

NSC BRIEFING

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3 AUGUST 1955

ISRAELI ELECTION SIGNIFICANCE

I. Major surprise of 26 July parliamentary elections was gain registered by extremists.

A. Gains most striking on far right, where Herut (Freedom) party has doubled strength, become Israel's number 2 political force (6½% in '51: 13.1% of popular vote now).

1. Herut is descendant of wartime terrorists--Irgun and Stern gang; demands expansion Israel's territory.

B. ~~White~~ extremists on left also made gains, but not as great.

1. Achdut Haavoda (Unity of Labor)--8½%.
2. Mapam (United Labor Party)--7%.
3. In '51, they ran together and got total 12½%.

DOCUMENT NO. 9
 CHANGE IN CLASS.
 DECLASSIFIED
 CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
 EXT. REVIEW DATE: 1/2/88
 AUTH: HR 70-2
 DATE: 1/2/88
 REVIEWER:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1

25X1

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4. Communists neither gained nor lost--4% of vote.

C. Big loser was General Zionist party-- moderate middle class with many ties in US (dropped from 16% to 11%).

II. Mapai (Workers' Party), governing party since 48, still stayed on top, but dropped 5% to total 32% of popular vote.

A. Mapai, as top party, will form backbone of new coalition government.

B. Party leader, David Ben-Gurion (who held both prime minister's and defense minister's portfolios 1948-1953), will presumably lead new government.



C. Ben-Gurion's problems increased both by fact that Mapai now weaker than in last six years and by losses suffered by General Zionists (Mapai's principal partner in former coalitions).

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X6

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied