



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036
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Vol. XLIII - 59th Year

Friday, December 31, 1976

No. 250

LABOR PARTY NOMINATES BARLEV TO MANAGE PARTY'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30 (JTA)--The Labor Party Bureau has nominated Minister of Commerce and Industry Haim Barlev to manage the party's election campaign. His appointment to the post appears virtually assured since the candidacy of Yosef Almogi was dropped.

Far less certain is the future leadership of the Labor Party in view of the looming battle between Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Defense Minister Shimon Peres to head the party's list on election day. The party hopes to avoid a public struggle during the election campaign which could cost it precious votes. One idea that appeared to be gaining support in party circles today is to postpone the selection of a Premier until after the May elections, assuming that Labor is victorious at the polls.

The party expects to be called on by President Ephraim Katzir to continue as the caretaker government until elections. In that case, it would not be headed by one person but by a leadership group that would include Rabin, Peres and possibly former Premier Golda Meir although she has given no indication that she would run for election to the Knesset from which she retired several years ago.

Such an arrangement would have to take effect immediately because of expected opposition in the Labor Party's outgoing Central Committee when Labor holds its convention Jan. 31. The new Central Committee, elected at that time would be able to change any decision taken now.

ARGENTINE OFFICIAL SAYS HIS COUNTRY HAS NOT ABANDONED DEFENSE OF ISRAEL By Asher Mibashan

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 30 (JTA)--Capt. Gualter Alara, the Argentine Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, assured a Jewish delegation yesterday that Argentina's support of anti-Israel resolutions during the last session of the UN General Assembly by no means should be interpreted as abandonment of a basic principle of Argentina's foreign policy, namely its defense of Israel's right to exist within secure, recognized frontiers.

Alara conceded that the government was not happy with the anti-Israel votes cast by its UN representative, Ambassador Carlos Ortiz de Rozas. He said the votes were "circumstantial" and stressed that the government understands the concern of the Argentine Jewish community.

Alara received a delegation consisting of Dr. Nehemias Resnizky, president of the DAIA and its joint secretaries, Moises Camli and Naum Barabasch. They presented him with a strongly worded memorandum deploring de Rozas' support of resolutions presented by Syria and Egypt condemning Israel for its practices in the occupied Arab territories. The memorandum expressed the deep concern felt in the Jewish community because Argentina's vote was in conflict with its official policy of even-handedness in the Middle East conflict.

Following the meeting, Resnizky told reporters, "We were given to understand that this will not be repeated." He also reported that Alara said the government viewed with displeasure the circulation of Nazi, anti-Semitic literature in Argentina and would continue to take measures to prevent the dissemination of material harmful to the country.

ALMOGI-CEAUSESCU MEETING POSSIBLE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30 (JTA)--Yosef Almogi, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives may meet with President Nicolae Ceausescu of Rumania during his expected visit to that country, probably in February. Contacts and discussions aimed at such a meeting have been going on for the past few days, it was learned today. Almogi was invited by Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania to visit the Jewish communities in Bucharest and other cities.

The WZO Executive is expected to approve the visit which has important political significance because Rosen's invitation to Almogi almost certainly was extended with the prior knowledge and approval of the Rumanian government. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned that Almogi has already discussed visiting Rumania with Foreign Minister Yigal Alon. He will be the first Israeli Zionist official to visit that country.

LABOR ALIGNMENT DEFEAT IN KNESSET ON SERIES OF BILLS REFLECTS THE ALIGNMENT'S PRESENT MINORITY STATUS By Tuvia Mendelson and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30 (JTA)--The Labor Alignment suffered a resounding defeat yesterday when the Knesset voted 55-52 in favor of a series of bills proposing compulsory arbitration in labor disputes affecting vital public services and referred the measures to its Labor Committee. The vote reflected the Labor Alignment's present minority status and was the result of a carefully organized assault by Likud, the National Religious Party and other opposition factions.

But while the defeat was a severe blow to the Alignment's waning prestige at a time when Israel is preparing for early elections, its long-range effects may actually improve Labor's chances when the voters go to the polls. Political observers noted today that the shock waves created by the Knesset's action may cause the various Labor and Socialist factions to put aside their interneecine and internal bickering and unite against what they perceive to be an anti-Labor movement.

Meir Zarmi, secretary general of the Labor Party, was quick to declare that the Knesset vote should serve as a warning to the country's workers of what would happen if the Labor movement lost power. "This is what will happen here if hegemony is taken away from the Alignment," he said. Instead of direct negotiations between employees and their employers which "intensify national unity," the system would be run by compulsory arbitration that,

according to Zarmi, has failed in all modern countries.

Histadrut Reacts Vehemently

Histadrut, which bitterly opposes compulsory arbitration, reacted vehemently to the vote. Histadrut secretary general Yerahm Meshel called an urgent meeting of the labor federation's Central Committee to consider what steps to take to prevent the bills from becoming law. A Mapam representative on the committee proposed a one-day general strike in protest against the proposed measures.

Compulsory arbitration of labor disputes in vital public sectors was one of the issues that caused the rupture between the Labor Alignment and its coalition partner, the Independent Liberal Party. The latter has been demanding compulsory arbitration and Labor was unable to mollify it for fear of incurring the wrath of Histadrut. Since the resignation of the ILP from the Alignment government two weeks ago, Labor is now in a position to attack all proponents of arbitration and to make it a major campaign issue.

The Knesset coalition that defeated the Alignment yesterday consisted of Likud, the NRP, the Aguda bloc, the ILP and the left-leaning Free Center and Civil Rights Party. Only Moked and the Communists voted with the Alignment.

Sentiment for compulsory arbitration was strong because of the wave of strikes, walk-outs and work slow-downs in recent years which paralyzed many public services and caused serious damage to the economy. MK Eliezer Avtahi of the NRP noted in the Knesset debate that 530,000 work days were lost because of strikes in the public sector between 1971 and 1975.

Views On Compulsory Arbitration

Yehuda Sh'ari of the ILP said a permanent arbitration board must be established with power to rule even if one or both sides refuse to appear before it. Moshe Nissim of Likud said the time "has come to end the stranglehold public service workers have on the public."

The strongest of the four measures was introduced by Akiva Nof of the Free Center. It would apply compulsory arbitration to workers in water supply, electric power stations, health and hospitals and food supply services. The bill would also empower district courts to order the immediate end of any strike pending arbitration.

Although these measures gained a Knesset majority on first reading, their eventual enactment is far from certain. The Knesset Labor Committee, chaired by Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslino of the Labor Alignment is expected to recommend against the bills by a narrow margin. The Alignment has only eight members on the 17-member committee but the single Communist representative is counted on to provide it with 9-8 majority.

KATZIR CONCLUDES TALKS ON ELECTIONS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30 (JTA)--President Ephraim Katzir concluded his talks today with representatives of the various political parties and factions in Israel on whether he should try to name someone to attempt to put together a majority in the Knesset. A spokesman for the President told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that during the weekend Katzir will consider his next move based on whether the Knesset has voted to dissolve itself.

The Knesset, meanwhile, approved on first reading six bills yesterday to dissolve the Knesset and schedule an early election. The bills were sent to the Law and Constitution Committee. Although the bills carried various dates for a new election, the election date is expected to be May 17, the day reportedly agreed upon by the Labor Alignment and the opposition Likud.

Once an election date is set the present government will automatically assume a caretaker role and Katzir's efforts will be suspended. Likud leader Menachem Beigin suggested yesterday that the law be changed so that the President could continue his efforts to find someone to head a majority government even if the Knesset is dissolved and an election is scheduled.

STATE DEPARTMENT AND CLIFFORD

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (JTA)--The State Department declined yesterday to challenge former Defense Secretary Clark Clifford's assertions Tuesday that Department elements in 1948 undermined President Truman's policy on the partition of Palestine and the birth of Israel and failed to inform either Truman or Secretary of State George C. Marshall of important opinions linked to that policy. (See earlier story in Wednesday's Bulletin.)

"Mr. Clifford as a private citizen has made his allegations," Department spokesman John Trattner said in response to one of several questions from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "I won't comment on an historical record going back 25 years or more."

Reading a prepared statement, Trattner said that the volume on U.S. foreign relations of 1948 published last month "includes documents that show in some detail the differences in view between the Department and the White House on the partition of Palestine and the recognition of Israel. Of course, the foreign relations series cannot include every relevant document. But we do try to select those documents which most clearly illuminate policy views (including differences of view) and decisions."

Continuing, Trattner said that in compiling the 1948 volume, "we did look for a document Mr. Clifford referred to" -- a record of conversation between Undersecretary of State Robert Lovett and Clifford. "However, we were unable to find it either in our own files or in Mr. Clifford's papers deposited in the Truman Library."

Clifford, addressing some 1200 persons Tuesday at a meeting jointly sponsored by the American Historical Association and the American Jewish Historical Society, said State Department elements did not abide by Truman's decision of partition and that some pertinent documents were not in the foreign relations volume.

Apprised of the Department's responses yesterday, Clifford told the JTA "It was all right for the State Department to reach its independent conclusions, but after it was made clear what the President's decision was they should have acceded to that decision. In my opinion they did not." Clifford added that he was not "charging" the State Department with "concealing documents" since it could not possibly publish them all, nor was he criticizing its selection. "I wanted to notify historians you cannot pick up the 1948 volume and find everything there."

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

ARABS FIND NEW WAY OF ISOLATING ISRAEL AT THE UN

By Yitzhak Rabin

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 30 (JTA)--The 31st session of the General Assembly, which recessed Dec. 22 in order to reconvene next spring to deal with world economic problems, was distinguished by its low key discussions and by what many diplomats described as its "business-like atmosphere."

Paradoxically, however, the Arabs who injected a great deal of venom and controversy in previous Assembly sessions by their emotional and virulent attacks on Israel appear to be the real winners in this year's session. Armed with an automatic majority--a highly effective weapon in the diplomatic battlefield of the world organization--the Arabs adopted a new tactic this year: "moderation."

Aware of the fact that their extreme, one-sided resolutions, such as last year's resolution equating Zionism with racism, only boomerang against the Arabs themselves, the anti-Israel forces at the UN concluded that Israel could be more effectively isolated by introducing "moderate" resolutions which Israel's traditional allies, namely, the United States and Western Europe, could support.

New Tactic Was Effective

This new tactic was effectively used by the Egyptians in the debate on the Middle East. At the end of the week-long debate, spiked with the usual anti-Israel rhetoric, the Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a carefully worded Egyptian resolution calling for the reconvening of the Geneva Mideast peace conference. It was approved by a vote of 122-2 with eight abstentions. Only the U.S. and Israel cast negative ballots.

Israel's isolation, along with the U.S., was underscored by the fact that not one European country opposed the resolution and, in fact, most of them supported it. As a result of the vote, Israel and the U.S. appeared to be against reconvening the Geneva talks while in reality they supported the resumption of the talks but without the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The catch in the Egyptian-sponsored resolution was that the PLO's participation in a resumed Geneva conference was not mentioned directly but only implied. American Ambassador William Scranton, in explaining the U.S. objection to the resolution, said the measure, which called on UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to resume his contacts with the parties in the conflict, "is phrased in such a way as to imply that the PLO should be one of the parties consulted in preparation for the Geneva conference." In that connection, he stressed that the U.S. believes that additional participants in Geneva is a question "which can only be addressed by the original parties themselves."

Anticipating the negative results for Israel by opposing a resolution that appeared to be moderate, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Chaim Herzog, introduced a draft resolution, Israel's first in the Assembly, to show the Jewish State's support for the resumption of the Geneva talks. The draft called for the reconvening of the Geneva peace conference "without delay" with the participation of Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan. The PLO was not mentioned.

Although Israel had to withdraw its draft after the Arabs introduced an amendment calling for the participation of the PLO in the Geneva conference, the Israeli move clarified the position that its opposition was aimed solely at the PLO's participation in the conference and that, in fact, the Jewish State is ready to go to Geneva "even tomorrow," as Herzog declared.

Other Victories For 'Moderation'

The contention that the Arabs score much better when they are "moderate" was clearly demonstrated in the same Mideast debate when Syria introduced a more extreme resolution calling for the resumption of the Geneva talks with the participation of the PLO. This resolution was approved by a vote of 91-11 with 29 abstentions. Not even one West European country supported the resolution. Five of these countries--part of the nine-member European Economic Community--abstained. They were France, Italy, Ireland, Belgium and Luxembourg.

This new pattern of voting among the nine, which in previous years voted in unison on Mideast issues, is a cause of concern for Israel. While in the past all nine voted against anti-Israel resolutions or some of them abstained, there was an erosion in the support for Israel in this year's Assembly session. Only Britain, West Germany and The Netherlands continued to demonstrate their traditional support for the Jewish State.

The Arab offensive against Israel received another boost with the Assembly's adoption of the recommendation of the 20-member Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The resolution called for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The resolution also called for the return of the Palestinian refugees "to their homes and properties" in what is now Israel. The vote was 90-16 with 30 abstentions.

Although the resolution cannot be implemented without the approval of the Security Council--the Council rejected the Committee's recommendations last June after the U.S. vetoed it--its adoption gave the Arabs and the PLO, which is to head the new state according to the resolution, a propaganda victory. The status of the PLO, which was at ebbs due to the civil war in Lebanon, was strengthened as a result of the resolution.

The endorsement by the Assembly of an independent Palestinian state also coincided with reports from Arab capitals that the PLO was ready to accept a West Bank-Gaza Strip state. The timing of the two developments can lull world public opinion into believing that the Arabs no longer seek to destroy Israel and that their only aim is to have a state for the Palestinians.

Maneuvering For Votes

In the opinion of top Israeli diplomats at the United Nations, including Herzog, the only resolution that constituted a "real" defeat for Israel this year was the "moderate" Egyptian resolution at the end of the Mideast debate. Otherwise, the Israelis argue, Israel fared "pretty well" in this year's Assembly.

The Israelis note that the Arabs have an

"automatic majority" of more than 70 votes on any resolution they want to pass, Israel, thus, has to maneuver with the rest of the votes available—about 75. Therefore, the Israelis explain, if some 55 countries don't support an anti-Israel resolution—either by voting against it, abstaining or not participating in the vote—Israel is not isolated and the Arabs' attack can be considered repelled.

This pattern of voting, where at least 55 countries did not vote against Israel, emerged in two central issues, the Palestinian state resolution and the apartheid debate where the Assembly adopted a resolution singling out Israel's relations with the South African regime.

The issues of Zionism, Israel's expulsion from the UN and the PLO—three topics that made the Mideast a central controversy during the two previous Assemblies—were almost nil this year. The measure equating Zionism with racism was not recalled this year by any related resolution. The demand of the Arabs, which caused an uproar last year, to suspend Israel from the Assembly, was not repeated.

Even the PLO, whose leader Yasir Arafat appeared in triumph two years ago to address the Assembly, was barely mentioned except toward the end of the session in the resolution on the establishment of the Palestinian state. The lack of any attention paid to the PLO this year was attributed to their role in the Lebanese civil war.

A top Israeli diplomat at the UN explained that the Arabs "realized" that by their extreme demands they caused revulsion that in the final analysis works against their interests. This was the reason for their low-key approach this year. In a way, their action became more sophisticated and this is a cause for alarm to Israel.

REPORT RAFAEL DENIES HE APPROVED PERMITTING CONSERVATIVE RABBIS TO PERFORM MARRIAGES IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 30 (JTA)—Two major Orthodox organizations, the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA) and the Religious Zionists of America (RZA), stated today that they have received letters from Yitzhak Rafael, who was Israel's Minister of Religion until Premier Yitzhak Rabin dismissed the National Religious Party ministers from his Cabinet, denying that he ever gave his approval to Conservative rabbis to perform marriages in Israel.

A report earlier this month in one Israeli newspaper stated that Rafael had told the Independent Liberal Party that he would not oppose marriages by Conservative rabbis but asked that his feelings be kept secret so as not to antagonize Orthodox circles. The report also stated that the government announced on Dec. 1 that Conservative rabbis will be allowed to perform marriages in Israel.

David Zucker, president of the World Council of Synagogues, the international organization of Conservative congregations, said on his return from the Council's biennial convention in Jerusalem last month that he welcomed "this positive step toward our objective of full and equal rights for our rabbis in Israel."

Rabbi Walter S. Wurzbarger, president of the RCA, had written to Rafael to confirm the report. In response to the inquiry, Rafael, in a letter to Wurzbarger, stated that this matter never came up, that at no time did he discuss this issue with the ILP nor had he at any time made a statement indicating approval of Conservative mar-

riages. Rafael added that permission to perform marriages is not granted by the Minister of Religious Affairs but by the local rabbinate and the Chief Rabbinate.

Rabbi Louis Bernstein, president of RZA, declared, "The entire story of the Conservative rabbinate being recognized in Israel is a total hoax." He said the letter from Rafael to his inquiry about the same report confirmed what the RZA knew earlier "because recognition to rabbis who do not reside in Israel to perform marriage is granted on an individual basis. Even an Orthodox rabbi must receive permission from the Chief Rabbinate and the local rabbinical authorities."

SCA SAYS ALL SOVIET JEWS SHOULD BE AIDED REGARDLESS OF THEIR DESTINATION

NEW YORK, Dec. 30 (JTA)—The Synagogue Council of America (SCA), the national coordinating body for the three branches of American Judaism, has adopted a resolution reaffirming the obligation of the Jewish community to assist all Jews who emigrate from the Soviet Union regardless of their final destination. Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, SCA president, said the group's board adopted the resolution on the recommendation of its Task Force on Soviet Jewry headed by Rabbi Wolfe Kelman.

The SCA resolution said "it is a sacred obligation of world Jewry to encourage and facilitate the migration of Jews in the Soviet Union who seek to live in freedom." It called on "all appropriate agencies (including the Jewish Agency, HIAS, the Joint Distribution Committee and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry) to take every measure" to encourage Jews with exit permits to Israel to go to Israel and to help Jews seeking to go to the U.S. and other countries to get exit permits.

JEWISH WOMAN WINS RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

DETROIT, Dec. 30 (JTA)—Denise Thal, one of the first women to recently win a coveted Rhodes scholarship, is a member of a suburban Detroit family active in Jewish communal affairs and is herself involved in Jewish youth activities. According to the Detroit Jewish News, Ms. Thal was confirmed at Temple Israel here and was a member of the Michigan State Temple Youth chapter.

She is also active in the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at Harvard University where she is an economics major. The Rhodes scholarship provides over \$5000 for two years of study at Oxford University in England. Ms. Thal will attend the Oxford Honors School where she will study political science, philosophy and economics, the Jewish News reported.

Her father, Bruce Thal, is a past president and board member and former treasurer of the Jewish Vocational Service and is currently president of the National Association of Jewish Vocational Services. Her mother, Neane Thal, served on the boards of the Jewish Family Service and the Federation Women's Division.

NEW YORK (JTA)—Vladimir Sverdlin, a Leningrad activist, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possessing a gun, it was reported by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. If convicted, he faces a prison term of 2-5 years. Sverdlin, a 35-year-old construction engineer, first applied for an emigration visa in 1974.