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FIRST SESSION OF ISRAELI CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WILL OPEN IN JERUSALEM FEBRUARY 14

TEL AVIV, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- The first session of the Israeli Constituent Assembly which was elected in Tuesday's national elections will open in Jerusalem February 14, it was learned here tonight. The opening session will last four or five days, after which the body will move to Tel Aviv where the remodeling of a large building for housing the Assembly is nearing completion.

The first session will be opened by Provisional President Chaim Weizmann, after which the Assembly's president and three vice-presidents will be elected by the members of the body from among the four leading parties--Mapai, Religious Bloc, Mapam and Heruth. The first session will also decide whether the President of the state of Israel shall be elected by the Assembly or by some other means. When the President is chosen, the present Cabinet will resign and the President will ask the leader of the leading party to form a new government.

Among other problems facing the first session is the transition of the Provisional State Council to the Assembly. The Council's last session will be held ceremoniously on February 19.

CONFERENCE OF BENELUX MINISTERS DISCUSSES RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL; DECISION IMMINENT

LONDON, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministers of the Benelux nations today began discussing the question of recognition of the Israeli Government, it was learned here. An announcement of their decision is expected some time this week-end.

The British Cabinet this morning discussed the implications of last night's vote in Commons on Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin's Palestine policy, which received a meager 283-193 vote of confidence. The general view here is that Prime Minister Clement R. Attlee will make every effort to retain Bevin in the Cabinet.

Some observers here point out that at the beginning of World War II Neville Chamberlain was forced to resign as Prime Minister when his government achieved only an 81-vote majority on a vote of confidence. The Labor Party's majority yesterday was 90, in a House which it dominates overwhelmingly.

Consultation with the British Dominions on recognition continues, it was reported today. One dispatch from Canberra, Australia, stated that Prime Minister John B. Chifley said that Australian recognition of the Jewish state has been postponed pending talks with other Empire governments.

Yesterday's vote followed a defense of that policy by Prime Minister Clement R. Attlee who insisted that Britain did not advise the Arabs to attempt the conquest of Palestine. In fact, Attlee asserted, the process of handing over the government administration to the local population was carried out most smoothly in the Jewish areas. Defending Bevin against charges that his Palestine policy was actuated by a dislike for the Jews, the Prime Minister declared: "He has many good friends among the Jews."

ISRAELI COALITION GOVERNMENT WILL NOT INCLUDE MAPAM AND HERUTH, MAPAI LEADERS PREDICT

TEL AVIV, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- The new Israeli Government will be a wide coalition government though the Mapam and the Heruth will probably not be included, Mapai leaders stated today following a study of the count of about two-thirds of the votes which gave the Labor Party a clear lead with 34.4 percent of the votes.

It is not yet known whether the General Zionists, who received 5.7 percent of the ballots, will join the coalition, but it is almost certain that the Religious bloc, which placed second with 13.6 percent, and the Progressives with over 4 percent, will join the government. This will guarantee a continuation of the present foreign policy.

Hador, the Mapai evening newspaper, last night predicted the following distribution of seats in the 120-member Constituent Assembly: Mapai, 43; Religious Bloc, 18; Mapam, 17; Heruth (sponsored by the former Irgun Zvai Leumi), 10 or 11; General Zionists, 8; Progressives, 7; Sephardim, 5; Communists, 3; Wizo, 2; and Fighters (formerly the Stern Group), 1. In addition two Arabs will be added to the Mapai delegation. Since the Sephardim are almost certain to join forces with the General Zionists, Hador said, the latter will move into fourth place, ahead of Heruth.

FRENCH CONSUL CONFERS WITH SHERTOK IN TEL AVIV; FRANCO-ISRAELI ECONOMIC TIES INDICATED

TEL AVIV, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- French Consul-General Rene Neuville met today with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok for the first time since the announcement of French de facto recognition of Israel. They discussed a number of questions concerning French-Israeli relations.

It was learned here today that even prior to the granting of recognition, the French Government displayed special interest in the economic possibilities which Israel offers to French investors. The French consul in Tel Aviv indicated that a number of business firms in his country are interested in making capital investments in the Jewish state.

A group of French businessmen is expected to arrive here next month to explore the possibilities of selling French finished goods, it was learned here. Some barter agreements have already been concluded between Israeli and French firms providing for the exchange of Israeli products for French silk thread and bicycles.

BRITAIN WILL NOT HALT JEWS FROM MIGRATING TO ISRAEL FROM TERRITORY UNDER ITS CONTROL

LONDON, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- Britain will permit Jews in its zone of Germany, in Tripoli and in other territories under its control to migrate to Israel regardless of whether they are of military age or not, Under-Secretary Christopher Mayhew today announced in Commons.

He declared that following the decision to release the Cyprus Jews, the British Government also decided to apply the same policy to all other areas under British control. Asked if this meant that the Jews would be allowed to go free, Mayhew answered: "Yes."

Harold Wilson, president of the Board of Trade, today declared that the British Government was well aware of the prospects of trade with Israel and was considering the matter in the light of the current situation. He replied to a questioner who urged that Britain not overlook the Israeli markets and permit the United States to get ahead of Britain in this matter.

BRITAIN FIGHTS IRO RESOLUTION TO REPAY TRANSPORTATION OF DP'S TRANSFERRED TO ISRAEL

GENEVA, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- Britain today refused to agree to an International Refugee Organization proposal to transfer unlimited numbers of Jewish DP's and refugees from Europe to Palestine, Reuters reported.

C.J. Edmonds, British delegate on the nine-nation I.R.O. executive committee which is meeting in closed session here, was said to have demanded some guarantee that Jewish immigrants to Israel would not take over the land and homes of Arabs who fled Israel.

He also opposed a resolution approved by the other eight members of the body to authorize the I.R.O. to repay transportation costs for the thousands of refugees who have already been transferred from Europe to Israel by private Jewish relief organizations. The committee abandoned further debate, held in secret at Britain's request, to allow the French delegation to draft a compromise resolution which it hoped would gain Britain's support. A final decision is expected tomorrow. (For earlier report see Page 4.)

ISRAELI ARMISTICE DELEGATION RETURNS TO RHODES WITH NEW INSTRUCTIONS

RHODES, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- Reaven Shiloah, Israeli delegate to the armistice talks here, returned today from Tel Aviv with fresh instructions as the Israeli-Egyptian conference prepared to resume work this afternoon.

The conference still faced the unsolved difficulty of delineation of armistice lines. With Shiloah was Lt. Col. Yitzak Rabin, Israeli military expert.

BUNCHE INVITES U.N. CONCILIATION COMMISSION TO COME TO RHODES FOR CONSULTATIONS

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- The United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine was invited today by U.N. acting mediator Dr. Ralph J. Bunche to visit Rhodes where Israeli-Egyptian armistice negotiations are currently taking place. Dr. Bunche emphasized in his invitation that the opportunity to consult with the Commission members "would be useful to me and to the negotiations."

Meanwhile, the Security Council today assumed formal authority over the work of the conciliation body after receiving formal notification from U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie of the commission's formation by the General Assembly.

A dispatch from Tel Aviv said today that Husseyid C. Yaltchin, Turkish member of the Commission, and two political advisors, arrived there today en route to Jerusalem. The French member of the Commission has been in Jerusalem for several days while Mark Etridge, the American representative, is scheduled to leave for Palestine tomorrow.

CHILE RECOGNIZES ISRAEL "IN PRINCIPLE"; NOTIFIES ISRAEL REPRESENTATIVE IN SANTIAGO

SANTIAGO, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- The Chilean Government has decided to recognize Israel "in principle," Foreign Minister German Riesco, today told Samuel Goren, Israeli representative here.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT BUDGET OF \$20,000,000 FOR JANUARY-MARCH APPROVED BY STATE COUNCIL

TEL AVIV, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- The Israeli Government's budget for the first three months of 1949 was approved today by the State Council. The sum totals \$19,340,000.

TRUMAN DECLINES TO COMMENT ON QUESTION OF GRANTING DE JURE RECOGNITION TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- President Truman declined to comment on questions raised at his news conference today about possible United States recognition of both Israel and Transjordan.

State Department press officer Michael J. McDermott said there was no Department comment on reports that the Administration would soon begin a study of the possibilities of extending Marshall Plan aid to Israel. "I cannot say anything on that," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

(The New York Times reported today from Washington that the President is expected to grant de jure recognition to Israel tomorrow or Saturday. The newspaper also said that the United States, as the next step in its friendly policy to Israel, is expected to consider the possibility of extending Marshall Plan aid to the Jewish state.)

ISRAELI ENVOY TO RUMANIA RECEIVED BY PREMIER; GROZA VOICES FRIENDSHIP FOR ISRAEL

BUCHAREST, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- Israeli Minister to Rumania Reuven Rubin was received here today by Prime Minister Petre Groza. The Rumanian Premier told Rubin that "Israel enjoys the sincere friendship and strong support of all peace-loving peoples who fought vigorously to liberate themselves from the claws of exploitation and prejudice."

GREECE TO SEEK GUIDANCE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES BEFORE DECIDING POLICY ON ISRAEL

ATHENS, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- Greek diplomatic quarters revealed today that before Greece determines its own attitude to Israel, the government will seek "clarification" from other countries regarding their relations with the Jewish state and will also consult with them on current Palestine developments. The opening of an Israeli consulate here was officially authorized this week by the Greek Government.

BRITAIN PREVENTS REPAYMENT OF FUNDS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF JEWISH DP'S TO ISRAEL

GENEVA, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- Britain is preventing the International Refugee Organization from reimbursing funds to Jewish relief organizations which they advanced for transportation of an estimated 70,000 Jewish DP's from Europe to Israel, it was learned here last night.

William H. Tuck, director-general of I.R.O., revealed that he is prepared to spend up to \$4,000,000--provided in the I.R.O. budget for transportation of DP's to new homes--to reimburse the Jewish organizations, unless a majority of the I.R.O.'s executive committee, which is now meeting here, objects. The executive committee approved the director-general's action in moving some 2,700 refugees, including hundreds of Jews, out of Shanghai.

FIRST CYPRUS CAMP CLOSED; DP'S PRESENT GOLDEN KEYS TO OFFICIALS TO "CLOSE CAMPS FOREVER"

FAMAGUSTA, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- The closing down of the first of the Cyprus internment camps was celebrated here today by Israel-bound immigrants who have been interned on this island by the British Government. Golden keys were presented by the refugees to Rabbi M. Schreiber of the Jewish Agency and Morris Laub of the Joint Distribution Committee "to close the gates of the Cyprus concentration camps forever."

The second transport of Cyprus detainees to sail for Israel left last night aboard the S.S. Galila. More than 1,500 refugees are aboard, including several women expected to give birth before the ship reaches Haifa.

2,000 DP'S IN AUSTRIA REFUSE TO EVACUATE CAMP; ASK EARLY MIGRATION TO ISRAEL

VIENNA, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- Some 2,000 displaced Jews at the Bindermichl camp, near Linz, today rejected a U.S. Army demand that they evacuate the camp, reportedly to make room for dependents of military personnel.

The Jews refuse to move to any other camp until their status in relation to immigration to Israel is clarified. They are concerned over the military authorities' demand for a complete and hasty evacuation of the camp. Instead, they ask that it be cleared by degrees.

Meanwhile, Jewish organizations here are of the opinion that the speedy transfer of Jewish DP's depends on a change in the present military government regulations, which prevent the leaving of displaced Jews of military age. Such a change, the Jewish organizations point out, would permit some 5,000 DP's to leave Austria by the end of April. Harold Tröbe, Joint Distribution Committee director for Austria, suggested that the 3,000 Jews who remain after that time--those who are too ill to move and those who choose to immigrate to places other than Israel--could be housed in two large camps in the U.S. zone.

WARSAW COURT SETS PRECEDENT BY IMPRISONING A POLE FOR PUBLICLY INSULTING A JEW

WARSAW, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- Miroslav Klizner, a Pole, was today sentenced to three years imprisonment for publicly insulting a Jew. The sentence was passed by a Warsaw district court in the first such action in the recent history of Poland.

The Court's decision stressed that the sentence was severe because at this time a man who incited one part of the Polish people against another was a threat to the recovery of the entire nation.

U.S. CONGRESSMAN SUBMITS BILL TO SET UP IMMIGRATION QUOTA FOR ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27. (JTA) -- Establishment of an immigration quota for Israel was called for today by Rep. Kenneth B. Keating of New York, in remarks in the House.

Rep. Keating introduced a bill calling upon the U.S. to set up such a quota, and added the hope "that de jure recognition by our country will shortly follow, now that the new state has clearly demonstrated her capabilities of self-government."

Keating suggested that a "token quota" that was set up for "the British Mandate of Palestine with Transjordan," established by Presidential proclamation in 1938, be used to establish the Israeli quota. In this way, he said, the total number of immigrants admissible to this country would not be raised.

President Truman today sent draft legislation to the Senate to authorize an appropriation for a special contribution by the United States to the United Nations Fund for the Care of Refugees in Palestine. In a message in October the President said he would ask Congress to provide up to \$16,000,000 for this purpose.

DR. STEPHEN WISE HONORED AT 75TH BIRTHDAY DINNER; PREDICTS STRONGER AMERICAN JUDAISM

LAWRENCE, N.Y., Jan. 27. (JTA) -- Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, was honored here tonight at a dinner marking his 75th birthday. He told the gathering that a stronger and more vital American Judaism will flourish in the future. The speakers included Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and Dr. Nelson Glueck, president of Hebrew Union College--Jewish Institute of Religion, under whose auspices the dinner was arranged.

