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Labor Party Gains First Parliamentary Majority, As Mapam Votes For Alignment

TEL AVIV, Nov. 24 (JTA)--Israel's left-wing labor party Mapam, by a vote of 433 to 239, today approved political alignment with the Israel Labor Party of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol thus paving the way for an absolute labor majority in the Knesset (Parliament) for the first time in Israel's history. The alignment will have 67 seats in the chamber. It will also apply outside of the Knesset in municipal councils and in Histadrut, Israel's labor federation.

There were only four abstentions when the vote was taken. The balloting was preceded by some emotional speeches by party members who feared that Mapam, which is to the left of Mapai, Rafi and Achdut Avodah, the factions comprising the Israel Labor Party, would be swallowed up and lose its unique identity. But the opposition was unable to overcome the practical arguments for alignment. Those favoring the move said that the problems of the State have priority over the problems of any individual party. They noted that as a member of the alignment, Mapam would have a seat at the policy-making tables and would not be just giving or withholding its vote on historic decisions as in the past. Mapam and Labor Party leaders will meet shortly to work out implementation of the alignment.

East Jerusalem Curfew Ends Following Market Bomb Explosion That Took 12 Lives

JERUSALEM, Nov. 24 (JTA)--East Jerusalem returned to normal today as a curfew imposed after Friday's explosion in the Jewish Mahane Yehuda marketplace in the western sector of the city was lifted. The blast, caused by high explosives concealed in a parked car, killed 12 people, eight of whom have been identified and five buried so far. Fifty were hospitalized. At least one victim was an Arab and another, a boy of about 13, may have been an Arab. All of the identified dead were from Jerusalem. The explosion caused extensive property damage.

Five hundred Arabs were detained for questioning within hours after the explosion but by yesterday only 72 remained in custody. One hundred persons were charged with curfew violations and were to appear in court. Municipal workers, many of them Arabs, cleared debris in the marketplace which was located on Agrippa's Way near the Mea Shearim quarter, a district inhabited mainly by Orthodox Jews.

Prime Minister Levi Eshkol visited the scene of the blast and praised self-restraint shown by the Jewish population. There were only a few incidents of Arabs being assaulted by enraged Jews after the explosion. Last Sept. 4, when a series of grenade explosions rocked downtown Jerusalem, killing one Israeli and wounding 51, bands of Jewish youths roamed the Old City of Jerusalem's Arab quarters attacking Arabs and smashing their cars and stores for several hours before police brought them under control. Prompt sealing-off of East Jerusalem was credited with avoidance of similar incidents this time.

Mr. Eshkol called the explosion an "outrage" that "revealed the true nature of Israel's enemies." He said responsibility for it belonged to the Arab rulers who have encouraged terrorist activities. "They failed to defeat Israel on the battlefield so they turned to the murder of civilians by hit-and-run tactics."

Police today were silent on the progress of their investigation and would not say whether they had caught any suspects or found any leads. The vehicle containing the TNT, though practically demolished, was identified as an eight to 10-year-old British-made Morris Oxford. It is a model not owned by many Israelis and may have belonged to a West Bank resident. Police said they are tracing the ownership of the vehicle and also the possibility that it might have been stolen. Officials said that the damaged buildings and other property damaged or destroyed is covered by Israel's new national insurance law which compensates victims of terrorist acts. Dependents of persons who were killed and victims who are permanently injured will be entitled to pensions.

Arab Reaction To Bombing Divided; Mayor Kollek Issues Warning

JERUSALEM, Nov. 24 (JTA)--Arab reaction appeared divided today on the terrorist bombing in the crowded marketplace which occurred while many Jews were doing Sabbath shopping. Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem, who cut short a visit to the United States and rushed home when he heard the news, praised East Jerusalem's only Arabic newspaper, Al Kuds, which denounced the bombing as an outrage that "shook the foundations" of the city and "the conscience of every inhabitant, Arab and Jew, who desires peace and hates the killing of innocent people." But Arab notables and civic leaders of East Jerusalem have been silent so far. They were criticized by Deputy Mayor Mordecai Ish Shalom for failing to condemn the bombing or to express sympathy for families of its victims.

Mayor Kollek warned yesterday that if acts of sabotage continued, East Jerusalem's economy would be seriously impaired and many Arabs would lose their means of livelihood. "If the terror continues," he said at a city council meeting, "Jews will not go to East Jerusalem markets, Arabs will not be permitted to work in the Western part of the city and tourists will no longer be directed to East Jerusalem." Arab trade union leaders of East Jerusalem and Jaffa issued a statement today denouncing

those responsible for the bombing as "blood-thirsty cowards whose aim is to deepen hatred and remove understanding and peace from our region." Other Arabs who joined in condemning the act were the Moslem religious trustees of Acre, a mixed Arab-Jewish town on the north shore of Haifa Bay. A Nazareth Arab labor leader, Eldin Elzuabi, head of the Arab faction of the Mapam Party, also denounced the bombing. Meanwhile, two Arab guerrilla organizations, El Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, each claimed credit for it. In a broadcast from Beirut heard here, the Popular Front said the bombing was "retaliation for Israeli terrorist actions against our people." The group also claimed credit for past bomb explosions in Jerusalem, Hebron and Tel Aviv.

According to reports from Amman today, Jordanian officials were skeptical of the guerrilla claims and suggested that the bombing was the work of "Israeli extremists" who were trying to block proposals that Arabs who fled the West Bank and East Jerusalem in the wake of the June, 1967 war, be allowed to return to their homes. The extremists' aim, according to the Amman officials, was to convince the Israeli public that refugee repatriation would endanger their security.

Minister Says NRP Should Quit Cabinet If Court Move On 'Nationality' Issue Accepted

JERUSALEM, Nov. 24 (JTA)--The National Religious Party (NRP) should quit the coalition Government if the Cabinet accepts a Supreme Court recommendation that reference to "nationality" should be deleted from Israel's population register, Dr. Josef Burg, a member of the religious bloc and Social Welfare Minister, said in a radio interview. The Supreme Court made that recommendation Thursday in declining to rule on the case of Lt. Comdr. Benjamin Shalip, who is suing to have his children registered as Jews by nationality and as having no religion. Their mother is not Jewish and professes no religion. The Interior Ministry had rejected Lt. Comdr. Shalip's application, contending that in Israeli law there was no distinction between Jewish nationality and Jewish religion.

Dr. Burg said it would be a paradox if the question of "nationality" which is used in Israel, as in Eastern Europe, to describe ethnic origin rather than citizenship, were to be solved along the lines of the Supreme Court's proposal. It would align Israel with most western countries, where nationality and citizenship are equated in law. Dr. Burg declared that the Jewish religion was inseparable from Jewish nationality and that any ruling to the contrary would diverge from Jewish religious law. It was not known, however, whether Dr. Burg's comments represented the official stand his party would take when the issue is taken up at a Cabinet meeting. There had been hints that the religious party would not oppose the suggested law change.

Officials Wait In Vain At Allenby Bridge For Arabs To Enter For Repatriation

JERUSALEM, Nov. 24 (JTA)--Ten officials of the Ministry of Interior waited in vain at the Allenby Bridge over the Jordan River today to receive an anticipated influx of Arabs seeking repatriation to their homes on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem. The ministry had announced last week that 7,000 re-entry permits issued last summer but unused would be valid until Jan. 31, 1969. The announcement was carried on Arabic broadcasts by Kol Israel radio which is heard in Jordan. Only one person, a 43-year-old Arab man, showed up and crossed the bridge. The ministry said the unused permits would be transferred to other refugees who apply for repatriation after the Jan. 31 deadline.

Iraqi Army Deserter Says Iraqi Troops Based In Jordan Are Aiding El Fatah Terrorists

TEL AVIV, Nov. 24 (JTA)--An 18-year-old Iraqi Army deserter said in a Kol Israel radio interview Thursday that Iraqi troops stationed in Jordan were supplying El Fatah and other Arab guerrilla groups with arms and transportation for incursions against Israel. The deserter, Fadel Javier, called on more Iraqi soldiers to desert to Israel where, he said, they would be welcomed.

An Israeli farmer plowing a field near Gesher was injured today when his tractor struck a Mark IV anti-vehicle mine. The tractor was damaged.

New Curfew Imposed On Nablus In Wake Of Anti-Israel Demonstrations By 1,000

JERUSALEM, Nov. 24 (JTA)--Another curfew -- the second in less than two weeks -- is in effect in Nablus. It was imposed in the wake of anti-Israel demonstrations in which about 1,000 Arabs took part. The curfew was confined to the Casbah, the old quarter of the town. The demonstrations stemmed from the funeral of a 19-year-old girl who was killed the previous night by an explosion in her family's home. Officials said it was impossible to determine whether the explosion had been caused by a bomb or a gas leak. The demonstrators shouted "Nasser, Nasser" and "Fatah, Fatah" until they were dispersed by police in armored cars and jeeps. A curfew on Nablus was lifted last week when town elders promised to prevent demonstrations. The curfew had been in effect for about a week as a result of a school strike and demonstrations on the 51st anniversary of the Balfour Declaration.

Israel Spending More On Health And Education Than It Did 4 Years Ago

JERUSALEM, Nov. 24 (JTA)--Israel is spending more than one-third per capita on health and 70 percent more on education than it did four years ago, statistical summaries released by the Prime Minister's office revealed today. Four years ago health and education accounted for less than 10 percent of the gross national product. Last year they accounted for 14 percent.

British Reject Bid For UN Resolution Urging Probe Of Jews' Status In Arab Lands

LONDON, Nov. 24 (JTA)--A Government spokesman rejected a proposal in the House of Commons yesterday that Britain introduce a resolution in the United Nations calling for a humanitarian investigation of the condition of Jews in Arab countries as well as of Arabs in Israel-occupied territory. The proposal was made by Sir Ian Orr-Ewing (Conservative). Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, replied that the Government's position was made clear by its vote in favor of a Security Council resolution calling for an investigation of Arab conditions in the occupied territories. Israel has refused to permit such an investigation unless a similar one is carried out in Arab countries where Jews are reportedly imprisoned without trial and generally mistreated. The Arabs refuse to allow it.

Pincus Tells New Aliyah Movement That Immigration Is Indispensable For Israel

LONDON, Nov. 24 (JTA)--Louis A. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency and head of its aliyah (immigration) department, said yesterday, "Aliyah is the heart of the political and economic future of Israel," and "the most tangible expression of Jewish unity. Without it we could not remain one people in the long run." Mr. Pincus delivered the keynote address at the founding conference of the Aliyah Movement of Britain whose members have all pledged to settle in Israel within the next three years. The movement was established in accordance with decisions taken at the 27th World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem last June.

Mr. Pincus said that in Soviet Russia there was a marked tendency among Jews to assert their Jewish origin despite the processes of assimilation that have been operating there for half a century. In the free world, he said, erosion by assimilation was a direct result of the weakness of Jewish education. "It is dismally weak everywhere -- the work of the British Zionist Federation being both an exception and an example." He said the rise in aliyah from the United States and France this year was indicative of Jewish reaction to events in the societies in which they live. He said not many Jews are left in Oriental countries, 750,000 of them now live in Israel, "and they are a great blessing to the country, even if less sophisticated in the technological sense than Western Jews." Continuation of aliyah is "the aim and purpose of Zionism today," Mr. Pincus said. "Aliyah is what Zionism is about." He said cooperation between the Jewish Agency and the Government's new Absorption Ministry was working smoothly and harmoniously. The means of absorbing immigrants provided by the new agency are increasingly more effective, he said.

Polish Ambassador Declines To Meet Students Opposing Warsaw Secret Trials

LONDON, Nov. 24 (JTA)--A delegation of students protesting against the forthcoming secret trials of Jewish students and others in Warsaw were dismissed from the Polish Embassy here by a secretary who said the Ambassador would not receive them. The delegation represented a gathering of students, Jewish and non-Jewish, who had maintained an all-night vigil outside the Embassy and the Ambassador's private residence. The students had urged the Polish Government to call off the trials. The accused, some of whom have been held in jail for six months, are charged with inciting student unrest that broke out in Poland last March in connection with demands for democratic reforms.

Jews Served On 4-Religion Team Contributing To New Italian Translation Of Bible

ROME, Nov. 24 (JTA)--A new Italian translation of the Bible -- both Old and New Testaments -- representing the achievement of eight years of work by a team of Jewish, Roman Catholic, Protestant and Eastern Orthodox theologians, was presented here at a reception given by its publishers, the Mondadori Co. The work, in two volumes, contains 2,096 pages of text, 56 tables, color reproductions of paintings by Botticelli, Rubens and other artists, and eight reproductions of Jewish illuminated codices. It is called the "Concordant Bible." Jews represented on the editorial committee were Rabbi Elio Toaff of Rome and Rabbi Alfredo Ravenna, a lecturer in Hebrew at Rome University. Rabbi Toaff told the gathering that the authors had used Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek original sources for the translation. Catholic speakers cited the contributions made by the Jewish scholars, which, they said, were appropriate because "the Jewish people are the trustees of the Book and Jews were present in Rome before the Christians."

Santiago Police Investigating Bombing Of Garage Used By Israeli Consul General

SANTIAGO, Chile, Nov. 24 (JTA)--Police are investigating Friday's bombing of a garage used by Israel Consul-General Samuel Goren. A Molotov cocktail was placed against the garage of an apartment house in suburban Providencia. It touched off a fire that was soon put out. No one was injured. Damage was estimated at \$600.

News In Brief

BONN, Nov. 24 (JTA)--Seventy large swastikas were daubed on the walls of a gymnasium in Bremen and on a memorial stone.

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 24 (JTA)--The Netherlands Government has announced that it will give additional compensation to victims of Nazi concentration camps who have suffered from poor health and have lived in dire circumstances since World War II.

VIENNA, Nov. 24 (JTA)--Austria and Israel signed an agreement Friday abolishing visa requirements for tourists from either country. The agreement permits tourists to stay a maximum of three months. This year 12,000 Israelis visited Austria and 3,000 Austrians visited Israel.

Dr. Goldmann Tells ZOA Zionist Movement Is Still Far From Achieving Its Mission

NEW YORK, Nov. 24 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann said here today that the Zionist movement, far from having fulfilled its mission, "has at best reached half-way to its goal, and maybe less." He defined that goal as mobilization of the support of world Jewry for Israel and furthering of large-scale immigration by Jews from the free nations who would go to Israel not because of necessity or persecution but for idealistic reasons.

Dr. Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress and former president of the World Zionist Organization, was principal speaker at the annual dinner of the Zionist Organization of America attended by about 1,000. He was presented with the ZOA's Theodor Herzl Award, highest honor bestowed by that organization. He received a message of greetings from President Lyndon B. Johnson, who offered congratulations and called the award "a fitting symbol of a career of magnificent achievement in the cause of Jewish freedom."

Dr. Goldmann said that so long as the Arab states refuse to recognize Israel's existence, "Israel will...have to prepare to fight if necessary and certainly (must) remain armed and strong in order to deter Arab aggression. This will require super-human efforts...which, without the full solidarity of the Jewish world community, it will be unable to sustain."

He said that "even if one does not negate the Diaspora as a form of life in Jewish history...the actual situation wherein only a minority lives in its own country endangers the future of the survival of the State." According to Dr. Goldmann, "the greatest reservoirs of those who needed to come to Israel to start a new life have been more or less exhausted. Future aliyah has to come from the free countries as a voluntary immigration."

Dr. Goldmann said that for the solution of the two central problems of Israel's future — security and immigration — "a strong Zionist movement dedicated primarily to the mobilization of the Jewish Diaspora around Israel, to its unconditional solidarity with Israel, is absolutely essential."

Earlier, Jacques Torczyner, ZOA president, told the organization's national executive committee that the Zionist movement must develop an educational program on American campuses to help Jewish youth combat growing Arab propaganda activities. He said there were about 400,000 Jewish students on American college and university campuses but "unfortunately, a large number...are not prepared to counteract this propaganda, and their ignorance and lack of interest in Israel is too often the reason for the impact made by Arab propaganda."

B'nai B'rith Women's Organization Supporting Teaching Project For Arabs

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24 (JTA)--B'nai B'rith Women's organization is supporting an experimental teaching project in three Arab villages in Israel where joint Arab-Jewish teams of student instructors are providing remedial classes and social services for youngsters of elementary and high school ages. The workings of the experiment were described by Mrs. Arthur G. Rosenbluth, BBW chairman of international affairs, in a report to the organization's executive board here.

The villages are Um-Al Fahm, Ara and Arara. The teaching teams were recruited by the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The teams consist of two Arab and two Jewish students who spend a month at a time in the villages in the Wadi Ara area. The schools in the villages had no extra-curricula reading material or teaching aids. The students are helping the Arab youngsters in such subjects as physics, chemistry and English which are the most difficult in Israeli schools, Mrs. Rosenbluth said. They are also establishing libraries and discuss educational subjects with adult villagers.

The program grew out of Arab-Jewish student dialogues instituted by the Hillel director on the Hebrew University campus, Dr. Jack Cohen. It was approved by the BBW at its triennial convention last March. A young Moslem graduate of the Hebrew University is assisting Dr. Cohen and serves as an advisor of programing for Arab students, Mrs. Rosenbluth reported. One of the major goals of the project is to strengthen the feeling among Arabs that they belong in Israel by right and can and should share in its development on equal terms with Jews, she said.

'Student Struggle For Soviet Jewry' Begins Drive Toward Establishing Storefronts

NEW YORK, Nov. 24 (JTA)--An organization calling itself the "Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry" today started a doorbell-ringing campaign in Jewish neighborhoods to solicit support and funds for a campaign to oppose the cultural and religious repression of Soviet Jews. According to Jacob Birnbaum, spokesman for the group, 250 student volunteers will visit 10,000 homes in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn to distribute kits calling attention to the plight of USSR Jews. The funds collected will go toward establishing "Soviet Jewry storefronts" in Jewish neighborhoods throughout the city, he said.

Irving Kane Elected Chairman Of American Israel Public Affairs Committee

NEW YORK, Nov. 24 (JTA)--Irving Kane of Cleveland was elected today as chairman of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. He succeeds Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein of Rochester, N.Y., who has served as chairman since 1954 and was elected honorary chairman. The committee was organized in 1954 to conduct public action aimed at maintaining and improving friendship and goodwill between the United States and Israel.

Lubavitcher Movement Opens Wisconsin Regional Office — Its 7th In U.S.

NEW YORK, Nov. 24 (JTA)--The Lubavitcher movement has announced the opening of a new regional office in Milwaukee, Wis., its seventh in the United States, to offer educational activities and programs. The new office will be headed by Israel-born Rabbi Israel Shmotkin who studied at Lubavitcher institutions in Israel and was ordained by the Lubavitcher yeshiva in New York.