

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXVI - Fifty-Second Year

Wednesday, October 29, 1969

No. 205

Israeli Voters Turn Out In Greater Numbers Than Expected In National, Local Elections

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Israeli voters surprised the forecasters today by turning out at 3,335 polling stations in far greater numbers than anticipated to cast ballots in the seventh Knesset election and in scores of municipal and local contests. By 6 p.m. local time, over 60 percent of the nation's 1.75 million registered voters had gone to the polls and a turnout of 80 percent or more was expected by the time the polls were to close at 11 p.m.

Another surprise was the unexpectedly heavy turnout of East Jerusalem Arabs who were eligible to vote only in the municipal election. Out of some 32,000 registered, an estimated 10,000 had voted by 7 p.m. local time and hundreds of Arabs formed long, noisy queues outside polling stations set up on the former boundaries between East and West Jerusalem. The Arab voter turnout in Jerusalem was up to six times as large as in the Jewish areas of the city.

Party functionaries, who were concerned over voter apathy and predicted a low turnout, conceded that they had misread the generally poor attendance at election rallies during the weeks of campaigning. They said that they had failed to take into consideration the advent of the television age in Israel which, for the first time, enabled politicians to reach voters in their homes.

While most Israelis refrained from predicting the election outcome until the ballots were counted, members of the foreign diplomatic corps had no such inhibitions, JTA Jerusalem correspondent Amos Ben Vered reported. Most of them gave the Labor Party-Mapam alignment 57-59 seats in the new Knesset, somewhat less than the 63 seats (an absolute majority) they now occupy. The consensus among the diplomats was that the Gahal (Herut-Liberal alignment) would gain three or four seats over the 22 they now hold. The State List, headed by former Premier David Ben Gurion, was rated to take three or four seats, according to diplomatic observers.

The election proceeded without incident except for scattered technical difficulties. When the Jerusalem district election committee ordered extra polling booths open at 6:30 p.m. to accommodate the heavy Arab voting, it was hard to find personnel to man them. The first polling station to close was one provided for a Bedouin tribe in the Negev. All of its members had cast their ballots by noon.

Israeli authorities took stringent measures to protect voters from possible Arab terrorist attacks. The borders between Israel and the occupied territories were closed to traffic in both directions throughout the day. For the first time since the June, 1967 war, bullet-proof and fire-proof election booths were installed in some border areas. Soldiers on the front lines began voting yesterday as a precaution lest an outbreak of fighting today might deprive them of their franchise. Mobile voting booths were provided. One came under Egyptian shell fire in the Suez Canal zone yesterday. The voters took cover until the shelling ended.

Israelis voting today were selecting candidates for 120 Knesset seats from 16 party lists. They are also voting for municipal officials and town councils in 130 localities including 28 municipalities.

Israel's Supreme Court ruled yesterday that suspected terrorists under detention could not vote. The court rejected an application for an order nisi against the police which had been requested on behalf of 32 Israeli Arabs, members of the Moscow-oriented New Communist Party.

The 32 are suspected of terrorist acts. Their lawyer, Mrs. Felicia Langer, proposed that they be escorted to polling booths by police in order to participate in the municipal and national elections. The court said that such permission would discriminate against other detainees awaiting trial or under administrative detention. It also observed that police were not permitted to enter the polling stations and therefore security could not be fully enforced if the suspects were allowed to vote.

Volunteer Civil Defense Units Are Being Established Throughout Israel

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Volunteer civil defense units are being established in Israeli cities to combat a new wave of terrorist activities against civilian centers. The volunteers are persons who have passed the age limits for both active and reserve military duty.

Civilian volunteer units were set up in Haifa last week in the aftermath of a series of bombings that killed two persons and severely damaged five apartment buildings. In Jerusalem, Mayor Teddy Kollek and Police Superintendent David Bareli announced the creation of a civil defense guard in addition to about 120 Haganah veterans who have been serving in that capacity for some time. The volunteers have been given special police powers. Formation of a similar guard was announced in Petach Tikvah. The volunteers are assigned to patrol the streets and the approaches to their towns. They are selected from local residents because they are able to identify strangers entering their towns or neighborhoods.

Lebanese Commander In Chief Arrives In Cairo For Talks To Resolve Crisis

LONDON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The commander in chief of Lebanon's armed forces arrived in Cairo tonight for truce talks with Arab guerrilla chiefs. The embattled regime of President Charles Helou appeared ready to make far-reaching concessions to the Palestinian guerrillas but the guerrillas have rejected in advance Beirut's overtures for "cooperation."

Maj. Gen. Emile Bustani flew to Cairo as the Lebanese capital was rocked by fierce fighting. Guerrilla units staged a 20-minute attack on a Beirut police station but were thrown back by police after hurling four sticks of dynamite at the building. No casualties were reported.

New fighting broke out between Lebanese Army troops and Arab guerrillas in the south near the Israel border. A Lebanese Army crackdown on the guerrillas last week, which grew out of a fear of Israeli reprisals for attacks on its territories, led to the near civil war.

The latter were said to be occupying a substantial area of southern Lebanon, including villages, towns and Arab refugee camps. Guerrillas were said to hold half of the port city of Tripoli, north of Beirut.

Gen. Bustani went to Cairo reportedly with an offer to permit the guerrillas to continue their operations against Israel from southern Lebanon provided that they "coordinated" their moves with the Government in Beirut. The offer was said to have been worked out at a meeting in Beirut today between President Helou, former Premier Rashid Karami and Gen. Bustani. But it was denounced in advance by the guerrillas. A commando radio broadcast said yesterday, "the conspirators have failed in sabotaging our revolution and so they call now for 'coordination.'" But the Palestinian revolution refuses to be contained or placed under guardianship." With Gen. Bustani were Dr. Najib Sadaka, director general of the Lebanon Foreign Office, and two military officers. They planned to meet with Egyptian Defense Minister Mohammed Fawzi and Yassir Arafat, head of the El Fatah.

Observers here said the guerrillas were demanding freedom to establish military positions in south Lebanon from which raids could be mounted into Israel and emplacements in east Lebanon to guard their supply lines from Syria. The Beirut Government may insist on a situation like the one prevailing between King Hussein of Jordan and guerrillas operating from his territory. According to observers the guerrillas would have to cooperate with the Lebanese Army, designate their operational areas and consult with the Lebanese Army command on major operations against Israel. The guerrillas would be asked to accept nominal Lebanese control and to observe Lebanese law.

Sisco, Dobrynin Discuss Beirut-Guerrilla Tensions

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The Lebanese crisis was discussed today by Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco and Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin. State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said the subject came up in the course of a general discussion of the Mideast situation that lasted more than an hour. It was the first discussion here between the U.S. and the Soviet Union on the Lebanese crisis.

Fear was mounting in official circles here that the Lebanese crisis may have opened the way for Russia to establish long-range political influence in Lebanon, the only Arab country with which the U.S. has been able to maintain close and cordial relations.

American diplomats were concerned over the apparent ease with which the Soviets have injected themselves into inter-Arab efforts to mediate the conflict between the Beirut regime and the guerrillas and their supporters.

The Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon, Sarvar A. Azimov, conferred with major figures in the dispute yesterday. He reportedly spent four-and-a-half hours with Rashid Karami, whose resignation as head of Lebanon's shaky caretaker Government last week was believed to have encouraged the guerrillas. Mr. Azimov reportedly emphasized that Moscow would not intervene and would prevent others from intervening in Lebanese affairs.

But U.S. officials believe the Soviets have already intervened. They were aware that had the U.S. Ambassador in Beirut taken as active a role as the Soviet envoy, Arab anger would have been aroused to a high pitch. American policy-makers consequently were shying away from any words or deeds that might be interpreted as favoring the Helou regime. At the same time, they were painfully aware that any compromise favoring the commandos would be a severe blow to U.S. policy which has supported the Lebanese Government's efforts to restrain guerrilla activities. Any compromise, sources here said, would enhance the guerrillas' prestige and influence.

(The London Daily Telegraph's correspondent Eric Downton reported from Beirut today that the "blatant role taken by the Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon" has added "a sinister aspect" to the current crisis. "If any Western Ambassador, particularly American or British, dared to inject his presence so blatantly into the Lebanese crisis nowadays, there would be wholesale howls of protest in every Arab capital," Mr. Downton wrote. He observed that a chaotic "Syrianization" of Lebanon would suit Moscow and represent a considerable step forward in Russia's massive penetration of the Middle East.)

Israeli Jets Hit Targets In Jordan And Egypt, All Return Safely To Bases

TEL AVIV, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Israeli Air Force jets attacked targets in Egypt and Jordan in the past 24 hours. A military spokesman said that all aircraft returned safely to their bases. Last night's attacks were aimed at military positions in the central and southern sectors of the Suez Canal. This morning the planes hit Egyptian installations on the western shore of the Gulf of Suez.

Israeli jets attacked a guerrilla concentration near Addasiyeh village in Jordan, opposite Shaar Hagolan settlement today. Last night they struck at guerrilla mortar positions less than five miles inside Jordan facing settlements in the southern Beisan Valley.

Wounded Israeli Pilot Visited By Red Cross In Egyptian Hospital

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA)--A downed Israeli pilot held captive by the Egyptians for two months had his first visit from a representative of the International Red Cross in Cairo yesterday, it was learned here. The information confirmed a report that appeared in the Cairo daily newspaper Al Ahram which had been greeted with some skepticism here.

Capt. Giora Rom, who bailed out of his jet after it was hit by anti-aircraft fire over the Suez Canal last August, was visited in Maadi Hospital near Cairo by the chief Red Cross representative in the city, Marcel Boisard. He was reported to have a compound fracture of the right thigh bone and a simple fracture of the left upper arm. The visit lasted almost 90 minutes and was held in the presence of others according to international law.

Israel had accused Egypt of violating the Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners of war by denying Capt. Rom visitors over a prolonged period. Earlier, Egyptian authorities permitted a Red Cross representative to visit another captured Israeli pilot, Maj. Nissim Ashkenazi, who had been held incommunicado for a number of weeks.

Reagan, 2 California Senators Express Common Support For Israel At JNF Event

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Three California politicians who differ sharply on many issues share common ground when it comes to support for Israel, a nation which, according to Gov. Ronald Reagan, is physically and climatically much like California.

Gov. Reagan, Sen. George Murphy (Rep.) and Sen. Julian Cranston (Dem.) shared the platform at the Western regional conference of the Jewish National Fund of America here yesterday. All three were presented with plaques signifying that a grove of 1,000 trees has been planted in Israel in each of their names.

Gov. Reagan said that as a Californian he could appreciate the work done by the JNF in planting trees and clearing the soil of Israel. Sen. Murphy said he had always favored full support for "the democratic State of Israel." Sen. Cranston said, "one of the fundamental points of our democracy is that although Gov. Reagan, Sen. Murphy and I differ on many issues, we stand together in support of Israel."

British JNF Topped \$3.6 Million In 1969, Parley Is Told

LONDON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The Jewish National Fund of Great Britain raised more than \$3.6 million in 1969 for major land reclamation projects in Israel, it was announced at the closing session of the JNF's 45th annual conference. Rosser Chinn was re-elected president.

Speakers at the session said that while 1969 had been a satisfactory year for the JNF, greater efforts were required to meet present needs. The major achievement of the year was completion of a land reclamation project in the Arava region of the Negev sponsored by British Jewry. The JNF is about to embark on a similar project in the northern Arava region where it will be responsible for three settlements--Hatseva, Ein Yahav and Shezah. The younger section of the British JNF also held its conference and undertook to sponsor land reclamation at Tetura, a new settlement south of the Dead Sea.

Rightist National Democratic Party Will Strive To Erase Its Nazi Image

BONN, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The right-wing National Democratic Party, overwhelmingly rejected by West German voters in the Sept. 28 election, is trying to erase its neo-Nazi image. Party chairman Adolf Von Thadden said the NPD would have to make it clear at the next party conference that it is in no way descended from Hitler's National Socialist Party either ideologically or in its membership. The NPD will hold its post-election conference at Saarbruecken Nov. 14 - 16.

British Labor Zionist Charges Large Sums Are Spent For Anti-Israel Propaganda

LONDON, Oct. 28 (JTA)--A Labor Zionist leader charged yesterday that huge sums of money are being provided for pro-Arab, anti-Israel propaganda in Britain. Sidney Goldberg, general secretary of the British Poale Zion and the Labor Friends of Israel, said that between \$240,000 and \$600,000 has been supplied to two pro-Arab Members of Parliament for anti-Israel propaganda activities here. He noted that Jordan, which has received more than \$1.2 billion from British taxpayers, has purchased a \$338,000 home for its Ambassador in London.

Herzog Tells Parley There Is Hope That Arabs, Israelis Will Reach Accommodation

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y. Oct. 28 (JTA)--A high ranking Israeli official said here today that there were some small glimmerings of hope in the Arab world that an accommodation with Israel eventually will be reached. Dr. Yaacov Herzog, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, spoke to delegates at the biennial convention of the United Synagogue of America, the congregational branch of Conservative Judaism.

While peace is still remote and renewed warfare cannot be discounted, he said, "there are signs that in certain Arab circles there is a beginning of an understanding of the historic nature and roots of the State of Israel, and an acceptance, however unwilling, that Israel is a permanent factor in the Middle East scene."

Dr. Herzog said it would take a long time for the consequences of this understanding to mature. However, he declared, "the iron curtain which has sealed frontiers and minds for over 20 years has been somewhat raised and whatever the future events, it will never come down."

Dr. Herzog said that the passage of time since the summer of 1967 "has not, as many assume, destroyed all hope of ultimate peace." He said future historians "will surely register the Six-Day War as the beginning of a new epoch in Arab-Jewish relations." In the meantime, he asserted, the cease-fire lines have proved impregnable to Arab assault and serious penetration. The patterns of coexistence and communication with the Arabs in the occupied territories have not been seriously disrupted by external pressures and propaganda, he added. "The Arab concept that time is on their side has been disproved by reality," Dr. Herzog said.

Another speaker, Father Edward H. Flannery, executive secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, scored the failure of "men of religion to press for negotiations between the Arabs and Israel." Father Flannery urged intellectuals to join with clergy in a concerted effort to achieve a dialogue between Arabs and Israelis.

Defense League, Philadelphia JCRC In Standoff On Discussing JDL's Plans For City

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Efforts by officials of the Jewish Defense League and leaders of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Philadelphia to arrange a meeting to discuss the prospective role of the JDL in this city were unsuccessful, the Jewish Times reports. The weekly declared that an impasse developed over the time and place for a meeting.

Nathan Agran, a JCRC executive, and Rabbi Harold Novoseller, pro-tem JDL chairman here, discussed a meeting on the telephone but both declined to "visit each other's proposed meeting places," the weekly reported. The two men exchanged "regret letters" but Mr. Agran added that the JCRC would meet with JDL officials at any time and place specified in the future. Rabbi Novoseller was quoted as having said that the JDL would meet with the JCRC if "the latter had a change of heart."

Rabbi Novoseller told the Jewish Exponent, another weekly, that Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder and head of the JDL, made a second visit to Philadelphia, addressing more than 100 persons at an organizational meeting held at the Young Israel of Oxford Circle. Rabbi Novoseller said Rabbi Kahane spoke for two hours on the need for a JDL chapter here and how to organize one. He reported also that JDL chapter chairmen were named at the meeting to serve in various parts of the city and Montgomery County and said that chapter chairmen had been named on the campuses of Pennsylvania University, La Salle College, Community College, Central High School and Akiba Academy, a day school. He asserted also that chapters were being formed in Wynnefield, Overbrook Park, Havertown, and Montgomery County and that the Philadelphia JDL unit had "about 200 members."

Dr. Margalith Appointed Director Of Youth Aliyah Office In U.S. And Canada

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (JTA)--The appointment of Dr. Israel Margalith as director of the Youth Aliyah office in the United States and Canada was announced here yesterday by Joseph Klarman, head of the Jewish Agency's Youth Aliyah department in Jerusalem. The post is a new one. Dr. Margalith, deputy director general of Youth Aliyah in Jerusalem, has been on loan to the Jewish Agency's Youth Aliyah office in Los Angeles for the past two years. He will work on a project that will permit Israeli residents of the United States to send their children to Israel for schooling under Youth Aliyah auspices. Mr. Klarman reported that there are now 12,000 children in the various Youth Aliyah institutions in Israel.

Forty-eight Israelis are presently in the U.S. and Canada aiding activities of the Jewish Agency's department of Torah education and culture, according to Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, member of the executive of the Jewish Agency's American Section. He said that the emissaries sent from Jerusalem are serving as consultants and teachers at yeshivas and other educational institutions. "This is a record-breaking number of emissaries assigned to Orthodox education efforts," Rabbi Rackman said.

Democratic Controller Candidate Beame Hits 'Polarization' In Mayoralty Campaign

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (JTA)--Abraham D. Beame, Democratic candidate for City Controller, charged today that "racial and religious issues have permeated the mayoralty campaign in New York City." He warned in a statement that "polarization can only serve to cloud the important issues in this campaign and impede genuine progress toward harmony among all people once the ballots have been counted." Mr. Beame, who was City Controller in the Wagner Administration from 1962 to 1966 and budget director of the city for the 10 years before that, is one of the two Jewish candidates for the three top positions in the city administration. He pledged "my full and diligent efforts to help ease tensions and to strive to make our city a better, safer and more wholesome community in which to live."