

Israel Vote a Mandate for Peace; Labor Government Is a Possibility

By AL and ED FINDLEY

A clear mandate for immediate peace and decisive repudiation of the pro-war and pro-Russian parties highlight the first national election in Israel.

The Mapai (Labor Party of Israel) campaigning on the issue of "peace or war" in Palestine and "neutrality" between Washington and the Moscow Axis, emerged with a commanding plurality. 152,972 voters, 35.82 per cent of the total, cast their ballot for the Mapai.

The Mapam (United Workers Party) which gave high priority to a pro-Russian orientation and de facto alliance with the "people's democracies" in its election campaign, was a distant second with 63,107 votes or 14.77 per cent.

Mapai with its allied Arab party received close to three times as many votes as the Mapam.

BEIGIN REPUDIATED

Beigin's rifle-waving, ultra nationalist Freedom (Heiruth) Movement, which campaigned for an aggressive war of expansion until all Palestine is conquered by Israel, despite its anti-British, underground prestige and chauvinist appeal was decisively repudiated, even in its traditional urban strongholds such as Jerusalem. It received only 11.5 per cent of the vote, 49,220.

The Irgunists did, however, succeed in taking over the Revisionist-Jabotinsky movement. The rump Revisionist Party which refused to merge with Beigin's party was virtually wiped out, amassing less than 1 per cent of the vote. It is to be noted that the combined Beigin-Revisionist slates had a smaller percentage of the votes than did the United Revisionist ticket in the last Zionist elections.

Despite its small size, Beigin's party represents a continuing threat to Israel's democratic character. Its aggressive expansionist foreign policy and anti-Histadrut activities find enthusiastic support among large sections of the United Religious Bloc, the General Zionists and the communal groupings—Sephardic and Yem-

enite. Given a "crisis" in Arab-Jewish relations and internal discontent, the Freedom Movement's present minority position can serve as a springboard for a new leadership bid, which even if not successful, could endanger the security and freedom of the new state.

ARAB REPRESENTATION

The Arab population will be represented in the Constituent Assembly by either five or six deputies:—two of them CP representatives, 2 from the Arabs of Nazareth—a Stalinist controlled non-party slate, one from the Arab Workers Party—sponsored by the Mapai, and possibly one from the Arab Peoples Party, sponsored by the Mapam. The latter two parties did not obtain the minimum of 3500 votes needed to elect representatives. It is

expected that the Mapai will transfer the 400 votes needed by the Arab Workers Party. Whether the Mapam will be able or willing to transfer 700 votes that its Arab affiliate needs is more problematical.

The CP made out relatively well. Its ticket got 14,999 votes—3.5 per cent. It is estimated that a majority of these, approximately 15,000 votes, came from Arabs. This CP victory grows out of three developments previously analyzed in LABOR ACTION: First, its virtual monopoly in Arab areas during the early days of Israeli victory. Second, the merger of the CP and the Arab League for National Liberation, as a result of which the CP occupied a unique position of being the only well organized political

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Cites Growing Sentiment In UAW for Political

By WALTER JASON

DETROIT—In its symptomatic importance, the tone, atmosphere and political trends revealed at the recent UAW-CIO national educational conference have much weight, for this union remains a most sensitive barometer of advanced working class thinking and political development in America.

Although this conference lacked the formal authority of a union gathering, such as a national convention, nevertheless its surprising character—and its response to political questions was surprising to everyone from Walter Reuther down to the ACTU people there—is bound to have an important effect on the coming July convention of the UAW-CIO.

For all politically-wise circles in Detroit are talking about this con-

man's victory can serve to bring us up to date and provide us with a sound vantage point to view the period ahead.

Right after November 3, Gus Scholle, Michigan CIO president, kissed all third party movements goodbye, and prepared for a long and comfortable stay in the Democratic Party. Certainly this was popular among the ranks, and perhaps no one was more surprised than Scholle when he was privately called down by Reuther et al. for making himself the spokesman for the UAW-CIO. After all, even before November 3, the Reuther political sharpshooters knew that Governor G. Mennen Williams was not going to be their boy, and it would be a mistake to put all their eggs in one basket.

As a matter of fact, this fear of

Results of Israel Elections Are a Mandate for Peace - -

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formation with both Jews and Arabs on its ticket. Third, the aid given the Arab Stalinists by the Mapam financed and sponsored Arab groupings in Israel. As a result of the Minister of Labor Bentov's (Mapam) generosity, Arab Stalinists had control of Arab employment in the Nazareth area through their administration of the government labor exchanges.

Only by the relatively late entry of Mapai and Mapam, financed and sponsored Arab groupings, were the Stalinists prevented from capturing the entire Arab vote. As it is, they will speak through more than half of the Arabs sitting in the Constituent Assembly.

MAPAM'S POOR SHOWING

The poor showing of the Mapam, despite the prestige of its Palmach commandos and strong Kibbutz (collective farm) bases, reflects the unwillingness of the Israeli masses to accept the Mapam legend that Stalinism and Socialism are identical.

The Mapam lost votes because it made its pro-Russian orientation a main issue in the election campaign. Were it not for the fact that it had a virtual monopoly of education and political agitation in many isolated communal settlements it might not have nosed out the United Religious Bloc to become the second largest party. The Mapam also tail-ended Russian policy in Palestine in opposing current negotiated peace efforts with Abdullah. As a result, the war-weary masses of Israel lumped the Mapam with the pro-war parties who favor continuation of the Palestine war.

This "defeat" of the Mapam should serve as a lesson to all sincere militants in the Mapam that pro-Stalinism will lead progressively to Mapam's isolation and destruction. Pro-Stalinism can hardly be a salable commodity among Israel's masses originating from Eastern Europe.

DICKER ON GOVERNMENT

Dickering about the composition of the new government began as soon as the early returns trickled in. Four variants were proposed. (1) An all labor government based on the Mapai-Mapam, Arab Workers Party and Arab Peoples Party majority; (2) a broad, national coalition similar to that of the provisional government, modified to more accurately reflect the new relationship of forces; (3) a coalition of the Mapai, the United Religious Bloc, Progressive Party and Communal Groups, excluding the Heiruth and Mapam, and (4) a Mapai-Mapam-CP government. The last was called for by the Mapam and the CP.

However, the decision appear to rest with the Mapai. It is in a pivotal position. It appears to be able to decide whether it wants to bloc with the bourgeois center or with the Mapam. The Mapai elements who favor a labor government would be immeasurably strengthened if the Mapam didn't make the adoption of a pro-Russian orientation a cardinal demand. Unless the Mapam loses some of its reactionary, suicidal infatuation with Stalinist Russia, the reformist class collaborationists in the Mapai will find it easy to swing the Mapai into a bourgeois-labor coalition. Unfortunately, this is the more probable variant.

The Mapai may, however, be able to wring sufficient foreign policy concessions from the Mapam to make a labor government a feasible project. Domestic policy differences are relatively surmountable. Even if the acquiescence of the entire Mapam could not be obtained, the Mapai could split that party and effect a new realignment of the socialist movement in Israel.

An independent labor government, free of entanglements with Moscow or Washington-London, is the type of government that seems best able to assure the peace, security and progressive character of the new Israeli state.

Summary of Israel Vote

	Votes	Pct.	Deputies
Mapai (reformist)	152,972	35.82	43
Mapam (centrist, pro-Stalinist)	63,107	14.77	18
Arab Workers (Mapai sponsored)	3,173	0+	1
Arab Peoples (Mapam sponsored)	2,794	0+	1(?)
Clerical			
United Religious Bloc (analogous to Christian Socialists of Italy)	52,633	12.35	15
Religious Women	2,782	0+	0
Bourgeois			
Progressive ("New Deal" moderates)	17,680	4.14	5
General Zionists (conservatives)	22,524	5.27	7
WIZO (liberal feminists)	4,700	1+	1
Greenbaum List	2,488	0+	0
Ultra-Nationalist			
Heiruth (Irgunist)	49,220	11.52	14
Fighters (Sternist)	5,299	1.24	1
Revisionists	2,844	0+	0
Stalinist			
Communist Party	14,999	3.50	4
Arabs of Nazareth (Stalinist dominated, non-party)	7,387	1.72	2
Communal Groupings			
Sephardim	15,017	3.51	5
Yemenites	4,639	1+	1

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