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RABIN IN AS NEW LABOR PARTY LEADER BY VOTE OF 298-254

TEL AVIV, April 22 (JTA)--By a narrow margin of 298-254, the Labor Party's 600-member Central Committee tonight selected Labor Minister Yitzhak Rabin as its new leader and Israel's next Prime Minister should he succeed in forming a new government. The 52-year-old former Ambassador to the United States and former Chief of Staff, was selected over Information Minister Shimon Peres, the only other candidate. (See full story Page 3).

ISRAEL DENIES ENTERING LEBANON

Syrian Positions On Mt. Hermon
Continue To Be Pounded By Israel

TEL AVIV, April 22 (JTA)--An army spokesman denied today a report from Lebanon that Israeli forces had occupied a hill on the Lebanese slopes of Mt. Hermon. The spokesman said that no Israeli force has entered Lebanon but that Syrian troops have been using the Lebanese side of the 9200-foot mountain to attack Israeli forces occupying the peak and to mine an access road built by Israeli engineers.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed by Syrian artillery fire yesterday afternoon. They were identified today as Sgt. Shmuel Ouzieli of Raana and Sgt. Abraham Kouperstein of Haifa.

Syrian artillery resumed shelling the southern sector of the Yom Kippur War enclave and the southern Golan Heights this morning. Several shells were also fired at Israeli positions on Mt. Hermon. Israeli forces returned the fire. As of noon there were no reports of Israeli casualties. Israeli tanks emplaced on top of Mt. Hermon have scored direct hits on two Syrian tanks and a lorry in the Arana village area, a military spokesman reported. The Syrian radar station at Zabadani, some 40 kilometers east of Mt. Hermon, was put out of action by Israeli Air Force jets Friday, it was reported.

Israeli military sources said the Syrians suffered heavy casualties in Friday's artillery and air force engagements. Syrian ambulances were seen evacuating casualties from positions on the front line and well behind the lines, the sources said. The Syrians were also reported to have abandoned their attempts to build a road up the slopes of Mt. Hermon because their building equipment has been destroyed by Israeli artillery and air attacks. Israeli forces have been alerted, however, for a possible Syrian attempt to gain territory occupied by Israel in other sectors.

SPECIAL CABINET MEETING TO DISCUSS DISENGAGEMENT POLICY TO PRESENT TO KISSINGER DUE EARLY MAY

JERUSALEM, April 22 (JTA)--The caretaker Cabinet will meet in special session next week in preparation for the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger who is expected to arrive in Jerusalem May 2, it was announced today. The purpose of the meeting was reported to be to devise a policy in connection with the Israeli-Syrian disengagement talks that Kissinger will try to get underway.

According to informed sources, the central

issue at the Cabinet meeting will be Israel's response to possible proposals that it make territorial concessions in the Syrian areas it occupied in the 1967 Six-Day War. The government has repeatedly stated that it would make no territorial concessions outside the Syrian enclave captured by Israel in the Yom Kippur War last Oct.

According to the official line here, additional concessions can be discussed only after a disengagement accord is reached. Political analysts said today that Kissinger is expected to remain in the Middle East only a short time and will return to Washington to continue disengagement talks: there preparatory to moving them soon to Geneva.

WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING MARKED IN POLAND BUT NOT AS JEWISH EVENT

WARSAW, April 22 (JTA)--The 31st anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising was marked in Warsaw and elsewhere in Poland last Friday but it was not permitted to be a Jewish event. The commemorative ceremonies at the monument on the Ghetto site and in the Yiddish State Theater were organized by the Polish Commemorative Authority (Zbovid), with the Jewish Cultural and Social Association a poor second. The main speaker at the public rally in the theater was a representative of Zbovid, who described the uprising as a Polish national achievement. The Jewish speaker was Edouard Reiber, the chairman of the Jewish Cultural and Social Association.

REPUDIATE RUMOR ISRAELI YOUTH TRYING TO LEAVE COUNTRY

TEL AVIV, April 22 (JTA)--The Army Manpower Division reported that more young draftees are volunteering for special units and hazardous duty now than before the Yom Kippur War. According to an army spokesman, this repudiated rumors that since the war, Israeli youth has become disaffected, tries to evade military service and talks of leaving the country.

A survey of two groups of draftees that entered military service since the Yom Kippur War showed a significant rise in volunteers for the paratroops, Air Force, special reconnaissance units and special naval units, the Manpower Division reported. About one-third of all conscripts are volunteering and 44 percent of those with a higher level of education--high school graduates.

Military sources said that since the war the army's infrastructure has changed with greater emphasis being placed on tank crews. By the end of the year Israel will have twice the number of tank crews than on the eve of the Yom Kippur War, the sources said.

RABBI YOSEF APPEALS TO U.S. REFORM CONSERVATIVE JEWS TO RECOGNIZE AUTHENTICITY OF HALACHA

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 22 (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, Israel's Sephardic Chief Rabbi, appealed here today to American Reform and Conservative Jews "to recognize the authenticity of halacha" (religious law) and declared that there can be no compromise on the issue of Who is a Jew on the part of the Orthodox religious establishment in Israel. "We are the guardian of the holy Jewish

heritage and we cannot, therefore, desert it," Rabbi Yosef said at a press conference at the Regency Hotel.

He arrived here yesterday for a two-week "spiritual tour" of the country. His one-week stay in New York is under the sponsorship of the American Sephardi Federation and the Sephardi Leadership Council of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York. It is his first visit to the U.S. He described the main goal of his visit as "to encourage our brothers not to assimilate" and to urge them to give the younger generation a Jewish education. He said another purpose of his tour was to strengthen American Jewry's ties with the State of Israel and to strengthen the Jewish consciousness of American Jews.

Answering questions on the controversial Who is a Jew issue, the Sephardic Chief Rabbi said he would meet with Reform and Conservative leaders to discuss the question. He insisted, nevertheless, "The halacha is not maleable," and said, "we will try to convince the Reform and Conservative Jews to come back to our holy Torah."

Rabbi Yosef said that during his visit he would personally raise the plight of Syrian Jewry with American national leaders, New York municipal leaders and with United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. He said he would also take up the question of Israeli prisoners of war in Syria with the view to expediting their return.

Syria Sentences 2 Jews To Death

Rabbi Yosef disclosed information that 11 Jewish women in Syria have been imprisoned recently and were mistreated by the Syrian authorities. He said that according to information he has, two Jews detained in Syria in connection with the murders of four Jewish women have been sentenced to death.

Questioned about various problems in Israel, Rabbi Yosef said he believed there should be a religious party in Israel to unite all religious elements and look after their interests. He claimed that while many religious people voted for the Labor Party, that party did not always represent an answer to the problems of religious citizens.

He said that Jewish immigrants arriving from the Soviet Union uncircumcized were recognized as Jews but had to undergo circumcision rites. He said that so far none has refused. He said his office was working regularly on the problem of "agunot," presumed widows whose husbands are not certified as dead. He said 900 married soldiers were killed in the Yom Kippur War and that the Chief Rabbinate, working with the Army Chief Chaplain, Gen. Mordechai Firon has so far certified the deaths of 800 of them.

Mitzvah To Redeem Falashas

Rabbi Yosef claimed that the Israeli army experienced a religious revival during the Yom Kippur War. He said that many soldiers had become practicing Jews and enrolled in yeshivot.

Rabbi Yosef, speaking about the Falashas, the Black Jews of Ethiopia, said they numbered 80,000 a century ago but now only 20,000. He said it was considered a "mitzvah" to redeem the Falashas by bringing them to Israel but noted that has become more difficult since Ethiopia severed diplomatic relations with Israel. He said the Jewish credentials of Falasha emigres had to be examined carefully because of widespread intermarriage among them.

Rabbi Yosef said that while he is in the U.S.,

he would visit yeshivot, schools and other institutions and urge the communities he meets with to expand their adult education efforts as well. According to the Chief Rabbi, Jewish education is the Jewish people's best safeguard against assimilation and moral decline. He said he also believed strongly in the need to encourage the study of the Hebrew language at all levels and all ages.

KAHANE CALLS FOR CREATION OF WORLD-WIDE JEWISH TERRORIST GROUP TO COUNTER ARAB TERRORIST GROUPS

JERUSALEM, April 22 (JTA)--Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the Jewish Defense League, called today for the creation of a world-wide Jewish terrorist organization with the clandestine backing of the Israeli government, to counter Arab terrorist groups and exact vengeance for their acts. Kahane, who announced last week that he was resigning as chairman of the JDL, made his proposals on the site of the former Arab village of Deir Yassin which was destroyed along with its inhabitants by the Irgun shortly before Israel's independence. The Deir Yassin massacre was condemned by the Jewish authorities in Palestine at the time.

Kahane's "solution" to the problem of Arab terrorism was, he stated, to imitate the Arab terrorists act-for-act, shooting hostages and bringing counter-terror to Arab civilians in their own countries. In addition, "In each case of Arab terror against Jews, 1000 Arab families in the occupied territories shall be expelled," Kahane said. He also reiterated his plan to encourage the emigration of Israeli Arabs by offering them cash and jobs in other countries.

According to Kahane, the Israeli government should aid the Jewish terrorist movement while denying any connection with it. "Just as Arab governments do," Kahane said he didn't know if any such Jewish terror organization was in the making but offered his assistance if it was. He said he would not head such an organization because "I have enough trouble as it is." Kahane is facing trial on criminal charges in Israel.

CASSIN: VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS MUST AROUSE STRONG JEWISH REACTION

MONTREAL, April 22 (JTA)--Basic human rights are being violated on every continent and in every region of the world, a Nobel Prize winning authority on international law declared here. These violations, he added, must arouse a particularly strong reaction from Jews, who were the first people in the modern world to teach that the importance of the individual and his right to life were the fundamental values of civilization.

Rene Cassin, president of the International Institute of Human Rights, headquartered in Paris, and also president of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, made his remarks yesterday in the keynote speech of a three-day colloquium on "Judaism and Human Rights," that will continue through tomorrow at McGill University here.

The international meeting, which has brought together more than 100 judges, lawyers, academicians, political scientists and human rights specialists from the United States, Canada, France, Mexico and Israel, is expected to be the first in a series that will examine the contributions of various religious groups to the development of human rights concepts. The colloquium is sponsored jointly by the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights of the American Jewish Committee, the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations, and the International Institute of Human Rights.

Speaking in French, Cassin declared that "there

is no region of the world that is exempt from the taint of violence, no continent that does not offer the spectacle of the violation of fundamental liberties." The Middle East, he observed, is suffering under the oppression of "hardly masked slavery of entire populations under the heavy hand of despotic administrations that have no other concern than the wellbeing of potentates."

Scores Latin American Totalitarian Governments

He accused the nations of Africa of imposing dictatorships under the pretexts that they are necessary for economic development and that "democracy is a luxury that is difficult to extend to allegedly uncultured peoples." He also pointed to the fact that tribal conflicts in Africa have resulted in "genocide or the imposition of slavery on entire populations," and that such physical phenomena as drought have been exploited for the "personal enrichment of responsible leaders."

Turning to the American hemisphere, he scored those nations of Latin America where totalitarian governments "imprison, torture, execute without trial men who thought it possible to create happiness for their people by different means than those that are the rule under the capitalist system." In a brief reference to the United States, he deplored the fact that "underdevelopment and social exploitation are still the general rule in the richest land in the world." All these violations of human rights, Cassin maintained, must evoke strong reactions in what he called the "Jewish conscience" because of the history and religious beliefs of the Jewish people.

RABIN WILL TRY TO FORM NEW COALITION ALONG LINES OF OUTGOING ONE

TEL AVIV, April 22 (JTA)--Yitzhak Rabin said following his election as the Labor Party's new leader tonight that he would try to form a new Labor-led coalition along the same lines as the outgoing one—a partnership of the Labor Alignment with the National Religious Party and the Independent Liberal Party.

Rabin's selection opened the way for President Ephraim Katzir to assign him the task of forming a new government to replace the care-taker regime that has remained in office since Mrs. Golda Meir resigned the Premiership two weeks ago. Should he succeed, Rabin's Cabinet is expected to differ considerably from the outgoing one and to include new and younger faces. Two prominent ministers not expected to be included are Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Foreign Minister Abba Eban.

Rabin, who was born in Jerusalem, would be Israel's first native born Premier. His selection to head the Labor Party had been expected since his candidacy was forcefully supported by party strongman Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir. But his 298-254 victory margin over Information Minister Shimon Peres in the secret balloting was by a narrow eight percent.

The big surprise tonight was the extent of Peres' popularity within the party. Although he was assured the support of the ex-Rafi faction, Rafi comprises less than 20 percent of the Central Committee membership. Peres' strong showing stemmed from support he rallied from the former Mapai faction. Peres said afterwards that while he did not win the leadership, he regarded himself part of the victorious camp. Labor Party Secretary General Aharon Yadin said the result of the vote tonight weakened party divisions. He predicted that Mapam, Labor's Alignment partner, would give its blessing to Rabin's selection.

Rabin said it would be difficult to follow in the

footsteps of Golda Meir who was the symbol of Israel's founding generation. But he observed that the time had come for the sons of the founders to take over. He said the party election which elevated him to its leadership stemmed from a parliamentary crisis but was not a sign of weakness in the State. In a democratic state, Rabin noted, it is possible to emerge from a crisis and rise again. Democratic elections are a sign of the party's strength, he declared.

Weizman Rebuked For Attacking Rabin

About 24 hours before his selection, Rabin came under attack from Gen. Ezer Weizman of Likud who claimed that Rabin had suffered a nervous breakdown while Chief of Staff on the eve of the 1967 Six-Day War and was incapable of making decisions thereafter. The charge by Weizman, a former Air Force commander, set off political reverberations in Israel, brought a prompt reply from Rabin and a sharp rebuke to Weizman from Likud leader Gen. Ariel Sharon.

Rabin responded to Weizman's charges in a statement this morning in which he said: "Without going into the motives of those who found it appropriate to make public an old story as it was seen by one man, I confirm that I was absent from my post as Chief of Staff for one day—from May 23 evening to May 25 morning. On May 23 evening I called in Weizman and asked him to step in so I can have some rest after the exhausting work of preparing for war. On May 25 morning I returned to command the army and conduct its activities on the eve and through the Six-Day War to the victory."

Sharon, angrily rebuked Weizman. "I am against using unfounded charges to disqualify personalities. It is better that those who abuse would look into their own behavior in times of crisis and they may be surprised to see how they behaved themselves," he said. Sharon, a hero of the Yom Kippur War, added, "The army that won the Six-Day War was the army constructed by Rabin, prepared by Rabin for war and led by Rabin to victory."

Weizman's Version Of The Events

According to Weizman's version, he was summoned to Rabin's home about 10 days before the war broke out and urged by Rabin to take over as Chief of Staff because Rabin felt he was incapable of handling the burden and believed that, in any event, the war would be decided in the air which was Weizman's area of expertise. Weizman claimed he was summoned to Rabin's home on the following days and met there by the armed forces chief medical officer, Dr. Eliyahu Gillon, who said Rabin was suffering from acute anxiety and was being treated with tranquilizers.

Weizman said he had refused Rabin's request to take over command on grounds that the Chief of Staff's resignation at that time would have been a victory for the Arabs and had a demoralizing effect on Israel's armed forces. But he claimed that after hearing the medical report he agreed to issue orders to the armed forces without confirmation by Rabin. Rabin returned to his office the next day but lacked the power of decision throughout the brief war, Weizman claimed.

His story brought charges of "character assassination" and "distortion" from some military and political quarters. The Histadrut daily, Davar, which reflects Labor Party opinion, said editorially today that Rabin had to answer the charges but cautioned the public not to draw conclusions "before the whole story is heard." (By Yitzhak Shargit)

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SUGGESTS TO NIXON HE MAKE A GIFT TO ISRAEL OF ALL WEAPONS SHIPPED TO ISRAEL SINCE OCTOBER

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 22 (JTA)--The National Security Council, headed by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, has recommended to President Nixon that he make a gift to Israel of all the weapons the United States shipped to Israel during and since the Yom Kippur War and those now being delivered.

The weapons and the cost of shipping them to Israel total in cost between \$900 million and \$1 billion, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed by a high U.S. authority identified with the NSC recommendation. This sum will be deducted from the \$2.2 billion in emergency aid to Israel proposed by the President last October which the Congress speedily enacted.

That law authorized the President to grant up to \$1.5 billion to Israel and almost all of the remaining \$700 million as a credit to Israel. Congress directed the deduction from the credit figure of slightly less than \$18 million as the U.S. share of the cost of maintaining for one year the United Nations Emergency Force now functioning in the Middle East.

With the deduction of the currently recommended gift, the President would still have up to \$500 million he could grant to Israel. The disposition of the funds must be decided on, it was understood, by June 30, the end of the current fiscal year. Asked by the JTA as to the possibility that the Pentagon would seek to obtain \$154 million of its requested \$474 million in a supplemental appropriation, from the \$2.2 billion fund, the authority stressed "this will never happen."

The Senate Armed Services Committee recently suggested that action to the Defense Department. If such action was taken to help the Defense Department pay for restocking weapons it had sent to Israel, this would in effect reduce by \$154 million the funds available to Israel.

Charge White House Impounded \$2.2 Billion

The JTA source said the initial recommendation on the size of the gift became "less valid" as "events moved on and views changed." Accordingly, he said, a new set of views has been presented to the President. The source said the latest views were presented to Nixon several days ago and "more views may come" within the next few days when the President is expected to make his decision.

The expected action by the President, it was reported, may conflict with some views in Congress. Rep. Joshua Eilberg (D.Pa.) has said that the White House has "impounded" the \$2.2 billion voted four months ago and that "the Administration intends to evade the will of the Congress by making less than the stated figure of \$1.5 billion in grants available in that form" to Israel. The JTA was told that it was the "clear intent of Congress" that Israel receive all of the \$1.5 billion in grants.

The State Department and the Office of Budget and Management have reportedly been engaged in a bureaucratic argument on disposition of the funds, the State Department reportedly favoring giving it all to Israel as a gift and the OBM opposed to giving any of it to Israel as a grant.

CHRISTIAN LEADERS URGE SUPPORT OF "SOLIDARITY SUNDAY" FOR SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, April 22 (JTA)--A fervent plea for freedom for Soviet Jews has been issued by a

group of prominent Christian leaders who called on all New Yorkers to speak out against the growing repression of Jews in the USSR. The clergymen, representing hundreds of thousands of Christians, urged people of all faiths to express their support of beleaguered Soviet Jews by participating in "Solidarity Day"--to be sponsored on Sunday, April 28 in Manhattan by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. They made their comments Friday at a news conference held at the Institute of Human Relations, Manhattan.

Participating in the news session were the Rev. Dr. Bryant Kirkland, senior minister of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church; the Rev. Dr. M.L. Wilson, chairman of the National Committee of Black Churchmen, the Rev. Edward Flannery, executive secretary of the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, co-chairman of the American Jewish Committee's department of interreligious affairs.

The clergymen emphasized that stepped-up persecution of Soviet Jews and tighter restrictions against emigration imposed by the Soviet government in recent months underscore the fact that the plight of Jews in the USSR is a "moral issue that transcends all religious boundaries."

It was pointed out that more than 40 prominent clergymen--priests, ministers and rabbis--will "represent" Soviet Jewish "prisoners of conscience" in the "Solidarity Day" freedom march and rally. The clergymen, who will lead the march, each will carry a large photograph of a Soviet Jewish prisoner who has been incarcerated in a Russian labor camp. In the overwhelming majority of cases, the only "crime" committed by these Soviet Jewish prisoners was a desire to emigrate from the USSR.

"Solidarity Day" will get underway at 12 noon. The freedom march will take place on Fifth Avenue. It will culminate with a massive rally at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D. Wash.), author of the "Jackson Amendment" to bar trade concessions to the Soviet Union until it drops all barriers to free emigration, will be the main speaker at the rally. Stanley H. Lowell, chairman of the Greater New York Conference, will chair the program.

MONTREAL (JTA)--Some 400 Jews, most of them young people, demonstrated Friday in front of the Lebanese Consulate here in protest against the massacre at Kiryat Shemona. They carried banners declaring, "An end to terrorism" and "Six million are enough." The protest was organized by the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Canadian Zionist Federation.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The World Zionist Organization Executive decided Sunday on a new plan, designed to encourage the immigration of youth groups and their integration in agricultural settlements. The plan--called "The Jewish Pioneer"--was presented by Mordechai Bar-On, head of the Youth and Hechalutz Department. According to this project, participants will be required to serve for a minimum period of two years within a voluntary framework. The program will be mainly based on the pioneer youth movements, but it is planned to be extended to community organizations, student organizations and non-pioneering movements.

LONDON (JTA)--A world conference of Jewish educators--teachers, philosophers of education and others engaged in education of the young--will take place in Israel next July.