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BEN GURION REJECTS MAPAM CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN COALITION GOVERNMENT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- "So far our road has been independent of outside influences and will remain so, therefore no conditions or guarantees concerning the formation of a coalition government are acceptable to the Mapai," Premier David Ben Gurion last night declared at a Labor Party conference here. The statement was interpreted as a reply to conditions demanded by the left-wing Mapam for participation in a coalition government.

The Mapam central committee demanded a written guarantee of a minimum foreign and domestic program from a Mapai-led coalition government. The foreign policy demands were: 1. Complete political and economic independence of any international bloc; 2. Opposition to reduction in the size of the Jewish state; 3. Opposition to the granting of bases in Israel to foreign powers; and 4. Opposition to accepting any aid under the Marshall Plan.

The internal policy demanded by the Mapam was: 1. Exploitation of the country's natural resources; 2. Termination of all foreign monopolistic concessions; 3. Placing the chief taxation burden on property owners; 4. Concentration of foreign trade in the hands of the state; 5. Imposition of price control; 6. Reduction of the profits of manufacturers; and, 7. Guarantee of the right to strike and rejection of all proposals for compulsory labor arbitration.

Ben Gurion also attacked the right-wing Irgun-sponsored Heruth, in his speech to the party which was called in preparation for the Feb. 15 elections in the Histadrut. He criticized "those who would impose a rule of capital." The Premier also called for the cultivation of large waste areas in Israel and stated that the present generation is in a position to realize the national dream--the gathering in of the tribes and the creation in the Jewish state of conditions for the fulfillment of both Zionism and socialism. However, this fulfillment is impossible without the participation of the Jews of the rest of the world, he declared.

Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok, who attacked the Mapam for what he called its attempts to split the labor movement, expressed the belief that the next period in the history of Israel will be devoted to the pursuit of peace, although he refused to rule out the possibility of a resumption of fighting. He called for the establishment of pioneer reserves among the Jews of U.S., Latin America and other countries.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT CONFIRMS SALE OF 1,000,000 DUNAMS OF LAND TO JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Abraham Hartsfeld, agricultural expert of the Jewish National Fund, disclosed here today that the J.N.F. has received a letter from the Israeli Government, confirming the sale of 1,000,000 dunams (250,000 acres) to the J.N.F.

The enclosed bill-of-sale itemized the inclusion of 600,000 dunams in Galilee, parts of the corridor leading to Jerusalem and the area between Beersheba and Gaza. The remaining 400,000 dunams are in the Negev. A third of the money to be received by the government of Israel from the J.N.F. for the land will be spent on the establishment of new settlements.

2/7/49

ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN DELEGATIONS AT RHODES ARMISTICE PARLEY REPORTEDLY REACH "WORKING BASIS"

LONDON, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Israeli and Egyptian delegates at the Rhodes armistice negotiations today reached a "working basis" for the demarcation of armistice lines in the Negev, Reuters today reported from Rhodes.

The military members of both delegations met today for a second time in two days under the chairmanship of American Brig. Gen. William Riley, U.N. chief of staff in Palestine. This development is accepted in informed circles at Rhodes to mean that the discussions have now entered a technical stage.

Yesterday, Reuters reported that both Syria and Lebanon had accepted acting U.N. mediator Dr. Ralph J. Bunche's invitation to join the Rhodes parley, on condition that the Jews evacuate the territory they hold in Lebanon. Today, however, it carried a report from Damascus to the effect that Khaled el Azom, Syrian Premier, had denied that his government had accepted the invitation.

MEMBERS OF UNITED NATIONS PALESTINE CONCILIATION COMMISSION BEGIN INSPECTION TOURS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- The three members of the U.N. Palestine Conciliation Commission today began the practical aspect of their assignment when Mark Ethridge, U.S. member went to Tel Aviv, and Claude de Boissanger of France and Hussein Yalchin of Turkey went to Jericho to inspect Arab refugee camps there. A report from Tel Aviv said that Ethridge had lunched with American representative James G. MacDonald and then returned to Jerusalem.

A report on the Ramallah radio, controlled by Transjordan, stated that the Commission members would shortly embark on a five or six-week tour of Middle East capitals. After that, the broadcaster said, they would go to Geneva to write their report to the Security Council.

Yesterday, de Boissanger told newsmen that the Commission must submit its report no later than September, 1949, but may complete its work earlier. He pointed out that the Commission's terms of reference are so wide that it may actually arrive at any solution, provided it meets with agreement by both the Arabs and the Jews.

He stated that it was his opinion that the problem of Jerusalem would be the most difficult for the Commission to solve. (Reports published in the New York press today stated that the Commission was considering a protest to the Israeli Government against the abolition of the military administration in Jerusalem. It was stated that the Commission members felt that the Israeli action represented a step toward the annexation of the city, thus threatening the establishment of an international regime in Jerusalem.)

STERNISTS IN ACRE PRISON GO ON HUNGER STRIKE; LAST INTERVIEW GROUP DUE TO LEAVE CYPRUS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6 (JTA) -- A number of Stern Group members imprisoned in the Acre jail today went on a hunger strike. They refused to speak with Judge M. Dunkelblum, chairman of the detainees' appeals committee, and demanded their immediate release or trial.

The Israeli steamship Atzmauth (Independence) was due in the Cyprus harbor of Famagusta today to pick up the last remaining group of Jewish refugees interned on the island. Yesterday, some 2,100 men, women and children were disembarked in readiness to permit the vessel to turn around and head for Cyprus.

900 SHANGHAI JEWISH REFUGEES ON FINAL LEG OF JOURNEY TO ISRAEL; AT SEA SIX WEEKS

ROME, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Over 900 Jewish refugees enroute to Israel from Shanghai today left Naples aboard the Israeli vessel S.S. Negba on the final leg of their journey to the Jewish state. A second group of Shanghai refugees is expected to arrive at Naples within a week.

The refugees, who were at sea for six weeks before being transferred to the Negba, complained about the bad food and inadequate sanitation facilities aboard the S.S. Wooster Victory which brought them to Naples. Two deaths and two births occurred aboard the Wooster Victory during the long voyage around the Cape of Good Hope.

WEST MIDDLE EAST AID PROGRAM BEING CONSIDERED BY CONGRESSMEN; MAY REACH \$1,000,000,000

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Legislation is now being drafted that, if passed, might give up to a billion dollars worth of American economic assistance to Israel and the Arab states of the Middle East, it was learned over the week-end.

A group of House members including Rep. Abraham J. Multer, will probably join in sponsoring the proposed bill for which Administration support may be sought. The American aid proposed in the bill would very likely be earmarked for such development projects as a Tigris-Euphrates Valley Authority and a Jordan River Valley Authority. Other projects in the Negev and the Nile Valley might also be considered under the plan.

Eliahu Epstein, Israeli special representative to the United States, conferred with Secretary of State Dean Acheson this week-end for more than half an hour. The State Department later said that Epstein had come at the request of Secretary Acheson, but would not disclose the nature of the discussion.

The Department had no comment on a report that the United States and Israel had agreed to exchange ambassadors and maintain embassies rather than legations in their respective countries. Authoritative sources have disclosed, however, that the U.S. action last Monday in granting de jure recognition to Israel will mean an exchange of ambassadors.

NORWAY GRANTS DE FACTO RECOGNITION TO ISRAEL; INFORMS SHERTOK OF DECISION

OSLO, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- De facto recognition of Israel was announced here over the week-end by the Norwegian Foreign Office. Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok was informed of the decision by a cable from the Norwegian Foreign Office.

ARGENTINA RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL EXPECTED TODAY; I.O.A. DELEGATION RECEIVED BY PERON

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Recognition of Israel by Argentina is expected soon, it was indicated this week-end. It may be announced tomorrow, a delegation from the Organizacion Israelita Argentina stated after being received by President Juan Peron. The President, members of the delegation said, had informed them that Argentina had decided to recognize Israel.

BRITAIN NAMES ALEXANDER KNOX HELM, MINISTER TO HUNGARY, AS ITS REPRESENTATIVE TO TEL AVIV

LONDON, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- The British Foreign Office today announced that Alexander Knox Helm, Great Britain's Minister to Hungary, has been appointed the United Kingdom's representative to Tel Aviv. Pending the arrival of Helm, Cyril Marchant, British consul-general in Haifa, will continue to represent Britain in Israel.

2/7/49

JEWISH DP CAMPS IN EUROPE WILL BE CLOSED BY JUNE 1950, HABER PREDICTS IN REPORT TO ARMY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Most of the Jewish displaced persons camps in Europe can be closed by June 30, 1949, barring "unforeseen events" in Israel or elsewhere, Dr. William Haber, retiring adviser on Jewish affairs to the United States Army in Germany, said in a report to Army Secretary Kenneth C. Royall released today. Dr. Haber made the prediction in a final report on his work in Europe from January, 1948 to January, 1949.

Jewish displaced persons have been leaving the U.S. zones of Germany and Austria at the rate of 4,000 to 5,000 a month, Dr. Haber said. With the expected progress in the American displaced persons program, especially if liberalizing amendments to the law are adopted, he said, a substantial number of Jewish DP's will be eligible for admission to the United States. In addition, he said, the Israeli Government has tentative plans to remove all Jewish displaced persons in Germany and Austria who wish to go to Israel by September of this year.

Resettlement is the only real solution to the problem of Jewish displaced persons, Dr. Haber said, reporting that "the past year represents a period that has shown the greatest advance in the solution of the Jewish displaced persons problem since the end of the war." During that time, he said, approximately 37,600 Jewish DP's were resettled from the American zone in Germany and about 9,000 from the U.S. zone in Austria. At the end of last year, he said, approximately 75,000 Jewish displaced persons remained in the U.S. zone of Germany and about 9,700 in the U.S. zone of Austria.

Dr. Haber praised the role of the Army in the care of the Jewish DP's. U.S. Army officials and their staffs, he said, had generally "followed a pattern which has raised the dignity of the people and has given them a feeling of security." Friction which once existed between the Jewish DP's and the Army because of the seemingly static nature of the problem has been eliminated now that the mass movement of the DP's out of the occupation zones appears to be in full swing, he stated. He particularly praised the Army for assisting in the movement of Jewish DP's to Israel and criticized the International Refugee Organization for its failure in this respect.

Warns: Anti-Semitism Still Deeply Rooted in Germany

Dr. Haber warned that "anti-Semitism is still deeply rooted in Germany. It manifests itself in many ways," he said. "In the desecration of cemeteries, in provocative articles in the press, in publicly holding the Jewish displaced persons exclusively responsible for the black market, in occasional blood libel rumors, and in the obvious public antagonism against the Jews with whom the Germans come in contact." Germans themselves admit that anti-Jewish acts, especially against Jewish DP's, might occur if the occupation authorities left, he said, and most of the young people of the German Jewish community "have definite intentions of quitting their country."

Dr. Haber declared that he thought it would be "a crucial error" for U.S. authorities to yield to German pressure to bring the Jewish displaced persons under the control of German police, ostensibly for better law enforcement. "Although the Jewish displaced persons problem is in its liquidation phase," he said, "the time has not yet come when the Jewish displaced persons can be safely transferred to the jurisdiction of the German authorities."

Dr. Haber said that a law providing for the restitution of identifiable property, confiscated by the Nazis from racial, religious and political persecutees, was operating in the American zone, but that none existed in the British zone and the one in the French zone was inadequate because it did not make any provision for the transfer of real estate property to a successor organization.

\$1,000,000 RAISED FOR HISTADRUT AT LABOR PARLEY; 3,000 DELEGATES ATTEND CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- One million dollars was raised here for the Histadrut today at an emergency conference sponsored by the National Committee for Labor Palestine. The 3,000 delegates from 325 cities in the U.S. and Canada also pledged themselves to raise an additional \$1,500,000 within the next two weeks.

Aubrey S. Eban, Israeli representative to the United Nations, and chief speaker at the parley, revealed that the Jewish state would renew its application for admission to the U.N. in time to have it considered by the General Assembly which meets at Lake Success late in April. He pointed out that the present membership of the Security Council, which must first pass on the application, includes nine states which have recognized Israel.

He stated that in spite of Israel's achievements thus far, many problems have yet to be settled. These, he listed as settlement of boundaries, clarification of Israel's relation to the United Nations, peace negotiations, and demobilization of Israel's armed forces.

Berl Locker, chairman of the Jerusalem section of the Jewish Agency, another speaker at the conference, said that Israel is today the greatest force in the Middle East. "Hundreds of thousands of Jews from Europe and the Moslem lands are anxiously waiting their turn to go to Israel, where they are offered a chance to begin life anew without the persecution they have known for so many years," he said. "The workers of Israel are heartened by the immigration, for every Jew who enters Israel strengthens our ranks and fortifies us in our work for the development of Israel."

Gershon Agronsky, special Histadrut envoy to the U.S. and Canada, asserted that despite Britain's recognition of Israel, Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin and his "group" will do their utmost to try to restrict Israel by proposing a reduction in Jewish territory to please Bevin's "loyal Arabs and satellites." Charles S. Zimmerman, vice-president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, who recently returned from a special mission to Israel, hailed the work of the Histadrut.

The conference passed resolutions praising President Truman for granting de jure recognition to the state of Israel, and congratulating Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion upon the Mapai victory in the recent Israeli elections. United States Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin hailed the work of the Histadrut in a special message to the conference.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY STUDENTS APPEAL FOR INCREASED AID FROM ISRAELI GOVERNMENT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Six hundred students of the Hebrew University today appealed to the Israeli Government, the Jewish Agency and Jews throughout the world to increase their efforts in behalf of the University "in view of the new responsibilities of the University which have resulted from the creation of the state of Israel."

The appeal was made at a rally at which Communications Minister David Remez spoke. University students in the armed forces urged that they be released in view of the present need for the training of scientific workers, but emphasized that they are ready to fight again if that becomes necessary.

Remez called for an amalgamation of manual and scientific labor as the basis for the Jewish state. Daniel Auster, Mayor of Jerusalem and Sir Leon Simon, chairman of the executive council of the University, greeted the new rector, Dr. Simcha Assaf, a member of the Israeli Supreme Court, who outlined the University's plans for opening a medical school in the Spring and a law school in Autumn.

HIAS ADOPTS \$5,000,000 BUDGET FOR 1949; LARGEST IN ORGANIZATION'S 64-YEAR HISTORY

NEW YORK, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society has adopted a budget of \$5,005,000 for 1949, the largest in the organization's 64-year history, it was announced here today by Samuel A. Talsky, president of HIAS.

The sum of \$3,950,000 has been earmarked for overseas expenditures, including \$425,000 which will be used in Latin America. Samuel Goldstein, treasurer, revealed that HIAS raised over \$2,361,000 last year and spent \$2,405,000 leaving a \$44,000 deficit.

POPE PITS XII RECEIVES NOTED-ISRAELI ARCHAEOLOGIST; PRAISES HIS DISCOVERIES

ROME, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Professor E. Sukenik, noted Hebrew University archaeologist, was received by Pope Pius XII yesterday in a special audience. The Pope congratulated Prof. Sukenik on his recent archaeological discoveries.

Earlier, Prof. Sukenik, was received by various Vatican officials. Under the auspices of the Israeli consulate, the American Embassy and the American Academy, Prof. Sukenik also presented a lecture on ancient Hebrew texts, dating to the pre-Christian era, which he unearthed recently.

A national conference of the Italian Zionist Congress opened in Milan today. Present at the parley are Arie Stern, Israeli consul in Italy; Dr. Rafaseli Cantoni, chairman of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities; and Chief Rabbi David Prato of Rome.

U.S. MUST GUARANTEE CIVIL LIBERTIES, TRUMAN TELLS NATIONAL CITIZENS CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- President Truman this week-end told the National Citizens Conference on Civil Liberties, which will open a two-day national conference here soon, that America "must provide a solid foundation for the future growth of our country" by guaranteeing civil rights to all its people.

"Of great importance to the present and future generations of America is the development of a program of civil liberties guaranteeing to all people the heritage of freedom which we have received from the founders of this nation," the President said in a letter to the chairman of the conference, E. Raymond Wilson. "A free system can endure only when there is freedom of opinion, expression, and conscience," Truman said.

WARBURG, AT J.D.C. REGIONAL PARLEY, CALLS FOR UNITY IN AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Feb. 6. (JTA) -- The need for unity in American Jewish life to assure success of the 1949 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal was underscored here today by Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, in a speech prepared for delivery at the third annual meeting of J.D.C.'s South East Region.

"The tensions and differences of opinion which exist in the American Jewish community today should not be permitted to interfere with the opportunity to finish the jobs we have undertaken in Europe and Israel," the J.D.C. chairman said, in a speech read for him by Benjamin B. Goldman, J.D.C. assistant secretary. Warburg declared that the J.D.C. would need \$70,000,000 on 1949. More than 300 persons from nine southern states attended the conference.

DR. STEPHEN S. WISE GETS LAWYERS SOCIETY AWARD OF MERIT FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

CHICAGO, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Dr. Stephen S. Wise was this week-end named recipient of the 1948 award of merit by the Decalogue Society of Lawyers. The award was made to Dr. Wise for "his distinguished service to the nation during the past year."

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