

ISRAELI EXIT POLLS SHOW DEAD HEAT, BUT LIKUD SAYS IT CAN FORM COALITION

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- The Likud bloc expressed confidence Tuesday night that it could form a new government, while the Labor Party was reported to be depressed and uncertain it could block a Likud move.

The two parties' assessments of the voting Tuesday, which could change once ballots are actually counted, were based on results of exit polls taken at 46 locations in Israel, beginning at 8 p.m. local time, two hours before the official polls closed.

The Knesset configuration predicted by the initial exit polls was 40 seats each for the Labor and Likud, though television projections late in the evening indicated Labor's share could drop by a seat or two.

According to the initial exit polls, Labor can expect to win 11 more seats from parties of the left and center, while Likud can count on seven more from potential coalition partners on the right.

But neither of the two major blocs would be able to command a majority in the 120-member Knesset alone, if the exit polls are accurate.

The stalemate could be broken by the religious parties, which together polled 14 seats. They are considered more likely to align with Likud than with Labor.

A Likud-led coalition of right-wing and all religious parties would command 61 Knesset seats, a slim majority.

The two parties on the far left, the Hadash Communists and the Progressive List for Peace, won 5 and 2 seats respectively, according to the exit polls. Both are considered beyond the political pale, and neither bloc is likely to consider their potential coalition partners.

About 2.8 million voters were eligible to cast ballots at nearly 5,000 polling stations all over Israel.

High Turnout

According to early reports, voter turnout was higher than expected, running close to the 80 percent level of the last elections in 1984.

Dry weather and sunny skies helped bring the voters out. The polling stations opened at 7 a.m. local time and closed at 10 p.m.

More than 7,000 police officers were on special duty around the country to maintain order. They had little work to do.

Minor scuffles were reported, mainly between rival ultra-Orthodox groups. Five religious parties were competing for votes.

Two residents of the Israeli Arab village of Jisr e-Zarka were slightly injured when shots were fired, reportedly in a political quarrel.

In the ultra-Orthodox township of Bnei Brak, the manager of a home for the aged was accused of "borrowing" the identity cards of several elderly residents in order to vote more than once.

A woman in Bnei Brak complained that her ID card was snatched from her hand as she waited in line to vote.

Rival religious factions lit bonfires on the main street of Bnei Brak and hurled invectives at

each other until police arrived to separate them and extinguished the fires.

Some religious parties accused supporters of the Chabad Hasidic movement in Jerusalem of illegal electioneering at the polls.

The Hasidim were urging all males to don tefillin before entering the voting booth. The Chabad movement is strongly backing the Agudat Yisrael party this year, since an anti-Chabad faction broke away to form the rival Degel Hatorah party.

The Central Election Committee, meanwhile, rejected a complaint by Mapam, the United Workers Party of Israel, that balloons with the Likud party name and ballot code letters tethered to some polling stations constituted illegal propaganda.

The Initial Tally

The tally of seats reported by the exit polls adds up to 119, one short of the full Knesset. The breakdown is as follows, starting with the center and left: Labor, 40 seats; Citizens Rights Movement, 6; Mapam, 3; Center-Shinui, 2; Hadash Communists, 5; and Progressive List for Peace, 2.

On the right: Likud, 40 seats; Tehiya, 3; Tsomet, 2; and Moledet, 2.

The religious parties: National Religious Party, 5 seats; Shas, 5; and Agudat Yisrael, 4.

The recently formed moderate religious party Meimad, which seemed promising according to pre-election opinion polls, failed to win a single seat, if the exit polls are correct.

The newly formed Degel Hatorah party, an Agudat Yisrael breakaway, did not win any seats according to the initial exit surveys. But television projections later in the evening showed the party making it into the Knesset with one seat.

The TV projections, based on exit polling and early precinct returns, also showed the religious parties gaining votes, winning as many as 17 seats total in the new Knesset.

No information was available on the fate of the new Arab Democratic Party, a breakaway from Labor led by Knesset member Abdel Wahab Darousha.

The exit poll count was based on votes deposited in unofficial ballot boxes set up at 46 selected polling stations. Voters emerging from the booths were asked to repeat their votes in the dummy ballot boxes.

The exit polling stations were staffed by Israel Broadcast Authority personnel, public opinion pollsters and election analysts.

The dummy ballots were counted and analyzed during the two hours before the polls closed. According to the experts, the votes cast during the final two hours would not change the outcome.

But considerable importance is attached to the soldiers' vote.

Most voted at polling stations in the larger army camps. Portable ballot boxes were taken to remote outposts, where soldiers were allowed to vote in advance of Election Day.

Soldiers in southern Lebanon and the Gaza Strip voted Monday. Their votes were to be counted at the same time as the rest.

Soldiers were required to deposit two envelopes. One contained the ballot of the party of

their choice. Another contained the soldier's name and civilian ID number.

That envelope is checked at Israel Defense Force election headquarters to match the soldier's ID with the military election roles. The ballots were then sent to the soldiers' designated districts to be opened and counted.

ISRAELIS STATIONED ABROAD PROTEST ELECTION RULES

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- More than 100 Israelis employed at diplomatic missions or other institutions here protested angrily Tuesday against the denial of their right to vote.

They did so by staging a mock election that followed to the letter the rules observed by their fellow Israelis who cast ballots at home Tuesday for the 12th Knesset.

Israel has no absentee ballots. Its citizens living abroad, including diplomats, businessmen, journalists, students and tourists, forfeit the right to vote.

The only exception is Israeli seafarers aboard merchant ships far from home, who are allowed to cast ballots in advance which are flown to Israel in time for the counting.

The mock vote here was held at a private home. The expatriates, voting by secret ballot, could choose from any one of the 27 parties running in this year's Knesset elections. The results will be announced here only after the official results are announced in Israel.

The organizers said they want to call attention to the fact that emissaries of Israel serving abroad have been deprived of a basic right of citizenship -- choosing the country's leaders.

THREE INJURED IN FIREBOMB ATTACK IN EAST JERUSALEM

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- An Israeli woman was severely burned and two other people were injured Tuesday in a firebomb attack on their car in the Wadi Joz district of East Jerusalem.

It was the second gasoline bomb assault on an Israeli vehicle since Sunday, when a bus was set on fire outside Jericho in the West Bank.

Rachel Weiss, a schoolteacher from Tiberias, and her three small children died as a result, and five other persons were injured.

That outrage infuriated Israelis, leading to last-minute predictions of victory for the hard-line Likud and parties of the far right in Tuesday's Knesset elections.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, said Tuesday's incident confirmed a rising wave of terrorism against Israel.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who heads the Labor Party, said the attacks Sunday and Tuesday were attempts to intervene in the Israeli electoral process.

They were "not mere words," he said, in a reference to Likud charges that King Hussein of Jordan interfered in the elections when he expressed preference for a Labor victory during an American television interview last month.

The car attacked Tuesday was a Likud campaign vehicle. The woman most seriously injured was taken to the intensive care unit at Shaare Zedek Hospital here. She was identified as Yocheved Ferbisich.

ISRAELI AIR FORCE AGAIN BOMBS TERRORIST TARGETS IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Israeli air force jets bombed two terrorist installations in Lebanon on Tuesday, for the fourth time in two weeks.

The targets were described by a military spokesperson as local headquarters and ammunition dumps of terrorist groups. One was a base near the southern Lebanese port city of Sidon used by Al Fatah, the military arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The other target, in the Damour area south of Beirut, was a base used by a pro-Syrian militia, the spokesman said. He did not elaborate.

The Israeli air force made similar strikes in Lebanon on Oct. 21, 24 and 26, following a sharp escalation in terrorism in the region.

Two weeks ago, a car-bomb attack on an Israeli patrol in the border security zone killed eight Israeli soldiers and wounded seven. Last week, Israeli forces in Lebanon arrested nine terrorists plotting attacks in northern Israel.

Tuesday's raid also came two days after the firebombing of an Israeli passenger bus outside of Jericho. But defense sources have indicated that the perpetrators, who have been apprehended, were acting on their own and did not appear to have connections to terrorist organizations.

ARAFAT REPORTEDLY WILL MEET SOON WITH ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Yasir Arafat will visit Rome in the next few days to meet with Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, according to diplomatic sources quoted in the Italian news media Tuesday.

The sources said the Palestine Liberation Organization chief will discuss possible initiatives to resolve the Palestinian situation, in light of the outcome of Israel's parliamentary elections Tuesday and the American presidential elections Nov. 8.

Andreotti has long played a role in Middle East diplomacy. His expected meeting with Arafat in Tunisia on Oct. 23 did not materialize, because Arafat left suddenly for Aqaba, Jordan, for a meeting with Jordan's King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

Italy supports Palestinian calls for a homeland, but insists on Israel's right to a secure existence. The Italian news media have given extensive coverage to the Israeli election campaign.

Commentators here have made no secret of their preference for Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' Labor Party, which says it is willing to trade territory for peace, over the Likud bloc, headed by Premier Yitzhak Shamir, which vows not to give up land under any circumstances.

Arrigo Levy observed Tuesday in a front-page editorial in *Corriere della Sera* that "40 years after its birth, the Promised Land of peace with its neighbors is still far off for Israel.

"But the promise to conserve land at any cost, which Shamir's party has made to the Israeli people, is nothing more than a golden calf," wrote Levy. It is "a false god which cannot placate the fears or satisfy the anxiety for security of the nation which, more than any other, has undergone tortures and afflictions throughout history."

U.S. MAY ONE DAY LIMIT ENTRY OF JEWS FROM THE SOVIET UNION

JTA Staff Report

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- The United States may one day not be able to accommodate all of the Soviet Jews seeking refuge in America, the Reagan administration's top human rights specialist said here Monday night.

"There may be limits as to the number of Jews allowed to emigrate to the United States, particularly when there is another country of refuge -- Israel," said Richard Schifter, assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs.

Schifter spoke at a dinner honoring Morris Abram, outgoing chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. The dinner was part of the conference's annual leadership assembly, which began here Monday night and runs through Tuesday afternoon.

In remarks devoted chiefly to paying tribute to Abram, the assistant secretary noted that during the course of the chairman's five-year tenure there had been substantial progress in persuading the Soviets to allow more Jews to emigrate.

Noting that the current rate of Jewish emigration is 20 times what it was in January 1987, Schifter said, "The work done over the years under Morris' direction has paid off."

But he said that while the struggle to win freedom for thousands of Jews remaining in the Soviet Union continues, the new challenge is "finding a new home for them."

Saying that the American Jewish community will have to do more to help immigrants adjust to their new lives, including providing better job counseling, Schifter said, "We must reach into our pockets to contribute to this cause."

New Approach To Refugees

The assistant secretary made a similar pitch two weeks ago in an appearance at the annual meeting of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews in Washington. His remarks would appear to signal that the federal government is shifting its approach to refugee relief efforts.

This summer, the U.S. Embassy in Moscow temporarily stopped issuing entry visas for Soviet Jews and other ethnic minorities wishing to immigrate to the United States, saying it had run out of funds earmarked for this purpose.

Rather than immediately ask Congress for additional funding, the Reagan administration began urging private refugee relief organizations to take on more of the burden.

Analysts noted at the time the irony that after pressing the Soviets for years to increase emigration levels, the United States now finds itself in a position of not being able to accommodate all of the newcomers.

Abram did not address this subject in his own remarks, which focused largely on praising the Reagan administration for its strong support for Soviet Jewry and outlining some goals for the future.

The outgoing chairman acknowledged that there had been significant progress since the summit in increasing Jewish emigration.

But he appeared to cast doubts on the significance of reports that the Soviet Union is allowing the opening of various Jewish cultural facilities.

If the Soviets want to demonstrate their

good faith about allowing Jewish culture to flourish in the USSR, Abram said, they should repeal all laws restricting the study of Hebrew and permit synagogues and Jewish institutions to be open whenever the communities desire.

Succeeding Abram at the helm of the National Conference is Shoshana Cardin of Baltimore, past president of the Council of Jewish Federations.

While Cardin is not expected to have the same diplomatic clout in Washington that Abram enjoyed, she commands widespread respect and is likely to bring a new level of energy and spirit to the Soviet Jewry movement.

REFUSENIKS IN MOSCOW DISCUSS THE MOTIVATIONS OF 'NESHIRA'

By David Kantor

MOSCOW, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Two longtime refuseniks offered different reasons why the majority of Jews leaving the Soviet Union prefer to go to the United States rather than to Israel.

According to Yuri Cherniak, who heads a scientific seminar for refuseniks, Soviet Jews fear moving to an "all Jewish society."

But Yuli Kosharovskiy, who first applied for an exit visa 17 years ago, believes it is simply because America offers a more comfortable life.

The "neshira" or dropout rate -- the number of Jews emigrating on Israeli visas who end up settling in other countries -- is running at about 90 percent.

In an attempt to curb the problem, the Israeli government decided last summer to deny visas to Soviet Jews who are not committed to settling in Israel. But the policy has not been implemented yet.

According to Cherniak, Jews born and brought up in the Soviet Union are wary of settling in Israel, because they "can hardly absorb the idea of living in surroundings which are different from what they have experienced here."

"So they prefer to move to the United States, which seems to be, overall, more consistent with their previous experiences in a non-Jewish dominated society," Cherniak said.

Kosharovskiy, however, stressed that "people seek better and more comfortable lives, and the United States has more to offer than Israel. It's just as simple as that," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency during an interview in his Moscow apartment.

'Can't Blame Them'

Kosharovskiy denied that Jews are "cheating" when they accept Israeli visas but settle elsewhere. "They want out and there is no easy way to get out of this country," he said. "The only way available for them is to say they want to go to Israel and to travel on Israeli papers."

"Otherwise, they would be stuck here. You really can't blame them for that," he said.

Kosharovskiy said he favors the idea of direct flights to Israel to reduce the number of "dropouts."

According to recent statistics, more Soviet Jews are applying now for tourist visas to Israel than for immigration visas. "It's encouraging," a diplomat here said.

"When the Soviet tourists come back from Israel, they will tell the truth about what they saw in that country. That is likely to be very different from the horrible picture drawn by the official Soviet media," the diplomat said.

RABBI AND NAZI-HUNTER PROTEST TURKISH MEETING WITH WALDHEIM

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- A New York rabbi and Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld of Paris are in Istanbul this week to protest the planned reception of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim by Turkish President Kenan Evren.

Rabbi Avraham Weiss of New York's Riverdale section, in a telephone call from Istanbul Tuesday to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, said that he and Klarsfeld will try to protest at a dinner reception planned for Wednesday.

Weiss said the two will try beforehand to present Evren with the file on Waldheim compiled by the World Jewish Congress, in an attempt to convince the Turkish leader not to see the Austrian president, who has been implicated in atrocities committed during World War II.

Barring this possibility, Weiss said he and Klarsfeld "will stand vigil as a voice of moral conscience when Evren meets with Waldheim."

Turkey is the first NATO country to receive Waldheim in his capacity as Austrian president. He previously visited Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

Last week, eight of the 13 members of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East sent a telegram to Evren and Prime Minister Turgut Ozal urging them not to meet with Waldheim.

"As members of Congress who value Turkish-U.S. relations, we are appalled and shocked at the news that Kurt Waldheim will be received by you in early November," the lawmakers said.

Waldheim was to stop in Turkey after official visits to Syria and Kuwait. The leader of the Green party faction in the Austrian Parliament demanded last week that Waldheim urge the Syrians to extradite Nazi war criminal Alois Brunner.

FOUR SKINHEADS ARRAIGNED ON ASSAULT, ROBBERY CHARGES

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Four self-described "Skinheads" were arraigned Monday night in New York State Criminal Court by Judge Leona Freedman for having beaten and robbed a New Jersey man while calling out white supremacist slogans.

William Stump of Bayonne, N.J., was violently beaten Saturday night by four tattooed, shaven-head Skinheads dressed in leather, who used their boots to kick the 31-year-old man on the stairs of a subway station of PATH, the transit line connecting New York City to New Jersey.

About 30 persons in the station observed the attack in the Ninth Street PATH station in Manhattan and did nothing. Some have since come forward, according to Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau's office, which pressed the charges.

A spokesperson for the D.A.'s office, Colleen Roche, said that John Himmelstein, 23, and Matthew Andrews, 20, of Philadelphia; Harry Wilson, 17, of Morrisville, Pa.; and John Cook, 22, of Nutley, N.J., were each charged as adults with robbery in the second degree and assault in the second degree.

Stump alleges that the four forcibly stole his wallet, punched and kicked him, causing Stump to suffer broken bones in his face and cuts and

bruises on his body.

One of the Skinheads allegedly approached Stump, who was accompanied by his wife and infant daughter, and called out "Be white. Be right."

Stump told Port Authority police the Skinhead asked if he were German and then gave him a "Sieg Heil" Nazi salute.

Stump alleges that Andrews hit him with a glass bottle, and that all four of them then kicked him in the head with their boots.

A PATH worker who observed the act on the station's video camera alerted police, who ran to the scene and arrested them.

Skinheads have been active in other American cities, but Skinheads in the New York area appear to be young people who dress similarly but do not espouse Nazi rhetoric or violence.

One Skinhead bore a swastika tattoo and another a head tattoo that said "Made in the USA."

EUROPE TO JOIN BOTH GERMANY'S IN KRISTALLNACHT OBSERVANCES

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Western Europe, where Nazism rose to power and left its bloody imprint on human history, is preparing to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the night of Nov. 9-10, 1938, when the first organized pogrom occurred in the Third Reich.

French, Italian, Belgian and Dutch television have programmed special series on the subject. Jewish communities in all the major cities on the continent will gather to recall the official start of the anti-Jewish terror, the historic precursor of the Holocaust.

The most elaborate memorials will take place in the two Germanys: The West German Federal Republic, which since the end of the war has formally atoned for Nazi crimes; and the East German Democratic German Republic, whose Communist regime traditionally has disclaimed responsibility.

It was therefore a break with the past when the East German Parliament scheduled a special commemorative meeting for Nov. 8, to be followed by a mass meeting in the center of East Berlin.

On Nov. 10, the cornerstone of a new synagogue will be laid in East Berlin, at the site of the famous Oranienburgerstrasse synagogue, a Reform temple that was desecrated on Kristallnacht and bombed during the war.

The East German authorities have invited 50 leaders of American Reform Judaism to participate in the ceremony and in other Kristallnacht memorial events.

West Germany has scheduled concerts, theater programs, mass meetings and exhibitions on the subject of Kristallnacht. There will also be television specials, to help remind Germans of the heavy burden of the past they must bear.

The main event will be in Frankfurt, which 50 years ago was the center of the largest Jewish community in pre-war Germany.

Richard von Weizsacker, president of the Federal Republic, and Chancellor Helmut Kohl will attend memorial services at the city's main synagogue.

They will attend the inauguration of a new Jewish museum the following day. Other events will take place in West Berlin, Munich and Bonn, and at the site of the former Dachau concentration camp.