car through Jewish areas on Yom Kippur. Synagogues are expected to be full but the heat and long walking distances will keep many Israelis who fast from attending services.

Israel, Arabs Exchange Fire; West Bank Arab Injured When Vehicle Struck By Mine

TEL AVIV, Sept. 30 (JTA)--A military spokesman reported sporadic firing in the Jordan Valley and Beisan region last night and injuries to a West Bank Arab tractor driver whose vehicle struck a mine near the Damiyah Bridge. He said a 20-minute exchange of small arms fire took place between Jordanian and Israeli units near the Allenby Bridge and a number of mortar shells exploded near Tel Yosef in the Beisan Valley. Neither incident caused casualties. A bazooka shell was fired at an Israeli unit near Kfar Ruppin. The fire was returned without casualties, the spokesman said. A number of mines found in the Damiyah Bridge area were dismantled.

Settlers From U.S., Other Countries, Will Create Settlement At Mount Hermon

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30 (JTA)--A group of settlers from the United States and other Western countries will create an urban settlement at the foot of Mount Hermon, Dr. Raanan Weitz, head of the Jewish Agency's settlement department, told an assembly of youth on the Golan Heights. He said the new town will be the base for development of tourist and resort facilities in the area, which he said was the only one now suitable for winter sports. He added that the exact site for the new town had not yet been determined. Some members of the group which plans to settle there are already in Israel.

Nixon Statement Calls For Renewed Protest Against Soviet Treatment Of Jews

NEW YORK, Sept. 30 (JTA)--Richard M. Nixon, the Republican Presidential nominee, told the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry today that "I deplore the discriminatory measures imposed upon the Jews in the Soviet Union, and hope and trust that humanitarians throughout the world will continue vigorously to protest these restrictions and deprivations of human rights."

Mr. Nixon's statement was in response to a request from Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference, for a "personal elaboration" of the Republican Party's platform statement on Soviet Jewry. Mr. Nixon said that he was "deeply concerned by the resurgence of the Soviet anti-Jewish propaganda campaign, thinly disguised as anti-Zionism -- a campaign which is mirrored in Communist countries in Eastern Europe." The Conference has scheduled mass demonstrations of protest against the Soviet treatment of Jews in that country to be held in 20 major American cities on Oct. 13.

Israel Will Observe Denmark Week' In Gratitude For Saving Of Jews 25 Year Ago

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30 (JTA)--Israel will observe "Denmark Week" from Oct. 15-28 in honor of the people of Denmark who transferred that country's entire Jewish population to safety in Sweden after Denmark was overrun by the Nazis 25 years ago.

King Frederik IX, Queen Ingrid Attend Commemoration In Copenhagen

(NEW YORK, Sept. 30 (JTA)--King Frederik IX and Queen Ingrid of Denmark attended services at the Copenhagen Synagogue yesterday commemorating the 25th anniversary of the escape of nearly all the 8,000 Jews of Denmark to Sweden under the eyes of the German Army, the New York Times reported from Copenhagen. The services were conducted by Chief Rabbi Marcus Melchior who, from the same pulpit on Sept. 29, 1943, warned his congregation of Nazi plans to deport Danish Jews. The plans had been leaked to Danish leaders by a German consular official in Copenhagen. Seated in the crowded synagogue were many of the Danes who helped hide Jews in churches, beach-side inns and woods and then smuggled them in small boats across the narrow straits to Sweden, the Times story said.

(Between the end of September and the middle of October, 1943, nearly 8,000 Jews had escaped to Sweden. Only 472 were captured by the Germans and they were shipped to the camp at Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia. Of them, 52 died. The others, along with those in Sweden, eventually returned to Denmark. There are about 6,000 Jews comprising 1,900 families in Denmark today, Times correspondent John M. Lee reported. They support a Jewish day school, three kindergartens and three old-age homes. In addition to the large Copenhagen Synagogue, there is a small Orthodox congregation in Copenhagen.)

Dutch Organizations Protest To Thant Treatment Of Jews In Arab Countries

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 30 (JTA)--Three major Dutch Jewish organizations joined in a protest today to United Nations Secretary General U Thant over the treatment of the Jews in the Arab states. They urged the UN to investigate the treatment of these Jews and take appropriate measures to protect them.

(The Security Council approved a resolution last week to send an emissary to study the treatment of the Arab civilian population in the territories occupied by Israel in the Six-Day War. It took no action on the Israeli demand that the humanitarian mission be instructed also to study the plight of the Jewish minorities in the Arab countries.)

Nixon Names Max M. Fisher As Special Adviser On Urban, Community Affairs

NEW YORK, Sept. 30 (JTA)--Richard M. Nixon the Republican Presidential candidate, has announced the appointment of Max M. Fisher of Detroit as his special adviser on urban and community affairs. Mr. Fisher, who is president of the United Jewish Appeal, chairman of the United Israel Appeal and vice-president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, also heads an organization, New Detroit, Inc., which seeks to mobilize total community manpower and economic resources for evolving local solutions to urban problems.

In making the announcement, Mr. Nixon said Mr. Fisher "brings to our campaign the admiration and respect of Americans of all faiths and races who know him for his outstanding achievements in advancing human welfare at home and abroad, and in improving the quality of American life."

Washington Post Sees Parallels In Fights On Brandeis, Fortas Appointments

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30 (JTA)--The Washington Post said in an editorial today that there were "illuminating and deeply disquieting parallels" between the fight over the confirmation of Abe Fortas' appointment to be Chief Justice of the United States and the fight over the confirmation in 1916 of Louis D. Brandeis' appointment to the Supreme Court by President Woodrow Wilson. The editorial noted that "Mr Brandeis was the first Jew ever named to sit on the Supreme Court; Mr. Fortas is the first Jew to be named as Chief Justice of the U.S. Both men were extraordinarily successful and distinguished in private practice...and championing extremely controversial litigants in outstanding public causes. Both men were exponents of social and juridical philosophies outrageous to the legal and political mossbacks of their time."

The editorial recalled the attempts by opponents of Justice Brandeis to injure his reputation by questioning his conduct in cases that he handled. But the Post said, "there was one significant difference...from the Fortas situation today. No one — not even the men most steeped in hatred of Woodrow Wilson — suggested in 1916 that confirmation should be blocked by a filibuster. The Senate took four months to make up its mind about Brandeis. But none of its members was so lost to honor, so devoid of commitment to the concept of majority rule, as to propose a frustration of the whole Senate by sheer obstructionism," the paper said.

Agency Finds For Employee Dismissed For Quitting Early To Observe Sabbath

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30 (JTA)--A telephone receptionist fired because she wanted to observe Orthodox Jewish ritual on Friday evenings has been awarded \$800 compensation and offered job reinstatement following action by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The name of the woman and the identity of her employer were not disclosed because of Federal law governing operation of the commission.

The woman claimed that she was fired because she left work on a Friday afternoon to reach home in time to observe the Sabbath. The employer contended that other Jews employed by the same company made no such request for early dismissal and that she was disrupting work by creating a Jewish issue. An investigation by the commission disclosed that the complainant had offered to make up the lost time by working on vacation and lunch hour periods. The commission found that there was "no showing that accommodation to the reasonable religious needs of the charging party would have resulted in undue hardship on the conduct of the respondent's business." The telephone receptionist accepted the cash compensation but declined reinstatement because she was now employed elsewhere.

Philadelphia Rabbis Bid Congregations Support Biafra Relief Efforts

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 30 (JTA)--The Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia issued an appeal to its members today to seek contributions to the board's welfare fund to aid starving children in Biafra. A letter signed by Rabbi Leo Landman, president, and Rabbi Harold B. Waintrup, chairman of the committee on religion and social action, stressed that "we have a moral responsibility to bring to our congregations' attention the horrible destruction of life that is going on and especially the grisly death of starvation that is being perpetrated on infants and children."

(The B'nai B'rith Foundation said in New York today that it and three other organizations shared the \$40,000 charter fee for a Seaboard World Airlines cargo plane that left Kennedy Airport this morning with 30 tons of food, clothing and medical supplies for the stricken population of Biafra. The other organizations are the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Biafra Relief Services Foundation and the American Committee to Keep Biafra Alive. An earlier announcement by the B'nai B'rith, carried by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, did not mention the other groups involved.)

Ceremony Marks 114th Anniversary Of Jewish Communal Activity In Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 30 (JTA)--The role of Jewish pioneers in the early growth and development of Los Angeles was cited yesterday at ceremonies dedicating a California State Historical marker on a former cemetery in Chavez Ravine granted to the Hebrew Benevolent Society in 1855. The society was founded in 1854 and was the first charitable organization in the city. The marker commemorated 114 years of organized Jewish community life in this city.

Principal speakers at the ceremonies were Victor M. Carter, president of the Jewish Federation-Council of Greater Los Angeles, and County Supervisor Ernest E. Debs. Mr. Carter spoke of the contributions made by early Jewish settlers. Mr. Debs said a Jew had served on the first Los Angeles City Council in 1850.