

LABOR KEEPS HISTADRUT CONTROL; LIKUD SHOWS 7 PERCENT GAIN

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 22 (JTA)—The Labor Alignment retained control of Histadrut and most local Labor Councils in Israel in yesterday's elections. According to returns that were still incomplete this morning, Labor appeared to have won up to 54 percent of the vote, a drop of about four percentage points from the previous election but more than adequate to ensure its hegemony of Israel's giant trade union federation.

Likud scored about 30 percent, an impressive gain of seven percent but a disappointment to its leadership which had hoped to wrest control of Histadrut away from Labor. Prof. Yigael Yadin's Democratic Movement for Change did poorly, emerging with about seven percent of the votes in what was its first contest in a Histadrut election.

The smaller factions sustained losses. The Communists won about two percent, down a half percentage point from the last elections; the Independent Liberals dropped to barely one percent from six percent although they shared a list with the Civil Rights Movement. The leftist Sheli faction also polled about one percent, down from the three percent it won in the last elections as Moked. The Religious Workers list fell from four to two percent. The Hillel Sejdel group, the Yemenite List, the Independent List and the Black Panthers all failed to score the minimum number of votes to qualify for representation in Histadrut.

Labor Leaders Celebrate

Labor, ousted from governmental power in the May 17 elections, had its first cause for jubilation as the returns began to come in during the early hours of this morning. Party leader Shimon Peres, sharing champagne toasts with his cheering colleagues at party headquarters here, declared that the Alignment would firmly oppose Likud attempts to shift Israel away from its planned economy to one oriented toward private enterprise and a reduced role for government. Yeruham Meshel, the Secretary General of Histadrut who was Labor's candidate for re-election, declared that the trade union federation would remain independent under his leadership and would not shy away from a confrontation with the Likud-led government if necessary.

But Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich, Likud's number two man, was confident that the new regime could cooperate with Histadrut. He said Likud could come to terms with Meshel more easily than it could have with former Labor Party Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz. But most observers believe that Ehrlich now faces an up-hill fight to implement his declared policy of fighting inflation through controlled unemployment and other conservative economic programs. Former Premier Golda Meir, all smiles last night after weeks of strenuous campaigning for Labor, observed, "Begin told us the other night that we have a wise people. Tonight he saw for himself how very wise they are."

Arabs Support Labor

The outcome of the Histadrut elections has both limited and broad ramifications. A significant

factor was the Communists' failure for the first time, to garner a large Arab vote. Israel's Arab population went heavily for the Labor Alignment. The DMC's weak showing deprived it of the balance-of-power role it sought. Within Histadrut, Labor need not make concessions to the DMC whose position on economic issues is not far from that of Likud.

According to some observers, this improved the chances of the DMC joining the Likud-led coalition. They said that Yadin could offer Begin an alliance in Histadrut in exchange for foreign policy concessions that would open the way to DMC participation in the government.

Some circles suggested that the event of a Labor controlled Histadrut and a Likud-led government would serve to temper the policies of both parties creating a healthier environment than would have existed if a single party headed both institutions. However, there was no question but that Likud's overall political situation would have been greatly strengthened at home and abroad had it triumphed in the Histadrut voting.

Labor did very well in the voting for local Labor Councils and will control all of them with the exception of Ashkelon and Beth Shemesh where Likud was leading. Labor and Likud emerged neck-and-neck in Jerusalem, each polling about 40 percent in the Labor Council vote. There, the DMC with 10 percent, may prove to be the decisive factor.

NAZI VICTIMS TO BE REBURIED

AMSTERDAM, June 22 (JTA)—The remains of more than 100 men, women and children, mostly Jews, murdered by Nazis in the Lemberg area of Poland in 1941, will be reburied Saturday. The bones were exhumed from a mass grave near Urycz village in the presence of a delegation from the Amsterdam District Attorney's office in connection with the war crimes trial of Pieter Menten.

They were identified by pathologists as the remains of at least 94 adults and 20 children and an undetermined number of infants. All were shot or bludgeoned to death on Aug. 27, 1941 when Menten, a millionaire Dutch art dealer, was serving in an SS unit in the region.

The Dutch teams also found evidence to corroborate the testimony of a prosecution witness, Michael Hauptmann, now a resident of Stockholm, who testified that he witnessed the mass killings from an attic hide-out. Menten's defense lawyers have attempted to discredit Hauptmann and other prosecution witnesses.

CARTER SIGNS ANTI-BOYCOTT BILL; SAYS IT COULD BE MODEL TO END 'DIVISIVENESS' IN MIDDLE EAST

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 22 (JTA)—President Carter today signed into law the anti-boycott law and hailed the consultations among Americans that successfully led to it as a "model" to end divisiveness in the Middle East.

The signing ceremony took place with unusual elaborateness in bright sunshine in the Rose Garden of the White House with the prime Administration officials, leaders of Jewish national

organizations, Business Roundtable corporate executives and Congressmen prominently identified with the new law present. The bill had been overwhelmingly adopted by the House and Senate.

"This cooperative effort between the business community, Jewish leaders, Congress and the Executive branch can serve as a model for what can be accomplished in even more difficult areas, when reasonable people agree to sit down together in goodwill and good faith," the President said. "I am confident that the divisive issues in the Middle East which give rise to current boycotts can be resolved equally satisfactorily through a similar process of reasonable, peaceful cooperation."

Recalling he had described boycotts and discrimination against American businessmen on religious or ethnic grounds—"a profound moral issue from which we should not shrink," Carter added: "My concern about foreign boycotts stemmed, of course, from our special relationship with Israel, as well as from the economic, military and security needs of both our countries. But the issue also goes to the very heart of free trade between all nations."

Pledges Enforcement

In concluding his statement by pledging his Administration "will now effectively enforce this important legislation," the President added extemporaneously that "I am confident enforcement will help lessen tensions in the Middle East and hopefully lead to permanent peace in that troubled region."

Carter then went among the approximately 150 assembled guests witnessing the signing and exchanged remarks with them. Vice-President Walter Mondale, Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, National Security Affairs advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski and other officials also chatted with the numerous witnesses.

Organizations represented at the White House included the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress, which negotiated with the Business Roundtable on the legislation. Also represented were the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress, said in a prepared statement that while the new law "affirms the determination of the American people to defend American principles of free trade and freedom from discrimination" the effort will be "incomplete unless the United States is joined by other nations similarly committed to the principles."

Prohibits Most Forms Of Compliance

A fact sheet on the new law issued by the White House said that "the legislation will prohibit most forms of compliance with unsanctioned foreign boycotts without unnecessarily jeopardizing U.S. political and commercial interests in the Middle East." It also pointed out that "U.S. persons receiving boycott-related requests" are required to report them to the Secretary of Commerce and that "such reports will continue to be required to be made publicly available except for certain business confidential information." The legislation, which will be enforced by the Department of Commerce, preempts foreign boycott laws enacted by state legislatures. A half dozen states had enacted laws in advance of the present federal law.

CHILEAN SHIP DOCKS ON UNOFFICIAL VISIT

TEL AVIV, June 22 (JTA)—The Chilean naval

training ship Esmeralda docked at Haifa yesterday and her complement of several hundred cadets was taken on tours of the country. But her visit is an unofficial call devoid of the usual ceremonies and receptions that normally greet the arrival of naval craft of a friendly power.

The official welcome was called off after some circles here said the ship had been used for the detention and torture of political prisoners after the overthrow of the Allende government by Chile's ruling military junta three years ago. But Chile's Ambassador, Jorge Gana Eastman, branded those charges lies spread by the Communists. He said that Chile's relations with Israel which had been very friendly, have come under a strain and are, now, definitely unfriendly as a result of the official snub to the Esmeralda.

The auxiliary-powered sailing vessel will remain at Haifa for three days during which she will receive all port services and replenish her supplies.

FRENCH JEWS IN PLEA TO BREZHNEV

PARIS, June 22 (JTA)—French Jewish leaders appealed to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev to allow Soviet Jewry freedom to emigrate and observe their own cultural traditions yesterday in a message marking the end of his two-day state visit to France.

Chief Rabbi Jacob Kaplan led a delegation of the Representative Council of French Jews (CRIF) through a police cordon up to the entrance of the Soviet Embassy where they handed over their letter.

ISRAELI RAPS U.S. MEDIA

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 22 (JTA)—Azaria Rapoport, press attache at the Israel Consulate in New York, accused the American media last night of creating a distorted image of Israel through inaccurate and partial reporting on events in Israel.

Addressing the Overseas Press Club of America at the Biltmore Hotel here, Rapoport, who is returning to Israel after serving here since the 1973 Yom Kippur War, said that in his view the American media has not been conveying "the full picture" when reporting on Israel. He said that news items on Israel and the Mideast conflict often fail to provide the background that led to the particular event and the American reader, therefore, gets distorted information about Israel.

To illustrate this he recalled that major American newspapers showed front page pictures of Israeli soldiers pulling the hair of demonstrating Arab girls on the occupied West Bank. The U.S. papers did not mention that the Israeli soldiers were protecting themselves against violent demonstrators and that the soldiers did not want to use their weapons against the girls, Rapoport said.

Rapoport also charged that the American media ignores "positive" events in Israel, such as Israel's economic achievements and the establishment of the "good fence" on the Israeli-Lebanese border during the civil war in Lebanon, while reporting extensively on "sensational" events. But Rapoport said he believes that this unbalanced reporting on Israel is not a result of a "bad will" on the part of the American media but rather a result of the media's inclination to seek out the events that "make" headlines.

NEW YORK (JTA)—The USSR has released Jewish POC Yakov Vinarov a year early.

BEGIN ASSOCIATES ELATED BY WARMTH OF LETTER FROM CARTER

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA)—Close associates of Premier Menachem Begin appeared elated today over the "very warm" tone of President Carter's letter to Begin congratulating him on his ascendance to the Premiership and inviting him to Washington for talks next month. They described the message, conveyed to Begin shortly after he was sworn into office yesterday, as "beyond our expectations." Begin drafted a reply to the President yesterday afternoon.

Observers noted certain reassuring phrases in the President's letter such as his reiteration of the "special relationship" between the U.S. and Israel and his emphasis on "partnership" in solving the Middle East conflict. According to these sources, one of the major questions that will have to be resolved when Carter and Begin meet is the search for a common ground on which to proceed with Middle East peace efforts.

The two leaders are said to be in firm agreement that the step-by-step approach—the Kissinger diplomacy—should be replaced by a bid for an overall settlement that would be implemented in stages over a period of years. Circles here assume that Carter will press Begin to mute his political declarations during an interim period until the mood of the Arab countries in light of the Likud victory can be assessed. Carter is expected to urge Begin to declare a moratorium on new settlements in the administered territories during this period.

Text Of Letter

Carter's letter said: "Please accept my warmest congratulations on your accession as Prime Minister and the best wishes of the American people for the success of your government.

"The process of democratic choice which has brought you to this office and this responsibility demonstrates the attachment of Israel to the principles of democracy and individual liberty which we share and which is the hallmark of all free societies. We are linked as well with your great nation in our commitment to the moral precepts of democracy, its humanitarian values of peace, justice and individual dignity. These common and fundamental democratic precepts, shared between us, are the foundation of our special relationship and the commitment to Israel's security which the United States has historically maintained.

"As you know, I am deeply committed to helping Israel and its neighbors seek a lasting peaceful resolution to the conflict between them. I am sure that this is an objective I share with you, and I would welcome your ideas on how progress toward peace can best be achieved. Given the depth and range of our mutual interests, I believe it important that we meet at an early date to establish a personal relationship and exchange of views on the negotiation of a peace settlement and on other matters of mutual concern.

"I would like, therefore, to invite you to visit the United States during the week of July 18, and to join with you in a partnership-of-principle leading to a just and peaceful settlement of the dispute between Israel and its neighbors. We both are blessed with the historic opportunity to give substance to the religious meaning of our societies.

"With best wishes, sincerely, Jimmy Carter."

DINITZ MEETS WITH CARTER

WASHINGTON, June 22 (JTA)—Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz met with President Carter, Vice

President Walter Mondale and National Security Affairs advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski today preparatory to his departure next week to confer with Israeli Premier Menachem Begin. The Israeli Embassy said that during the talks at the White House "matters common to both countries were raised mainly in relation" to Dinitz's Jerusalem consultations.

The Embassy said that in his meeting with the President, Dinitz conveyed verbally "warm wishes" from the Premier while the President in turn expressed "warm wishes and congratulations" be conveyed to Begin and that he awaits their meetings in Washington July 19-20. Carter stressed the friendship between Israel and the United States and their striving for common goals. (By Joseph Polakoff)

CLOSE RABIN ASSOCIATE JOINS BEGIN

JERUSALEM, June 22 (JTA)—Sources close to former Premier Yitzhak Rabin and top officials in the Labor Party were taken by surprise by the announcement that Eli Mizrahi, former director of Rabin's office and his political advisor, will serve the Begin government in a similar capacity.

The announcement, which contradicted previous media reports, said that Mizrahi was appointed political advisor to the Premier. In Rabin's government he was considered one of the most powerful persons in the Premier's circle. Some observers say that Mizrahi had the greatest influence on Rabin during some stages of Rabin's premiership. Mizrahi came to power from the back rooms of the official archives, under the guidance of the late Dr. Yaacov Herzog, who was director general of the Prime Minister's Office during the administrations of Golda Meir and Levi Eshkol.

He was deeply involved in Rabin's government negotiating process for the past 3 1/2 years, and took an active part in all debates related to Israel's foreign policy under the Labor Alignment regime. Mizrahi himself, though concerned about his political career following the Likud's victory, said several weeks ago that he considered himself a civil servant and that he did not feel that he should be replaced despite the political nature of his job. (By Tuvia Mendelson)

BOND OFFICIALS TO SEE BEGIN

NEW YORK, June 22 (JTA)—Sam Rothberg, general chairman, and Michael Aron, president of the Israel Bond Organization, left for Israel this week to confer with Premier Menachem Begin, Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich and other members of the new government. During their brief stay in Israel, Rothberg and Aron will discuss the campaign program for the sale of Israel Bonds during the second half of 1977.

They will also take up plans for a Leadership Conference in Israel in August where community and national officers of the Israel Bond Organization from the United States and Canada will meet with top Israel government leaders on the country's immediate and long-term economic needs. Decisions of the Leadership Conference in Jerusalem will be presented to the International Fall Leadership Conference which will be held in Atlanta during the weekend of Sept. 9 to launch the Fall Israel Bond drive.

AMSTERDAM (JTA)—The Dutch Committee of Solidarity with Syrian Jews held an open air demonstration in Museum Square Wednesday, calling on Syria to "let my people go."

BEGIN EMISSARY TELLS REFORM RABBIS TO PROTEST CHANGES IN ISRAEL'S 'LAW OF RETURN'

GROSSINGER, N.Y., June 22 (JTA)--Shmuel Katz, who is visiting the United States as a personal emissary of Israeli Premier Menachem Begin, indicated yesterday that he is personally on the side of religious pluralism in Israel and called on Reform movement rabbis to let their feelings against any possible revision of the Law of Return be heard by members of the Israeli Knesset.

Addressing the 88th annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) at Grossinger's Hotel here, Katz said he felt that the issue of the Law of Return "extends beyond the borders of Israel and deep into the diaspora." According to Katz, Begin, in making his coalition agreements with the Orthodox parties, did not bind Likud to passage of the proposed revisions but promised only that the Premier would do his best to see that they are passed.

Reform movement leaders have sharply attacked the threat of the Likud-religious parties coalition to revise the Law of Return in Israel to exclude Jews and their families who have been converted to Judaism by Conservative and Reform rabbis from the provisions of the current Law of Return.

Rabbi Ely E. Pilchik, newly elected president of the CCAR, explained that Likud has indicated in the formation of its coalition government that it will promise its religious partners to revise the present Law of Return to add the phrase "in accordance with halacha" which means according to the interpretation of the extreme Orthodox rabbinate. According to Katz the Likud agreement does not mean such legislation will be passed. He indicated that not everyone in Likud was in favor of the revision.

Meanwhile, Reform Jewish leaders said "We are grasping the extended hand of the Conservative rabbis who have expressed solidarity with us in this fight."

Sees Little Progress This Year

Katz, who returns to Israel tomorrow after a three-week visit to the United States, also spoke yesterday to the executive council of the Rabbinical Assembly, the Conservative rabbinic body. But he told them he was not optimistic that much progress could be made toward religious pluralism in Israel this year. He pledged that he will tell Begin that there should not be a lessening of support by the Israeli government for the new school in the French Hill section of Jerusalem established last fall which reflects the principles of religious diversity and pluralism in line with the views of Conservative and Reform Judaism.

"Education should not be a divisive influence in Israel," Katz said. "I will convey this sentiment to Ze'evulun Hammer, the National Religious Party member of the new Cabinet holding the Education Ministry post. And if he resists, I will make strong representations to the Prime Minister and ask the entire Cabinet to reconsider Mr. Hammer's position."

ORTHODOX LEADER URGES ADOPTING GUIDELINES FOR JEWISH BEHAVIOR

FALLSBURG, N.Y., June 22 (JTA)--A leader of the American Orthodox rabbinate called today on all national Jewish organizations and agencies "to establish standards and guidelines of Jewish behavior that would reflect a pride in our heritage and respect for our tradition." Rabbi Simcha Krauss of St. Louis, Mo., co-chairman of the 41st annual convention of the Rabbinical Council of America, the Orthodox rabbinical group, made his remarks in

addressing delegates at the convention here.

"It is inconceivable," he said, "to weep over the rate of intermarriage among Jews and then to appoint into leadership roles Jews who are intermarried or rabbis who officiate at the marriages between Jews and non-Jews. It is the height of hypocrisy to speak about Jewish identity and to decry assimilation and, at the same time, project into the forefront of our community those who are undermining the sanctity and survival of the Jewish community."

Similarly, Krauss decried "groups that in their organizational activity violate the sanctity of our heritage by arranging non-kosher functions and violating the Sabbath. It is very nice for some of our national groups to promote tourism to Israel but how does it look when on the Sabbath, as Jews of Jerusalem are worshipping in their synagogues, to have a bus of tourists pass by with the name of a national Jewish organization emblazoned across the front of that bus. It marks a lack of respect for our own Jewish values and bespeaks a misreading of the goals of our Jewish activities and flauntingly desecrates the religious practices which have been ours for 3500 years."

Secularization Of Society Scored

At another session, Prof. Marvin Fox of Brandeis University, criticized the secularization of society which prevails in the Western world today. "It has destroyed the foundations of human morality and has rendered life meaningless to the majority of mankind," he said. "A world without God is bleak and without ethical direction. This very secularization has infected major segments of Israeli society and constitutes the greatest threat and danger to its continuance as a Jewish State. Israel was created to preserve and foster the ancient Jewish heritage which has contributed so profoundly to the foundation of Western civilization. It would be tragic indeed that after 2000 years of prayerful waiting, Israel should be depersonalized of Jewish identity."

Katz Praises 'Ally'

Shmuel Katz, personal representative of Premier Menachem Begin, told the delegates that the "Rabbinical Council of America has proven to be the most loyal and dependable ally of Israel, in mobilizing public opinion and helping the new Israeli government to counteract Arab propaganda and efforts by the United States which try to pressure the Begin government to make concessions which would jeopardize the security and independence of Israel." He also said "For us, the West Bank is not an occupied territory. For us it is a liberated land, and part and parcel with the rest of the country."

He said "We see a tendency on the part of the Carter Administration to deviate from the previous government's policies. The ultimate outcome of our battle will depend on the extent to which American Jewry will mobilize public opinion on behalf of the State of Israel."

NEW YORK (JTA)--Mrs. Ruth Eisenberg, national president of Women's American ORT, announced that a vocational high school to prepare young people for work in the diamond industry will open in Ramat Gan next year. The four-year school is jointly sponsored by ORT-Israel and the city of Ramat Gan. Both boys and girls will be trained for this important Israel export industry.