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Labor Party Drops In Strength, Right-Wing Gahal Adds Seats In Voting For Knesset

JERUSALEM, Oct. 29 (JTA)--The Labor Government headed by Premier Golda Meir dropped in strength, and a parallel increase in strength by the right-wing Gahal (Herut-Liberal alignment) emerged today with nearly all returns counted in the election for the seventh Knesset.

The Israel Labor Party failed to regain the absolute majority of 63 seats it held in the 120-seat Knesset, it appeared on the basis of a projection of final returns made by computers. Still to be counted are final results from soldiers' and sailors' ballots.

While the Central Elections Committee is not expected to announce final results until next week, the following projected picture emerged today:

	<u>Outgoing</u>	<u>New Knesset</u>
Labor-Mapam	63	58
Gahal	22	27
National Religious	11	11
Arab-Druze (pro-Labor)	4	4
Agudat Israel	4	4
Poalei Agudat Israel	2	2
Independent Liberals	4	4
New Communist (Arab, pro-Moscow)	3	3
Israel Communist	1	1
Free Center	4	1
State List (Ben Gurion)	1	3
Haolam Hazeh	1	1
Young Israel	0	0
Land of Israel	0	0
Peace List	0	0
	<u>120</u>	<u>119</u>

(The fate of the 120th seat was still undecided. These figures represent membership at the end of the Sixth Knesset and not the membership after it was elected. There have been a number of splits and mergers. The Alignment was formed out of the Israel Labor and Mapam parties after the Israel Labor Party was created out of the Mapai, Achdut Haavodah and Rafi parties. David Ben Gurion, who headed the 1965 Rafi faction, later became a one-man State List faction. Ishar Harari, elected as an Independent Liberal four years ago, bolted to the Labor Party. Gahal went into the Sixth Knesset with 26 members and wound up with 22 when four members seceded and created the Free Center.)

The votes counted so far point to a turnout of 80.1 percent of the 1.75 million registered voters. This means that about 15,000 votes will be needed to get a Knesset seat. Israeli law requires that an election list must get at least one percent of the valid votes in order to qualify for Knesset membership. Until the final count is made, it was not sure whether the Peace List (also called the Professors' List) and the Land of Israel list headed by Dr. Israel Eldad have qualified. Both were approaching the one percent mark. If none of the small lists qualify, their votes will be subtracted from the total number of valid votes cast nationally and the number of votes required to gain a seat will be slightly lower. In such cases the list gaining the most votes usually benefits.

Expect New National Unity Government To Resemble Outgoing One

The numerical composition of the new Cabinet is likely to be somewhat similar to the present Government of National Unity, according to most observers. In order to rule by themselves, the Alignment would have to depend on the support of the four Labor-allied Arab and Druze Knesset members, something no Government has done before. Premier Meir was expected to begin consultations with the various parties aimed at the formation of a coalition Government soon--long before final results are in.

Gahal sources have announced that they will not be content with Cabinet membership that carries no responsibility for a specific ministry. Gahal was expected to be given the Justice Ministry and possibly Tourism and Development. In the present Unity Government it has two Ministers Without Portfolio.

One change already agreed upon is that Victor Shemtov of the Mapam section of the Alignment will become Housing Minister, replacing Mordechai Bentov, also of Mapam. Former Rafi members were expected to have two seats with the inclusion of Shimon Peres in the Cabinet along with Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. Labor Minister Joseph Almogi, who ran on the Rafi list in 1965, was included in the Mapai element of the Alignment this year. Most observers believed that no policy changes are

considered likely with the composition of the new Cabinet. Although economic questions were almost ignored in the campaign, the drop in Alignment votes was probably based on internal party considerations rather than ones of foreign policy, it was believed. One possible reason for the decline in support for the Alignment was that the appearance of the leftist Mapam on the same list with a centrist Rafi meant that on both sides of the Labor spectrum there were voters who would not accept the list as representing their views.

The swing to Gahal rather than to the Free Center, which broke away from Gahal, was interpreted by some as meaning that the majority of conservative and nationalist-minded voters preferred the policies represented by Menahem Beigin's Herut and the Liberals (formerly General Zionists) to the extremist line taken by Shmuel Tamir's Free Centrists. The lists (Peace, Land of Israel) which ran on the territorial question alone or that made it the principal element in their platform did not capture the imagination of the electorate. It appeared that the voting Israeli has accepted the thesis propounded by the Government that peace does not depend on what Israel says but what the Arabs do. Thus, the vast majority gave their votes to the parties which have ruled Israel since the 1867 war. These stand for a retention of the cease-fire situation on the basis of reciprocity and for making no sweeping changes in the status of the Israeli-held territories until a decision on their future can or must be taken.

Gahal Increase Seen Reflecting Opposition To Return Of Territories

Gahal, in picking up strength, apparently reflected support of a segment of the Israeli population which shares its outright opposition to the return of the occupied territories. Its Liberal party component favors unification of the West Bank and Israel.

The Labor Party said in a communique that the election results showed that "the people had voted for stability and for a large Labor representation," noting that the Labor members of the new Knesset will be more than twice that of Gahal, the next largest grouping. Herut leader Beigin said, "there is now a majority in the Knesset against the renewed partition of Eretz Israel."

Most of the other parties expressed satisfaction with the results but there were recriminations between Haolam Hazei and the Peace List, each accusing the other of having divided the votes, and between the Free Center and Land of Israel. Several Labor Alignment functionaries accused Mr. Ben Gurion's State List of having prevented Labor from retaining its absolute majority in the Knesset.

In a personal appraisal of the results broadcast on Kol Israel, the State radio, Foreign Minister Abba Eban said they "amount to a clear vote of confidence in the present national leadership and in the international policies of the Labor Party. It appears that the Labor Alignment, together with the associated Arab groups, has won a clear majority."

"I was especially gratified at the results in Jerusalem and the significant participation of Arab residents in the voting. The main difference between our party and its opponents lay in the question of peace and security. The electorate refused to reinforce or support those whose platform would have closed the door to a negotiated peace just as it rejected the defeatist criticism which alleged that we were not doing enough for peace.

"It is my definite impression that the Israeli people wants a Government with enough freedom of thought and action both to defend and strengthen national security and to advance the hope of a negotiated peace within new secure and agreed boundaries. Extremism of all kinds has been rejected and a realistic and balanced patriotism has been confirmed."

Large Turnout Of Arab Voters In Jerusalem Surprises Nation

One of the surprises of the election was the large Arab turnout in Jerusalem where Mayor Teddy Kollek was returned to office. His Alignment list together with an affiliated Merchants and Artisans List gained nearly 50 percent of the votes and may have an absolute City Council majority.

Some 9,000 East Jerusalem Arabs cast ballots, ignoring Arab guerrilla reprisal threats and a demand for a general strike broadcast by Amman radio. Mr. Kollek told newsmen that his victory was a mandate for a policy of tolerance toward the Arabs. His opponents had taken a tougher line on treatment of Arabs of East Jerusalem. Some observers said that the heavy turnout of Arab voters in East Jerusalem might have a beneficial effect on Arab-Israeli relations. Under pre-1967 Jordanian law, only male property owners had the franchise. Israel gave the vote to men and women over 18, and 35,000 of East Jerusalem's 75,000 residents became eligible.

'Le Monde' Sees Increased Leverage By Rightists In New Government

PARIS, Oct. 29 (JTA)--The Israeli parliamentary elections have revealed a clear trend to the right and will result in increased influence within the Government for Menahem Beigin, leader of the Gahal, the right-wing alignment, the newspaper Le Monde said today. The center of gravity in the new Government will be further to the right, the paper predicted, and the Gahal "will assume an increased importance within the coalition" which will be formed. Mr. Beigin will have allies from among the Israel Labor Party ministers in the new Government, the paper said. It included Defense Minister Moshe Dayan in this group. One result of the election, Le Monde declared, will be that Israel's position in relation to the Arab states will become more "rigid" than it has been in the past.

Egypt Says Lebanon OKs Guerrilla Freedom If National Security Is Not Threatened

LONDON, Oct. 29 (JTA)--An Egyptian Government spokesman announced in Cairo today that Lebanon has agreed that Arab guerrillas should have freedom of action in Lebanon "provided this does not produce threats to Lebanese sovereignty, security or territorial integrity." The spokesman said that the Lebanese concessions came in talks between a Lebanese delegation and Egyptian officials seeking a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

In Amman, Jordan, El Fatah leaders agreed to a 24-hour cease-fire in Lebanon. El Fatah said the cease-fire was accepted in response to a request by Brig. Youssef Shmeit of the Lebanese Army.

Reports from Beirut said that the guerrillas have succeeded in forging a commando supply route across Lebanon from Syria to the Israel-Lebanon border. Towns and villages reportedly have been seized and are being held in the corridor now known as the "Yassir Arafat trail" after the El Fatah leader.

Meanwhile, the guerrillas who have been battling efforts of the wobbly Lebanese Government to curb their use of Lebanese territory as a base for raids against Israel made plain yesterday their skepticism about the talks in Cairo between Lebanese and Egyptian officials aimed at an accommodation to end armed clashes in Lebanon.

(Anti-American feeling continued to rise in the Arab countries. Gen. Gaafar el-Numeiry, the new Premier of Sudan, denounced the United States, declaring it responsible for all Mideast difficulties. The Middle East News Agency in Cairo distributed a commentary, accusing the U.S. of supporting the anti-guerrilla stand of the Lebanese caretaker Government and Israel.)

Yassir Arafat, leader of the El Fatah, assailed the U.S. at a news conference in Damascus arranged for him by Syria, which has been accused by Israel of using the guerrilla issue as the basis for an attempt to take over Lebanon. Arafat spoke scornfully about the Cairo talks and again defied Lebanese authorities, declaring that freedom of action for the guerrillas was not negotiable. He urged the Lebanese to oppose elements of the Beirut Government that are against the military activities of the Palestinian forces in their country.

French Government Calls For Speedy Resumption Of Big 4 Talks

PARIS, Oct. 29 (JTA)--The French Government placed the blame today for the continuing crisis in Lebanon on the Arab-Israeli conflict and called for its speedy resolution by the Big Four. In a statement issued following a Cabinet meeting in which the Lebanese situation was studied, the Government spokesman, Leo Hamon, said the Government's position was clear. It considered that the Arab-Israel conflict "is at the source of the serious troubles that affect this region of the world." Consequently, he said, the French Government called for speedy solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a means of reducing tensions in the area.

He said that "France's stand is that a lasting and just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict can only be obtained through Four Power consultations." He urged immediate resumption of the Four Power talks.

In other Paris news, police arrested seven men believed to be members of, or sympathizers with El Fatah in connection with the attack last Sunday on the Rothschild Bank and the offices of the newspaper L'Aurore. Most of those arrested were said to be Arabs. They were held for arraignment before an investigating magistrate. The police also raided the offices of an El Fatah front organization, the "Movement Against Anti-Arab Racism," and seized documents and pamphlets which they described as inciting to racial and religious hatred--a violation of French law.

Today's police activities followed the incidents on Sunday when a mob of about 100, carrying El Fatah and Egyptian flags, tried to storm the office of L'Aurore which they accused of being pro-Israel, and the Rothschild Bank where windows were broken and some equipment destroyed.

Thant Sees Mideast Possibly At Beginning Of 'Hundred Years' War'

NEW YORK, Oct. 29 (JTA)--United Nations Secretary-General U Thant took a pessimistic view of the situation in the Middle East last night and speculated that developments there might be "something like the early stages of a new hundred years' war." Mr. Thant's appraisal came in the course of a speech to the Navy League of the United States in which he bemoaned the failure of UN members to respect resolutions of the Security Council and of the Security Council to enforce its unanimous decisions. UN observers considered that Mr. Thant's scolding was directed principally at Israel which has refused to accept Security Council demands that it rescind measures taken in the unification of Jerusalem.

"If the world becomes accustomed to the decisions of the highest UN organ for peace and security going by default or being ignored," Mr. Thant declared, "we shall have taken a very dangerous step backwards towards anarchy." He stressed the need for Security Council members to back up their decisions "with all the various means at their disposal."

Israelis Disclose 3 Commando Raids Behind Egyptian Lines; 11 Prisoners Taken

TEL AVIV, Oct. 29 (JTA)--Three commando raids into Egyptian territory well behind the lines, carried out in the last seven days, have given Israel 11 Egyptian prisoners and a strong bargaining point in securing the release of two Israeli pilots held by the Egyptians. Previous negotiations for the release

of the two men have proved unavailing. The three raids all followed a pattern. They were small, conducted with great speed and precision, reached their specified objectives well behind the Egyptian lines and were completed without casualties to the attacking forces.

The first raid was carried out against military positions at Ras Abu Darag on the Gulf of Suez on the night of Oct. 22. Three Egyptian soldiers were killed. The second raid, on the night of Oct. 25, hit an Egyptian transport on the Safaga-Keena road which links the Nile Valley and the west coast of the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea. Four vehicles were destroyed in this raid and 11 Egyptians, civilian employees of the Army, were captured. Safaga is actually on the Red Sea, about 100 miles below Sharm-el-Sheikh, Israel's southernmost base. The third commando raid, carried out Monday night, hit another Egyptian Army transport on the coastal road between Ras Zafarana and Ras Rhareb. Three Egyptian soldiers were killed in this clash and an army vehicle destroyed.

Announcement of the three raids was not made until yesterday when it was disclosed that the International Red Cross had been notified of the presence of the civilian prisoners in an Israeli-controlled area. The Israelis declared that the prisoners were being treated in accordance with the Geneva Convention.

Israeli Air Force planes made three attacks on Egyptian positions along the Suez Canal yesterday. The third, 90 minutes long, blasted positions in the central section. All the Israeli aircraft returned safely. Israeli ground forces poured concentrated fire into guerrilla positions on the east bank of the Jordan last night following mortar and bazooka shelling of Israeli positions in the southern Beisan Valley sector. There were no Israeli casualties.

Officials also reported on another clash near Arava south of the Dead Sea in which two Arab saboteurs were killed last night. No casualties were suffered by the Israeli patrol. Three Israeli soldiers were injured this afternoon by Jordanian mortar and small firearms attacks at the Allenby Bridge on the Jordan River. In an unrelated incident, Shlomo Levin, a resident of Bnai Brak, was murdered today in a shop in Gaza by two terrorists who entered the shop and opened fire on him.

Conservative Parley Told Jews' Responsibility Toward Negroes No Greater Than Others'

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., Oct. 29 (JTA)--Rabbi Harry Halpern of Brooklyn, N.Y., a Conservative leader, said today that while "as Jews we have our share of responsibility in the solution of the problem affecting the Negro, it should be made clear that we resent and deny any implication that our responsibility as Jews toward the Negro problem is, or should be, greater than that of any other white group of America."

Addressing the biennial convention of the United Synagogue of America, Rabbi Halpern, of East Midwood Jewish Center and chairman of the Joint Commission on Social Action of the United Synagogue and Rabbinical Assembly, said that "we Jews have not been unconscious of our religious responsibility and participation in the civil rights movement, and our aid to many causes for the amelioration of the plight of Black people has been considerable.

"I would say that we have no right to expect gratitude for what we do. We have a religious mandate to help the poor and the downtrodden and we must carry it out under all conditions. If we do anything, we should make it abundantly clear that it is not because we suffer from a guilt complex. We deny the unfounded accusation that Jewish merchants, teachers and landlords are largely responsible for the pitiable conditions of the Black slum dweller. We resent the dragging in of our Jewishness into a situation in which it is totally irrelevant," he said. Rabbi Halpern spoke at a panel on Black-Jewish relations.

Earlier, Theodore Sorensen, former adviser to the late President John F. Kennedy, told an Israeli affairs panel at the parley that the United States should make major changes in its Middle East policy. He said Washington should call off "the present super-power talks" because "they waste time and time means lives." Instead, he said, the Government should press Moscow for a new agreement to keep the forces of both powers out of any new Middle East conflict, to arrange for the emigration of the 20,000 Jews left in Arab states, and to provide for final resettlement and compensation of all Arab refugees.

Mr. Sorensen said that the U.S. should "oppose one-sided United Nations resolutions which condemn Israeli retaliation against Arab attacks, for it is through these reprisal raids that Israel keeps the terrorist groups more dispersed and less powerful, thereby doing Jordan and Lebanon a favor." Until an arms embargo on the Middle East is concluded between the U.S. and Russia, he said, the U.S. should find ways of easing the financial burden borne by Israel for its purchase of U.S. military aircraft. Sen. Charles Goodell (Rep., N.Y.) told the parley that the U.S. should press for direct peace negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

10,000 Volume Library Presented By Rabbi Levy To Seminary Is Dedicated

NEW YORK, Oct. 29 (JTA)--A 10,000 volume library presented to the Jewish Theological Seminary of America by the family of the late Rabbi Felix A. Levy, of Chicago, was dedicated last week as part of the Seminary's reconstructed library. Dr. Simon Greenberg, vice chancellor of the Seminary who presided at the dedication ceremonies, said the gift was especially welcome coming as it had after a fire destroyed or damaged many books in the Seminary library. Rabbi Levy, who died in 1967, was a former president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and led Congregation Emanuel in Chicago for 47 years.