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The Elections In Israel: LABOR HAS THREE-SEAT LEAD IN INITIAL EXIT POLL RESULTS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 23 (JTA) — An exit poll taken at 35 locations at which 94 percent of the voters responded late tonight indicated that the Labor Party will have 46 seats in the next Knesset to 43 for Likud.

The computerized first results of today's elections, broadcast on television 20 minutes after the polls closed at 10 p.m. local time, came as a severe disappointment and letdown for Labor. For Likud there was tremendous relief that a major defeat was avoided.

A second, broader exit poll to be conducted at 200 locations at midnight is not expected to show results much different from the early poll, according to Hanoch Smith who conducted the poll for Israel television. Smith said it was possible, when the final votes are tallied, that the gap between Labor and Likud may widen, but not by more than 1-2 Knesset seats.

Smith correctly predicted the outcome of the 1977 elections which first brought Likud to power and was not far off in forecasting the close results of the 1981 elections, although he declared Labor the winner, an outcome reversed when the final vote was counted.

Difficulty In Forming A Coalition Government

The narrow three-seat margin between the two largest parties will make it difficult if not impossible for either to form a stable coalition government. Labor and Likud each turned in a poorer performance than in the 1981 elections when Labor won 47 seats to Likud's 46.

The beneficiaries, apparently were the smaller parties, several of which, according to the exit poll, did better than expected.

There was gloom at Labor Party headquarters where campaign manager Mordechai Gur said he was sure that these results were not the last word and that the situation would improve for Labor as the votes were counted.

At Likud headquarters, Deputy Premier David Levy said he was optimistic that Likud could form the next government. He said the party would begin this very night to contact possible coalition partners among the smaller parties.

National Unity Regime Possible

Independent observers, looking at the first results, agreed that both Labor and Likud could very well be stymied and that a Labor-Likud national unity regime loomed increasingly as an option.

According to these observers, Labor, plus its two "natural" allies, Shinui and the Civil Rights Movement (CRM) with a combined total of seven seats — according to the first exit poll — could manage a coalition of 53 Knesset mandates, well short of a majority. Likud, with its "natural" ally, the rightwing Tehiya Party, could muster only 46 mandates between them.

For a Knesset majority, either of the major parties would have to rely on the 13 mandates culled by the various religious parties plus the two of former Defense Minister Ezer Weizman's Yahad party.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview last week that "it is completely unlikely" that Likud would admit Rabbi Meir Kahane's extremist Kach party to a coalition under any circumstances. According to the exit poll, Kach won a single Knesset seat after being shut out in the last two previous elections.

A possibility remained that two tiny factions, one headed by leftwing peace advocate Arye Eliav and the other by former Likud Finance Minister Yigael Hurwitz may reach the one percent threshold necessary for a Knesset mandate.

Early Tally Of Knesset Seats

Following is the tally of Knesset seats according to tonight's first exit poll, compared to the 1981 results.

	1984	1981
Labor	46 seats	47
Likud	43	46
National Religious Party	5	6
Shinui	4	2
Civil Rights Movement	3	1
Hadash Communists	4	4
Tehiya	3	3
Shas	3	0
Aguda Israel	2	4
Morasha	2	0
Yahad	2	0
Tami	1	3
Kach	1	0
Progressive	1	0

Shas is a new religious party, sponsored by former Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef. Morasha is also a new religious party consisting of NRP, Emunim and Poale Aguda defectors. Yahad is also a new party and considering its high profile campaign, performed poorly. The Progressive List for Peace, a coalition of Israeli Arab nationalists and leftwing Jews was also making its first Knesset race.

Israelis went to the polls in a process as orderly, uneventful and devoid of incident as the three-month election campaign which ended yesterday. But while voters and political observers alike agreed that the campaign was the most apathetic, uninspired and downright boring in recent memory, the voter turnout was high and by American standards, remarkable.

It was estimated that about 78 percent of the 2.6 million eligible voters cast ballots by the time the polls closed. This was about the same as in the 1981 Knesset elections which followed the most boisterous, bitterly fought and emotional campaign in Israel's history.

The estimate of today voting is based on figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics which showed that in the first 11 hours of voting, 55.2 percent of the eligible voters went to the polls. This is about the same as in the same period on election day, 1981. The Jewish turnout was 56.1 percent and in the Arab sector 45.9 percent of those eligible voted.

The main campaign issues were the economy, the war in Lebanon, and Likud's drive to build more settlements in the West Bank.

SEVERAL JEWS APPOINTED MINISTERS IN NEW GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, July 23 (JTA) — Several Jews were appointed ministers today in the new government headed by Laurent Fabius, who is himself of Jewish origin.

Jack Lang, the outgoing Minister for Cultural Affairs, has been reappointed to this post. A former university professor, Lang has started mapping plans for a Jewish museum in Paris.

Roger Gerard Schwartzberg, one of a handful of non-Socialists in the new government, was reappointed Deputy Minister of Education in charge of university education.

Alain Calmat, a 37-year-old surgeon, was appointed Minister for Youth and Sports. He is a newcomer to the government. A former skating champion and all-round athlete, he won the world skating championship in a tournament in the United States, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in 1965 and was awarded the Legion of Honor for this feat. He had earlier won a silver medal at the 1964 Olympic Games in Innsbruck.

All three are junior ministers without Cabinet rank. The only Jewish senior minister left in the government is Attorney General Robert Badinter. The only other Jew who had been a Cabinet member was former Transport Minister Charles Fitterman, a Communist.

REFUSENIK TO GO ON TRIAL NEXT MONTH ON CHARGES OF 'DRAFT EVASION'

NEW YORK, July 23 (JTA) — Aleksandr Yakir, a 29-year-old Jewish refusenik from Moscow, is scheduled to go on trial August 2 on charges of "draft evasion," according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ).

Yakir was arrested on June 18. Threatened with induction into the army since his graduation from the Moscow Technical Institute in 1977, he now faces three years imprisonment.

In a highly unusual action for those arrested for non-violent crimes, the NCSJ reported today that Yakir was held in Moscow's Butyrka Prison pending trial rather than merely having to sign a statement pleading not to leave Moscow.

The charge of draft evasion is commonly used by Soviet authorities against young, would-be emigrants. Yakir's service in the military could prolong for perhaps five years the waiting period for approval of his application to emigrate on grounds of "state security."

The Yakir family has been waiting since 1973 for permission to emigrate to Israel. The NCSJ reported that the Yakir family believes that they have been denied permission to leave the Soviet Union because Aleksandr's grandfather and great-uncle were generals in the Soviet Army, both of whom were later shot during the Stalinist purges.

Another relative, Aleksandr's uncle, Piotr, was jailed after a show trial in 1972 for documenting abuses of political prisoners in the Soviet Union.

NEW JEWISH AGENDA MAKING INROADS IN JEWISH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, July 23 (JTA) — Five local chapters of the New Jewish Agenda (NJA) are now active members of their local Jewish Federations or Community Councils following the decision by the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles

to allow the Los Angeles chapter of the NJA to become an affiliate member. The bid for membership into mainstream organized Jewish community groups indicates an apparent shift from earlier policy by the NJA. From its establishment some four years ago, the NJA has sought to work for change in the Jewish community on various issues, but from outside the structured community.

Its successful admission into the Federations or Councils, nonetheless, does not change the NJA's position on policies with regard to the West Bank, the Palestinian issue or United States domestic policies. Richard Silverstein of the Los Angeles NJA chapter, said that membership in the local Jewish Federation provides the NJA with an opportunity to work from within the Jewish community establishment for policy changes.

"We feel it is important to have our message heard in the Jewish community," Silverstein said in a telephone interview. "And we feel we have an important role to play in the Jewish community, to provide a broad range of views on vital issues such as the Middle East and social justice."

The Los Angeles NJA chapter's application for membership was approved by voice vote at a June 5 meeting of the Jewish Federation's Board of Directors. The meeting was attended by more than 100 persons, including several officials of the local NJA chapter. The application for membership was submitted some 30 days prior to the Board's vote and was reviewed by the Federation's Admissions Committee.

Requirements For Membership

Requirements for membership in a local Jewish Federation or Community Council include that the group is Jewish, works for Jewish interests, cannot have Communist affiliation and cannot have a record of illegal activities or advocate violence. When admitted, the group is requested to provide its membership list to the United Jewish Appeal for fundraising purposes.

Andy Rose, national co-chairperson of the NJA and of the Los Angeles NJA chapter, was pleased with the Board's approval of the NJA application. "We're glad that the Council has officially acknowledged that we, who are engaged in a constructive debate about the political and moral options facing American Jewry, are an integral part of the Jewish community. Stifling dissenting voices and limiting the range of debate is extremely unhealthy for all of us," Rose said.

Los Angeles NJA joins chapters in Kansas City, New Haven, Ann Arbor and Santa Fe, all of which have been admitted as members of their local Jewish Federations or Community Councils. Rose said: "It is very significant that in Los Angeles, the second largest Jewish community in the United States, NJA has been admitted to the JFC. This will certainly set a precedent for other communities."

One such community, according to the NJA, is Washington, D. C. where last summer NJA's application for admission to the Jewish Community Council was narrowly defeated. The vote rejecting the NJA application to the JCC of Greater Washington followed by just a few weeks the JCC's Executive Board's vote in favor of admission of the Agenda.

The NJA has called on Israel to negotiate with the PLO on the basis of mutual recognition, supports the right of Palestinians to establish a state in the West Bank and opposes Jewish settlements there and in the Gaza Strip.

EL AL OFFICIAL SAYS AFL-CIO BOYCOTT CALL WILL NOT AFFECT AIRLINE, BUT CALLS IT ENTIRELY, ABSOLUTELY WRONG

By William Saphire

NEW YORK, July 23 (JTA) — David Schneider, general manager of El Al for North and Central America, said today that a boycott by the AFL-CIO would not affect the Israeli airline which has been operating normally despite a four-month strike against it by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM).

But the announcement by the AFL-CIO in Washington last Friday that it has endorsed a boycott and called on other international trade unions to do the same was "entirely and absolutely wrong for them to do," Schneider told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a telephone interview this morning.

Cites Attempted Political Pressure

He suggested that the boycott was a "gesture" by the AFL-CIO to "indicate its support" for the striking union and charged it was an attempt to apply "political pressure" on El Al after the airline had gone more than half way to resolve the dispute with its American employees.

In that connection, Schneider said, the president of El Al, Rafi Harlev, flew here from Israel last week, accompanied by the vice president for manpower, David Shein, for a meeting with the IAM executive. But no resolution was achieved.

According to a statement released by the AFL-CIO Friday, "the (Israel) State-owned airlines has refused to bargain in good faith and has demanded wholesale contract concessions, including elimination of major work rules, a three year wage freeze and proposals destroying job security."

Schneider, in his conversation with the JTA today and in a statement released last Friday, charged that the union refuses to understand that El Al "has been in desperate economic circumstances for the last few years ... We desperately need the union to understand that our struggle to survive depends on these crucial compromises. By bringing our costs into line, we can hopefully ensure the airline's continuation," he said.

Schneider cited examples of several American air carriers in which union concessions, or "give-backs," had "a dramatic impact" on their ability to continue in business.

'We Are A Union Shop'

The strike by El Al's American employees began last March 16 when approximately 300 employees walked off the job. Of that number, 210 have since returned to work and are still members of their union. "We are a union shop," Schneider told the JTA.

IAM president William Wimpisinger was quoted by the AFL-CIO as saying, "The AFL-CIO boycott is the first step in the union's plan to initiate a worldwide boycott of El Al." The IAM has asked the International Metalworkers Federation (IMF) and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) also to declare official boycotts of the Israeli airline.

A spokesman for the IAM told the JTA in Washington that his organization will publicize this boycott to the media to urge all union members and those in the general public who respect union picket lines not to patronize El Al.

But Schneider told the JTA that El Al's carryings have in fact improved in recent months. The airline has a troubled history. Plagued for years by strikes

and wildcat walkouts in Israel, it was forced to suspend operations from September 12, 1982 through January 12, 1983. During that period the company went into receivership and continues to operate under the protection of the Israeli courts. An entirely new management took over when the suspension ended.

El Al says its losses during fiscal 1982-83 amounted to \$123 million but deficits were reduced to \$46 million in fiscal 1983-84. "From the beginning of our negotiations we have wanted a settlement of the outlined issues," Schneider said. "We do not want a break in our relationship with the union and their cooperation which we have maintained through the years."

REPORT REVEALS THAT AUSTRALIAN P.M. AND TWO JEWISH FIGURES WERE TARGETS OF ASSASSINATION PLOT BY A MILITANT PALESTINIAN GROUP IN THE MID-1970's

MELBOURNE, July 23 (JTA) — The Prime Minister's Office has declined to comment on a report that Labor Party leader Bob Hawke and two Australian Jewish community figures were the targets of an assassination plot by a militant Palestinian organization in the mid-1970's.

According to the report, the plot was foiled by the Australian Security Intelligence Organization whose agents infiltrated the Palestinian group. The group was not identified.

Hawke has been Prime Minister of Australia since March, 1983 when he defeated the Liberal Party government of Malcolm Fraser. At the time of the alleged assassination plot, about 10 years earlier, he was president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions and an outspoken friend of Israel.

The two Australian Jews marked for killing were Isi Liebler, currently president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, co-chairman of the Australian Institute of Jewish Affairs and a member of the World Jewish Congress Executive; and Sam Lipski, a former Washington correspondent for The Jerusalem Post, presently Australian correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, a former editor of the Australian/Israel Review, and a frequent contributor of the Australian press.

Liebler and Lipski were active proponents of Israel's case in the Australian press and electronic media in the years following the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Liebler, then president of the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies, developed a close relationship with Hawke. Neither Liebler nor Lipski would comment.

The report of the alleged assassination plot was made by Laurie Oakes, a political journalist and Canberra commentator for the Australian Television Network, owned by publisher Rupert Murdoch.

3 NEW SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED

TEL AVIV, July 23 (JTA) — Less than 24 hours before the national elections were to begin, three new settlements were formally established yesterday in the Gaza Strip. At the same time, the Ministerial Settlement Committee voted to establish another three settlements beyond the "green line," the line on the map which separates Israel proper from the occupied territories.

Two of the future settlements are to be in northern Samaria in the West Bank and another one, planned as a fishing village, will be in the Gaza Strip north of the town of Gaza.

The settlement committee rejected an appeal by Nissim Shauli, the Labor Party's co-chairman of the Jewish Agency's settlement department, against a committee decision last week to establish new villages in the occupied territories.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF SOUTH AFRICA

By Sheldon Kirshner

(Part One Of A Two-Part Series)

PRETORIA, July 23 (JTA) -- Five thousand South Africans launched a cultural cum-political movement here two months ago that raised eyebrows all over South Africa, particularly in the Jewish community.

The formation of the Afrikanervolkswag (AV) brought together under one banner an outright anti-Semite, a radical rightwing politician, the son-in-law of a former Prime Minister, and a one-time deputy minister of education. It was enough to make Jews take notice, or wince.

Dr. Sylvia Kaplan, national president of the South African Association of Arts, said she was "absolutely horrified" by the emergence of the AV and appalled by the Nazi-like tone generated by the AV's inaugural mass meeting. South African newspapers were equally aghast.

In Parliament, the AV was roundly condemned. The Minister of Education, no doubt speaking for the ruling Afrikaner-dominated National Party, ridiculed the AV's claim to being solely a "cultural movement." Roger Burrows, an opposition MP, asked the government for assurance that no state funds would be given to the "(white) supremacist, racially divisive" organization.

Elements Comprising The AV

Bursting upon the South African scene like a thunderclap, the AV is far to the right of the National Party, which in 1948 introduced apartheid. To the AV, the present National Party has traitorously deviated from apartheid by introducing constitutional proposals that would give Asian and Coloreds -- but not Blacks -- a limited voice in policy determination.

In the view of observers, the AV comprises disgruntled, frustrated rightwingers, disaffected lower middle class Afrikaners (South Africa's first white settlers, mainly Europeans of Dutch, French and German stock) and Pretoria-based civil servants. All these groups appeared to be represented the night of May 5 when the AV was launched into prominence.

Eugene Terre Blanche, accompanied by a uniformed guard of six young men wearing swastika-like emblems and heavy black boots once favored by the SS, put in an appearance. Terre Blanche, leader of the Afrikanse Weerstandsbeweging, has been quoted as saying that South African Jews would be deprived of political rights under an AV regime. Joining him were the following personalities:

* Jaap Marais, head of the Herstigte Nasionale Party, who is regarded both as an anti-Semite and an anti-Zionist. The party, which publishes a newspaper called *Die Afrikaaner*, has no parliamentary seats.

* Carel Boshoff, a professor, and his wife Anna, daughter of Hendrik Verwoerd, who served as Prime Minister until his assassination in 1966.

* Andries Treurnicht, leader of the 18-seat Conservative Party. His deputy, Ferdie Hartzenberg, has reportedly said that it would be difficult for Jews to serve in a government formed by the CP. (Although Jews here are suspicious of Hartzenberg, they do not think that Treurnicht, a former minister, is anti-Semitic. Thomas Langley, a CP member of Parliament, stated categorically: "We're not anti-Jewish at all. Get it out of your mind.")

Although the AV is shot through with anti-Semitic rabble-rousers, AV's chairman, Carel Boshoff, has stayed clear of the Jewish question so far. The AV, in short, has not adopted a public position on Jews. Yet Jews cannot ignore its existence. A random sampling of Jewish opinion found that Jews are either disturbed by the AV, or confident that its influence will be minimal.

Aubrey Joffe, a Pretoria lawyer, doesn't close his eyes to the AV. "I wouldn't ignore it, but in the context of South African politics, it's a total irrelevancy," he said.

John Moshal, president of the Council of Natal Jewry, in Durban, observed that the formation of the AV might even be a sort of blessing in disguise, because Afrikaners would be forced to take sides and would opt for the middle-of-the-road National Party (which has cordial relations with the Jewish community but once didn't). Chris Moolman, an Afrikaner editor in Port Elizabeth, said that the AV has no appeal for Afrikaners.

If the AV fails to attract the loyalty of Afrikaners, as is generally thought, it will not pose any threat -- real or imagined -- to Jews. In general terms, anti-Semitism is a fairly inconsequential phenomenon in contemporary South Africa, if only because non-whites are usually on the minds of bigoted whites.

"It's safe to say that anti-Semitism has never been an instrument of any South African government," pointed out Michael Katz, the youngish chairman of the Jewish Board of Deputies, the umbrella organization of South African Jewry. Yet, as Katz would probably agree, the Jewish community has not always been so blessed as it is today.

(Tomorrow: Part 2)

AMERICAN CITY IN GALILEE PROPOSED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 23 (JTA) -- The establishment of an American city (Kiryat America) in the Galilee for an initial population of 25,000 American immigrants, with an ultimate goal of 250,000, was proposed by Leon Ilutovich, former executive vice chairman of the Zionist Organization of America. He outlined his idea in an address to the national board of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel (AACI) in Tel Aviv last week.

Ilutovich said he had preliminary discussions about this project with Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, with Haim Aharon, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration and absorption department, and with Irwin Field, chairman of the United Israel Appeal in the United States.

Ilutovich said that a recent survey commissioned by the American Jewish Committee showed that some 17 percent of the 5.5 million American Jews have seriously considered living in Israel. This, he said, was an American aliyah potential of 935,000 people. He suggested that the number of 50,000 to 60,000 Americans and Canadians who have settled in Israel could therefore be increased considerably if an American city was built.

Such a city, Ilutovich suggested, planned and constructed by American architects and builders by American standards, conceived as "a home away from home" could help bridge the gap of social adjustment to Israel.