

WEIZMAN WANTS NEW POLITICAL PARTY

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Former Defense Minister Ezer Weizman said in a television interview that he is considering establishing a new political party which should be headed by former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. Weizman's remarks came just two days after he and Dayan voted against the government of Premier Menachem Begin on a no-confidence motion in the Knesset, the first time they had done so since leaving the Cabinet. Weizman insisted his new movement would not be a collection of loosely tied dissenters such as those who formed Yigael Yadin's Democratic Movement for Change which proceeded to disintegrate after an impressive electoral showing in 1977.

It would be, he said, a real alternative to the Labor Alignment and Likud. Weizman said Dayan is the political figure best suited to be Israel's next Premier. He said the former Foreign Minister is a man of outstanding personal achievements and great vision, who is better accepted in the world at large and in the Arab world than any other Israeli.

Weizman dined with Dayan the evening before his announcement. But Dayan said when he left the Cabinet in October, 1979, that he would serve out his term as an independent MK and not seek re-election.

In the interview Weizman defended his open support for President Carter in the recent U.S. election campaign for which he

was angrily criticized in Israel and censured by the Cabinet. "For four years the (U.S.) aid to Israel was not curtailed. He (Carter) touched nothing and when peace negotiations had to be held it was he who invited Israel and Egypt to Camp David. And after Israel sits on the White House lawn, Israeli leaders incite American Jews against Carter," Weizman said. He said he was sure the Reagan Administration would understand that

he backed Carter as a friend, "because of his contributions to Israel."

With respect to Begin, Weizman said, "I am on good relations with 118 members of the Knesset. I am the 119th. The one missing is Begin. I am sorry for that. If Begin heads the Likud in the next elections it would be a mistake. I am not going with him." This last observation was settled for Weizman when, after a five-hour discussion the Herut Secretariate voted 12 - 1 with two abstentions to oust him from the party. Weizman was urged to vacate his Knesset seat but he refused to do so. During his 85-minute speech to the Secretariate, Weizman almost succeeded in convincing some members that he acted properly when he voted against the government.

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NAZI CHARGES DROPPED BY FEDS

WASH. (WNS) -- The Justice Department announced that it would seek a retrial of alleged Nazi war criminal Frank Walus after a federal appeals court reversed a lower court order to revoke his U.S. citizenship. Walus, 58, of Chicago, was found guilty by a U.S. District Court in Illinois of having concealed his Nazi activities when he applied for citizenship.

During a four week non-jury trial in 1978, testimony by 12 witnesses, including six from Israel and the rest from Czestochowa and Kielce in Poland identified Walus as a member of the Gestapo who committed acts of violence against Jews and others in those towns during World War II.

Walus, who is German-born but lived in Poland since the age of 10, contended that the Nazis had pressed him into service as a farm worker when they invaded Poland in 1939 and that he spent

the war years near Ulm, Germany, about 1000 miles from the scene of his alleged crimes.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, which had granted Walus' appeal for a new trial last February, reversed the district court order on grounds that documentary evidence discovered in Bavaria and corroborated by six witnesses, confirmed that Walus spent the war in Germany.

Allan Ryan, Jr., chief of the Justice Department's Office of

Special Investigations, said, in a joint statement with U.S. Attorney Thomas Sullivan of Chicago that "The striking absence of corroborating evidence and indeed the undeniable weight of evidence tending to indicate that Walus spent the war years as a farm worker in Germany compels the conclusion that we could not responsibly go forward with the retrial."

Ryan said the government would recompense Walus for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in his defense but not for his attorney fees.

BEGIN BACKS AMBASSADOR

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Ephraim Evron, Israel's Ambassador to Washington, was warmly praised by Premier Menachem Begin at a cabinet meeting in the wake of rumors that Evron will be replaced. Evron has been criticized in some quarters here for being too deeply identified with the Carter Administration and for not having forged links with President-elect Ronald Reagan and his advisors.

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