

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## CHAIM HERZOG ELECTED ISRAEL'S SIXTH PRESIDENT BY THE KNESSET IN A VOTE OF 61-57

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA) -- Chaim Herzog, the Labor Alignment's candidate, was elected Israel's sixth President by secret ballot in the Knesset today. His defeat of the coalition candidate, Supreme Court Justice Menachem Elon, by a vote of 61-57, and two abstentions, was a stunning political setback for Premier Menachem Begin's government.

Sources within the coalition itself called for the government's resignation because it was clear that Herzog's victory was the result of defections within the coalition's Knesset faction.

Herzog, who will be sworn into office on May 5, succeeding President Yitzhak Navon, pledged after his election that as President he would strive for greater unity in Israel and would devote himself totally to serving and representing the entire nation regardless of political affiliation. He also expressed his "hope" that "during my term we shall reach peace with our neighbors."

### Cries Of 'Traitor'

Although political pundits had predicted a close vote and even the possibility of an upset, it was generally believed that Elon would emerge victorious to become the first Israeli President since Chaim Weizmann not affiliated with the Labor Party. That belief was based on the conviction that Likud MKs felt it was time Israel had a President who was the choice of the governing party, not the opposition.

The coalition musters a total of 64 votes in the Knesset. The margin of Herzog's victory indicated that seven coalition MKs failed to vote for the government's candidate. This brought cries of "traitor" from the Agudat Israel Party which strongly backed Elon, himself an Orthodox Jew and an authority on religious law.

### Begin Visibly Shocked

Begin was visibly shocked when Knesset Speaker Menachem Savidor announced the results of the vote. He left the Knesset chamber without personally congratulating the victor. But later Begin and Elon separately telephoned Herzog to offer their congratulations and good wishes.

The blow to the coalition and to Begin personally was compounded by the fact that this was the second time during a Likud administration that the ruling party failed to elect its own Presidential candidate. Retiring President Navon was a Labor MK before his election five years ago. He had served in the Knesset from 1974-77 when Premier Yitzhak Rabin's Labor-led coalition governed the country.

Begin and his coalition floor managers held a dour post-mortem after the voting. "What happened is very saddening but that is our democracy and now we must congratulate the elected President," Begin said. Most coalition members conceded that it was virtually impossible to find out which of their colleagues defected because of the secret ballot.

But at least one Herut MK, David Magen, infuriated by the "betrayal," warned in a radio interview that it would not take long for the truth to be known. There are members of the coalition, he said, who will "now walk with an unclear conscience." Magen added that he thought highly of Herzog personally but the issue was the "trampling" of coalition discipline.

Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres was among the first to congratulate Herzog. "This is a great day for the Knesset. The vote was not dictated by party considerations," he said.

Elon, the defeated candidate, told reporters after the vote that he was "proud of the democratic process" and wished every success to the President-elect and his wife, Ora.

But coalition chairman Avraham Shapiro of the Agudat Israel, charged that there were seven "traitors" and the coalition will have to be careful in the future to "know whom we are sitting with." He said, however, that he was a long-time personal friend of Herzog though he voted for Elon who he knew and respected for "over 30 years."

Another Agudat Israel Knesset leader, Finance Committee chairman Shlomo Lorincz, urged the government to resign because of defections within its ranks. Education Minister Zevulun Hammer of the National Religious Party, did not rule out the possibility that the election results would impel the government to resign. Although the NRP is opposed to early elections, Hammer said it could not continue to object if the political situation requires it.

Herzog, 64, is a former Ambassador to the United Nations and a former chief of military intelligence. In recent years he has become one of Israel's leading military commentators.

During the 1967 and 1973 wars his informative, credible and compassionate radio and television commentaries provided Israelis with both facts and encouragement in dark hours. His personal popularity, like that of retiring President Navon, transcends party and political lines. (See separate profile on Herzog.)

Herzog told reporters in pre-election interviews that if elected he would model his Presidency on Navon's.

### Elon Was Not Widely Known

Elon, though respected in judicial circles, was not a widely known public figure before he was selected to be the coalition candidate. He was, in fact, a second choice. Begin originally backed Interior Minister Yosef Burg, a veteran leader of the NRP. But Burg withdrew his candidacy because he felt the Knesset would not give him a broad consensus and he did not want to be elected by a narrow margin.

Elon's announcement after the voting that he would return to the relative anonymity of the Supreme Court bench drew criticism today from jurists who thought he should have resigned from the court when he became a Presidential candidate and should not return to it now.

Several senior jurists said privately that while Elon has done nothing wrong, his ability to administer justice would appear to be compromised by the fact that he stood for election as a partisan candidate. Such

doubts would not have arisen had Elon enjoyed the support of both major parties, they said.

## PROFILE OF ISRAEL'S NEXT PRESIDENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA) -- Chaim Herzog, elected Israel's sixth President today, comes to that office after a long and varied career that includes distinguished service as a soldier, statesman, lawyer, businessman and philanthropist. As a public figure he is widely admired and respected by Israelis of all political affiliations.

Herzog was born in September, 1918 in Belfast, northern Ireland, where his father, the late Rabbi Isaac Halevi Herzog served as Chief Rabbi, later to become Chief Rabbi of Israel. The Herzog family moved to Jerusalem when Chaim was 16. He studied at the Hebron Yeshiva where his older brother, Yaacov, was an outstanding pupil. Another classmate was Menachem Elon, the future Supreme Court Justice and coalition-backed Presidential candidate whom Herzog defeated in the Knesset vote today.

(Yaacov Herzog rose to become Director General of the Prime Minister's Office and a senior aide to Premiers David Ben Gurion and Levi Eshkol. His death at an early age from cancer deprived Israel of one of its most brilliant public servants.)

## World War II Experiences

Chaim Herzog was educated at Cambridge University in England where he read law. Early in World War II, he transferred to Sandhurst, Britain's national military academy (the equivalent of West Point) and was commissioned an officer in British army intelligence.

He served with distinction in France and Germany and was with the first Allied forces to cross the Rhine. Herzog participated personally in the capture of SS chief Heinrich Himmler. A war wound left him with a permanent hearing impairment in one ear.

Reminiscing recently about his World War II experiences, Herzog recalled his presence, as the personal representative of Field Marshall Sir Bernard Montgomery, at the first conference of Jewish displaced persons, held at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. The qualifications for that assignment were to be a senior intelligence officer in the British army and to speak Yiddish fluently.

## Activities In Israel

On his return to Palestine after the war, Herzog joined Hagana, the pre-State Jewish defense force for which he undertook major assignments. He rose rapidly in the ranks of the newly formed army of the State of Israel and served as its chief of military intelligence from 1948-50.

He returned to that post 10 years later for another three year tour of duty. It was Herzog who laid down the patterns and practices of Israeli military intelligence which are operative today. He also served in senior command position on the central and southern fronts during the 1950s.

Herzog retired from the army with the rank of general to enter industry. He became the Israeli representative of Sir Isaac Wolfson's "Great Universal Stores," a financial empire with manifold commercial and industrial interests in Israel. Beginning in the early 1970's, Herzog served as a senior partner in a leading Tel Aviv law firm while maintaining his business ties. He served on the boards of directors of several leading banks and industrial firms.

From 1975-1978 he was Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations where he earned an international reputation as an outstanding diplomat. His speeches during the bitter General Assembly debate over equating Zionism with racism became classic texts in modern Israeli history and are studied in Israeli schools and in Jewish schools abroad.

Herzog is a prolific author. He has published several books on Israel's wars which became world-wide best-sellers and anthologies of his speeches. His face and voice are familiar around the world as a radio and television commentator and interviewee.

Herzog has always found time to involve himself in public, non-political affairs. He founded "Variety in Israel" which raises money and builds facilities for disadvantaged children. He is president of the World ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training) and of ORT Israel, posts which require considerable time and effort given the scope of ORT activities in Israel and around the world.

## Diligent Knesset Member

As a politician, Herzog was a diligent Knesset member, striving to foster links between the electorate and their elected representatives in parliament. In his home district, Herzliya, he opened a "parliamentary bureau" where local residents could bring their complaints and problems.

Several other Knesset members have since followed his example. Knesset members are elected from party lists under a system of proportional representation and do not directly represent localities or constituencies.

Herzog's wife, Ora, is a sister of Suzy Eban, wife of former Foreign Minister Abba Eban. She has long headed the "Beautiful Israel Association" concerned with improving the quality of life in the country. Before that, she headed the Arts and Culture Council of the Education Ministry. According to her husband, Mrs. Herzog could take credit for establishing the annual Bible Quiz held in Jerusalem.

The Herzogs have three sons and a daughter. Two sons are army officers. Their daughter attends school. Their eldest son, Joel, is married to the daughter of Nessim Gaon, the multi-millionaire Sephardic businessman and philanthropist who lives in Geneva.

## STATUS OF ISRAEL-LEBANON TALKS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA) -- Despite a wave of optimism generated by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's aides on his return from Washington last week, the talks with Lebanon have resumed without signs that an successful conclusion is imminent. After a session in Netanya yesterday, Israeli sources spoke of a "great deal of work" still to be done and of still-unresolved issues of dispute.

Among these are the status of Maj. Saad Haddad and his militia force in south Lebanon after the Israel Defense Force withdraws, and what, if any, role is to be played by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) or the multinational force in the area.

The Cabinet and smaller ministerial panels discussed at length the American proposals Shamir had heard from Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington--and informed sources spoke of a softening in Israel's stand, both on security arrangements and on mutual relations with Lebanon.

It is apparent that Israel no longer insists on IDF-manned military posts inside Lebanon for a length of time following the withdrawal. Furthermore, according to informed sources, Israel is now more flexible regarding the formal nature of its normalization accord with Lebanon. Israel would probably accept a less far-reach-

ing accord than it had earlier hoped for -- provided there was substantial trade and tourism in practice across the border.

#### Focus Of American Proposals

The focus of the American proposals, it is understood, is cooperation after the withdrawal between the IDF and the Lebanese army. This cooperation, at the command level and also in the field, would be designed to ensure security in the border area and prevent any return of the PLO.

But the Lebanese, with U.S. support, have been adamant in rejecting IDF-manned posts on their soil. They are also balking at Israel's insistence that Haddad be integrated, at the head of his militia force, into the Lebanese army brigade that would be deployed in the south.

Some reports say the Beirut government would like to send Haddad abroad as an ambassador or military attache, and disband the framework of his IDF-backed militia force.

A news dispatch from Beirut yesterday cited U.S. special envoy Philip Habib as saying he would need two weeks to persuade Israel to accept Lebanon's viewpoints on security arrangements in the south.

#### EEC URGES PALESTINIANS, PLO TO BACK REAGAN'S PEACE PLAN

BRUSSELS, March 22 (JTA) -- The 10 member-states of the European Economic Community (EEC) called on the Palestinian people and the Palestine Liberation Organization today to back President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative and to empower King Hussein of Jordan to enter peace negotiations in the region.

The official statement, issued at the EEC summit conference here, also urged the Arab states to take "full advantage" of the current opportunity to try to reach a peace settlement in the Middle East. The joint communique reasserted the right of all states in the region to live in peace behind secure borders.

At the same time, it reaffirmed its "past statements" which include the Venice declaration of June, 1980, and specifically called for the implementation of the rights of the Palestinian people "with all that this implies." The Venice declaration had called, among other things, for PLO "association" in any Middle East peace process.

#### Complete Unanimity Reported

Despite a heavy work schedule complicated by Western Europe's financial crisis, the leaders of the 10 EEC nations discussed the Middle East at length during their dinner meeting at the Val Duchesse Castle on the outskirts of Brussels. Sources close to the meeting said later that there was a complete unanimity among the 10 Presidents and Prime Ministers "to fully back America's efforts" and to do all they can to help achieve the complete withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon.

The 10 leaders included Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain, President Francois Mitterrand of France and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany. They agreed among themselves "not to do anything which could impede America's own efforts" in that direction, the sources said.

Diplomatic observers here said the joint statement of the EEC leaders indicates that Western Europe will refrain from any diplomatic initiatives toward the Middle East as long as President Reagan's plan remains viable. "There will be no new

'Venice' for the next few months," a West German diplomat said. He stressed that the U.S. is in the best position to obtain a foreign troop withdrawal from Lebanon and to make some progress in the search for a Middle East peace settlement.

#### 5 ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED BY MINES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 22 (JTA) -- Five Israeli soldiers were wounded when they stepped on mines buried in a dirt road leading to an abandoned house in the Shouf mountain area. Officers on the spot said they did not think the mines had been laid by terrorists to hurt Israeli soldiers, but by the house owner trying to defend his property from pillage.

The soldiers, on their way to search the abandoned house near Nabrach village in the central sector, were making their way along a dirt road when the two soldiers in the lead stepped on a mine and were wounded. A soldier following them went to their aid and stepped on another mine. A relief patrol which went to help them was making its way carefully when one soldier slipped in the mud and fell, setting off yet another mine. Another soldier was wounded by splinters. Officers said the house owner, a Christian living in Beirut for the past few months, apparently feared that Druze from the neighboring village would pillage his house and sought to keep them out, by planting the mines.

#### GROUNDWORK BEING LAID TO LAUNCH ISRAELI SPACE SATELLITE IN 1990's

TEL AVIV, March 22 (JTA) -- Science and Development Minister Yuval Ne'eman, who today chaired the founding meeting of the Israel Space Agency, said the groundwork was being laid to launch an Israeli space satellite "within ten years or so."

He said the Israeli satellite, for communications or weather forecasting, would have to be launched in cooperation with either the American NASA or the European Space Agency. In the meantime, Ne'eman said, the Israel Space Agency would be laying the groundwork for Israeli space work through contacts with foreign agencies, joint research and local research and development work.

#### PROTEST AGAINST ANTI-SEMITIC CAMPAIGN IN GREEK NEWSPAPERS

PARIS, March 22 (JTA) -- The European Parliament was asked to intervene to try and stop what one deputy said was an anti-Semitic campaign now waged by part of the Greek press.

Roger-Gerard Schwartzberg, a deputy for the French Radical Party and himself a Jew, asked the Parliament to intercede with the Greek government to see what can be done to stop the hate incitement campaign.

Schwartzberg said that under the guise of anti-Zionism and criticisms of the Israeli government's policies, several Greek newspapers are actually spreading anti-Semitism and inciting to racial hatred. He also called on the Parliament to try to obtain the extradition of Nazi war criminal Walter Rauff, believed to be hiding in Chile.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Israel's third test tube baby was born at the Sheba government hospital in Tel Hashomer Monday. The eight-pound baby girl, the first born in Israel by natural delivery, was described by nurses and doctors as "Israel's most beautiful Yemenite." Both father and mother are Yemenites.

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY  
STUDY REVEALS THE EMERGENCE OF  
DEPENDENT JEWISH CLIENTS WHO  
CONSTITUTE 'THE NEW POOR'

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA) -- The impact of cuts in public welfare benefits, stemming from "shifts in federal and state priorities," is producing "a newly emerging group of dependent Jewish clients" who are receiving help from a major Jewish family service. The agency, the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services (JBFCs), which has just concluded a study of this group, defines such Jews as constituting "the new poor."

The JBFCs study sought to learn how many Jewish, non-Jewish white, Black and Hispanic families on the agency's rolls received some form of public benefits in 1982; how many of them had their benefits significantly reduced; which communities were hardest hit by employment and benefit losses; and which public benefits were most often cut.

Dr. Jerome Goldsmith, JBFCs executive vice president, reporting on the study, said the professionally-designed survey form was distributed by caseworkers in the agency's 12 community-based mental health clinics, called Madeleine Borg Counseling Services, which serve a heterogeneous collection of families in four boroughs, seeking help for marital, parent-child and personal adjustment problems.

A JBFCs spokesperson told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the agency does not have Madeleine Borg Counseling Service clinics in Queens, where such services are provided by the Jewish Community Services of Long Island. Both family agencies are affiliates of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York.

## A Key Question

Caseworkers in the 12 clinics distributed the survey forms during the week of September 6 and began collecting completed surveys for the week starting December 13. The returned surveys provided detailed information on 1,645 households.

A key question for which the survey sought answers was the impact of the cuts on Jewish families on JBFCs rolls receiving public aid.

The study showed that 541 households of the total 1,645 had been receiving public benefits and 241 of those 541 households were Jewish, compared to 96 non-Jewish white households; 119 Black and 85 Hispanic.

Of the 175 households which suffered cuts during 1982, 78 were Jewish; compared with 26 non-white Jewish; 39 Black; 30 Hispanic and two ethnicity unknown. A summary of the two tables indicated that the largest category both of those receiving aid and getting cuts in aid were Jewish families.

Public benefits were listed as AFDC (aid to family dependents); home relief; Supplementary Security Income (SSI); disability insurance; Medicaid, the medical-hospital government-funded program for the indigent; food stamps, public day care; and subsidized lunch programs. The only other specific references to Jews in the study concerned impact of loss of aid and joblessness.

Focussing on the disappearance of the Reagan Administration's commitment to a safety net for those in need, the study found that a third of those receiving some form of public benefit had recently lost those benefits. More than 12 percent of all the 1,645 households had experienced either job loss or cuts of hours of work or both -- "more than one-third higher than the city average."

The study speculated that "public benefit losses seem to be beginning to have what could be a devastating effect on the marginal family, the new poor," elsewhere defined as including marginal Jewish families slipping down the economic scale because of the cuts "who were managing to survive with a little assistance but who are now falling behind more each day."

Specifically, Goldsmith said, "nearly one-third of the Jewish caseload receiving benefits lost all or part of that help in 1982," the newly-emerging group vulnerable to the loss of family support which constituted "the new poor."

## Other Conclusions Of The Study

The study also found that the community with the highest rate of joblessness was the predominantly Orthodox Boro Park section of Brooklyn. Other conclusions of the study, though couched in general terms, clearly applied to the Jewish households examined in the study, though no specific reference was made to Jews.

For example, the study confirmed that Blacks and Hispanics "continue to be hardest hit" but that "lower and middle class families, up until recently able to sustain themselves financially," were "beginning to fall through the 'safety net'."

As human service budget reductions have gone into effect, agency caseworkers have reported that "frustration and despair confront many, many of these families, just at the time the resources to service them are shrinking drastically."

"The cumulative effect of under and unemployment on families is creating additional stress and economic hardship," the report said. "These families now require access to public benefits and human services, both of which are simultaneously eroding."

SENATE RESOLUTION DECLARES  
APRIL 10-16 A WEEK OF REMEMBRANCE  
FOR THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING

WASHINGTON, March 22 (JTA) -- The Senate has adopted a resolution declaring the week of April 10-16 as a Week of Remembrance for the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. The House is expected to adopt a similar resolution which also calls on the President to designate that week as a week of remembrance.

The resolution, introduced by Senators Charles Percy (R. Ill.) and Claiborne Pell (D. R.I.) and co-sponsored by 45 other Senators, notes that the uprising "by the besieged and outnumbered Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto" demonstrated "their courage and heroism" to the world and "showed the world for all time that the forces of freedom and liberty cannot long be suppressed by the forces of tyranny." It added that "their valor and their faith gave urgency to the creation of the free State of Israel."

The resolution also took note that the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors is being held in Washington starting April 10 "and will organize programs to reinforce the need for the continuous struggle against anti-Semitism."

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There will be no Bulletins dated March 30 and 31 because of Passover.