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JERUSALEM JEWS DECORATE STREETS; PREPARE JOYOUS WELCOME FOR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

JERUSALEM, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Spirits were high among Jews in Jerusalem today as they decorated their streets in preparation for a joyous welcome to the members of the Constituent Assembly which will open its first session here on Monday.

Windows in all the buildings on the main streets will be draped with flowers and Israeli flags and processions of children and adults have been arranged for Monday. Special theatre performances, concerts and other entertainments will mark the evenings during the period of the Assembly's session here.

Renovation of the hall in which the opening session will take place was completed today. The hall will accommodate 500 persons. In addition to the 120 members of the Assembly, the opening session will be attended by members of the diplomatic and consular corps, heads of municipalities and local councils, defeated candidates for Assembly seats, prominent guests and 40 newspapermen.

The Assembly hall has been decorated with portraits of Theodor Herzl, as well as the Israeli flag and the newly-adopted official emblem. A special platform for the Presidium and members of the Provisional Cabinet has also been erected. President Chaim Weizmann will open the session with a 30-minute address. The opening session is not expected to last longer than two hours. Eulogies for the victims of Nazi extermination and for Israeli troops who fell during the war will be delivered at the session.

Invitations to attend the session have already been accepted by Soviet Minister to Israel Pavel Yershov as well as by the Polish, Cuban, Danish, Norwegian and Spanish consuls. However, the U.S., British, French, Dutch and Belgian consuls have not yet replied to the invitations and are presumably awaiting instructions from their governments. According to high Israeli circles, they are apparently concerned that they may prejudice the question of Jerusalem's internationalization by attending the Assembly session here. The French are particularly insistent on this point and have persuaded the others to adopt a "wait and see" attitude.

Israel did not invite members of the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission to attend the Assembly session in order to spare them what might be a difficult decision. The Commission members are expected to leave for Jericho today from where they will continue to Cairo.

U.S. APPOINTS McDONALD AS AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL; SHERTOK WELCOMES APPOINTMENT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- James G. McDonald, U.S. special representative to Israel, has been appointed American Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for Israel, it was officially announced here today. He becomes the first foreign representative of ambassadorial rank accredited to the Jewish state.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok welcomed the appointment as a "new, important landmark in the evolution of friendly and cordial relations between Israel and the United States."

ISRAELI PREMIER REPORTS TO STATE COUNCIL ON ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion, addressing the final session of the State Council of the Provisional Government of Israel late last night, reviewed the achievements of that body since its inception last May 14 when the state of Israel was proclaimed.

The Israeli Premier, who heads the list of 46 Mapai candidates elected to the Israeli Constituent Assembly which opens in Jerusalem on Monday, stated that to date 38 countries had granted recognition to Israel; 145,000 immigrants reached the Jewish state since May 14; 32 new settlements were established; and democratic elections were held. "The name of Israel rose throughout the world," Ben Gurion declared, "and every Jew everywhere is proud of it."

In connection with the general amnesty for political prisoners approved by the State Council, it was revealed that of 54 persons now serving sentences imposed by civil courts, all but four will be freed under terms of the amnesty. Of 32 persons serving sentences meted out by military courts, 29 will be released, while of 83 persons now awaiting trial, 15 will not be released.

RHODES TALKS IN FINAL STAGE; ISRAELI DELEGATION MEMBERS IN TEL AVIV FOR CONSULTATIONS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- The Rhodes armistice negotiations have reached their final stage, it was indicated here today as Yigal Yadin, Israeli Army chief of operations, and six civilian and military members of the Israeli delegation to the peace parley arrived for urgent consultation with members of the government.

(Reuters reported from Rhodes today that Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, acting U.N. mediator for Palestine, who is presiding over the armistice talks, has warned both delegations that their "uncompromising attitude is jeopardizing chances of agreement." Dr. Bunche was described as "impatient and discouraged" over the fact that so little had been accomplished in over a month of negotiations.)

A group of Bedouins who volunteered for service in the Israeli armed forces today arrived at an Army camp in northern Israel, it was announced. The newcomers, who came from the Negev, were immediately outfitted and assigned to a "minority unit" where they will serve with Palestine Druzes and Circassians.

Four thousand Jews arrived in Haifa today from Bulgaria. They were immediately disembarked and started off to reception centers.

SPLIT IN COMMUNIST PARTY IN ISRAEL; "FORMER PRO-ZIONIST" MEMBERS MAY BE EXPELLED

TEL AVIV, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Eliezer Preminger, Communist leader who was elected to the Israeli Constituent Assembly on the Communist Party ticket, may be expelled from the Party on charges that he is a "former pro-Zionist" and is maintaining contact with a movement which is "inimical to the workers movement."

A statement to this effect was issued here today by the Communist Party. The statement said that the expulsion of Preminger and other "former pro-Zionists" and "adventurists" is now being considered by the Israeli Communist Party.

ICELAND EXTENDS DE FACTO RECOGNITION TO ISRAEL; BECOMES 39TH COUNTRY TO ACT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Iceland today extended de facto recognition to Israel. Icelandic Foreign Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, in a cable to the Israeli Government, informed Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok of his government's decision. Iceland is the 39th country to recognize the Jewish state.

SOVIET MILITARY ORGAN SEES STRATEGIC MOTIVES IN EXPORT-IMPORT BANK LOAN TO ISRAEL

MOSCOW, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Red Star, official daily paper of the Soviet Union, today published an article stating that the \$100,000,000 loan to Israel by the U.S. Export-Import Bank and the American Government's de jure recognition of Israel and Transjordan are nothing but part of a deal reached between British and American monopolists "to work 'behind the back of the United Nations' with a view towards creating an anti-Soviet Near Eastern bloc and 'convert the Middle East into a military base for Anglo-American imperialism.'"

An analysis of potential conflicts in the Middle East is given in a new pamphlet by the Soviet historian, V.B. Lutski, published here under the title "English and American Imperialism in the Near East." The author sees Palestine as the most important link in Anglo-American plans to use the Middle East as "a springboard to attack the Soviet Union." The United States "has strengthened its ties with Jewish bourgeois nationalists" in order to convert the Jewish part of Palestine into an American springboard for penetration elsewhere in the Middle East, the author says.

Declaring that the United States is gaining the upper hand in the "imperialist control" of the Middle East, and that Britain is playing second fiddle, the Soviet author does not encourage the view that a lasting peace can be expected in the Middle East immediately. Similar views are expressed also in the Soviet press.

WEIZMANN INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES PLAN FOR CASTOR OIL CONVERSION AND DESALTING OF WATER

TEL AVIV, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- The manufacture of plastics from castor oil and the desalting of water in huge quantities are two of the many important achievements revolutionizing industry and agriculture throughout the world which have been developed by scientists at the Weizmann Institute of Science, it was revealed today.

The desalting process will permit the use of vast quantities of subterranean water and make available for farming huge areas of the Negev, Meyer W. Weisgal, executive director of the American Friends of the Weizmann Institute, and David Bergmann, its scientific director, told a press conference at Rehovoth. They also declared that the cultivation of castor trees on large tracts of land in the Negev and the conversion of the oil into plastics will give employment to thousands of Israelis.

They revealed that a plant has been established near Rehovoth to convert the oil into plastics and that a company has been capitalized at \$3,000,000 in the United States to exploit the products of the castor bean. In addition, Weisgal and Bergmann said, organizations in the U.S. and France had sent technicians to assist in the production of various products ranging from nylon stockings to electrical insulators.

Israeli capital is also interested in the project, they said. The chairman of the plastics corporation will be an American industrialist, Harold Goldenberg of Minneapolis. National Plastics Company of Baltimore and Concern Organice of Paris are already making use of the Institute's plastics. Three million dollars has been invested in the Institute itself, Weisgal and Bergmann revealed, adding that its annual budget for the maintenance of the plant and staff, including 200 scientists, is \$2,000,000.

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF YOUTH ALIYAH MARKED IN ISRAEL; "SZOLD CENTER" ESTABLISHED

TEL AVIV, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- The 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Youth Aliyah was marked in Israel today by the dedication of the "Henrietta Szold" reception center for immigrant children in Israel. Mrs. Vera Weizmann, wife of the Israeli President, officially opened the center. Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog and U.S. envoy to Israel James G. McDonald addressed the gathering attending the dedication ceremonies. The center is located in the Jezreel Valley near the Alonim settlement.

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PRODUCER OF NAZI ANTI-SEMITIC FILMS WILL FACE TRIAL IN BRITISH SECTION OF GERMANY

HAMBURG, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Veit Harlan, producer of the anti-Semitic Nazi movies, "Jew Sues" and "The Eternal Jew," will be tried here next month on charges of having aided in the program to exterminate European Jewry, Reuters reported here today.

The British news agency also reported today that two top Nazis--Christian Mueller, former commandant of the Winterberg district in Cologne, and his aide, Hans Mohr--were acquitted by a British military court on charges of murdering inmates of a concentration camp located near Cologne. The charges were dismissed on the basis of insufficient evidence.

FIVE DEFENDANTS IN MOROCCO POGROM TRIAL WITHDRAW THEIR CONFESSIONS OF GUILT

CASABLANCA, Morocco, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Five defendants in the mass trial before a military tribunal here of 86 persons accused of participating in last year's pogroms at Oudjda and Djerada repudiated today their confessions of murdering the Oudjda postmaster, M. Amoros, which they said were obtained under duress, and attempted to establish alibis for themselves. They became involved, however, in a web of contradictions.

Two witnesses said they saw the five accused men beating the victim. Other defendants accused of murdering two Jewish victims similarly denied their guilt and alleged their confessions had been extorted. They asserted that witnesses against them were biased.

One of the accused admitted hitting a 70-year-old Jew with a cudgel. The description of the murder of the elderly victim made a deep impression on the courtroom.

882 SHANGHAI JEWS EN ROUTE TO ISRAEL REFUSED PERMISSION TO DISEMBARK IN ITALY

ROME, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- A group of 882 Jewish displaced persons being moved from Shanghai to Israel were prohibited today from disembarking in Italy.

The immigrants, part of a contingent of Shanghai refugees being evacuated from the Chinese city to Israel, were transhipped at the port of Naples from their vessel, the S.S. Casablanca, to the S.S. Caserta, on which they will complete the last leg of their journey to the Jewish state.

HOUSE GETS BILL ASKING QUOTA FOR ADMISSION OF ISRAELI CITIZENS TO UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Senator Warren G. Magnuson, of Washington, today proposed a bill to establish a temporary immigration quota for Israel. He suggested that 100 Israeli citizens be allowed to enter the United States annually. Rep. Kenneth B. Keating, of New York, introduced a similar House measure last week.

Rep. Emanuel Celler, New York Democrat and head of the House Judiciary Committee, which handles immigration matters, wrote to President Truman last week pointing out that setting up an immigration quota for Israel was a matter of Presidential proclamation. He suggested that the President set up the statutory minimum quota of 100 for both Israel and Transjordan. The United States granted both countries de jure recognition on January 31.

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U.S. GOVERNMENT IS ASKED TO CONSIDER THREE-POINT PROGRAM OF AID TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Emphasizing that the recently-announced \$100,000,000 loan to Israel by the Export-Import Bank will not substantially help the immediate absorption of 250,000 immigrants expected to enter Israel during 1949, Dr. Israel Goldstein, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, today estimated that it will cost approximately \$400,000,000 to absorb these newcomers.

"It is clear that additional funds will have to be found besides those which private philanthropy can provide," he said, prior to his departure for London en route to Israel. He urged that the U.S. Government and Congress give consideration to the following possibilities:

1. Inclusion of Israel in the American program of economic aid to the Middle East, "in which Israel is the most dynamic factor";
2. American influence upon the International Refugee Organization--to which the United States is the largest contributor--to allocate more substantial subsidies for the resettlement of Jewish refugees in Israel;
3. A special government grant to the Jewish Agency or the Government of Israel in lieu of the expenditures for the DP camps now being emptied through immigration to Israel.

U.S. JEWISH COMMUNITIES SEND DELEGATION TO EUROPE AND ISRAEL TO SURVEY NEEDS

NEW YORK, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- A 35-member delegation of Jewish leaders from major cities in all parts of the country will depart from New York by air on Feb. 21 for a three-week survey tour of the operations of United Jewish Appeal agencies in Europe and Israel, during which they will study the movement of large masses of homeless Jews from Europe to the Jewish state.

William Rosenwald, Herman L. Weisman and Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, national chairmen of the \$250,000,000 United Jewish Appeal, said today that the delegation will include representatives from the Jewish communities of New York, Passaic, N.J., Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Rochester, Baltimore, Kansas City, Dallas and other cities.

The group, each member of which is travelling at his own expense, will make its first stop in Paris where the work conducted by the Joint Distribution Committee will be surveyed. The delegation will then proceed to Marseilles to inspect the network of transient camps for Jews awaiting transportation to Israel. The delegates will spend 12 days in Israel itself.

EXTRAORDINARY ZIONIST CONFERENCE OPENS TODAY; WILL DISCUSS INTERNAL ZIONIST SITUATION

NEW YORK, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Heads of over 700 districts of the Zionist Organization of America throughout the country, together with members of the Z.O.A. national executive committee and national administrative council, will meet on Sunday in an all-day extraordinary national conference at the Astor Hotel, to discuss the internal situation in the Zionist movement.

The conference will also discuss the implementation of the future program of the Zionist Organization of America, as well as plans for the "promotion of the maximum mobilization of American Jewish resources for Israel's upbuilding" and to "arouse American Jewish activity for the strengthening of cultural ties with the Jewish state."

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD EXPECTS TO SPEND \$1,491,955 FOR ITS SERVICES IN 1949

NEW YORK, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- The services which the National Jewish Welfare Board is called upon to render in 1949 to American Jewish communities, to Jewish community centers and to Jewish personnel of the armed forces and hospitalized veterans will cost \$1,491,955, it was reported today by the organization, which is the national association of 321 Jewish community centers and YM-YWHA's, and is accredited by the government to meet the religious, morale and welfare needs of Jews in uniform and veterans hospitals.

The budget for services and programs for its affiliated Jewish centers, and the cultural agencies which the J.W.B. sponsors accounts for almost half the total budget in 1949. This will provide program and administrative guidance for Jewish centers and for groups in communities where there are no centers, and to "conduct those projects which are helping to build an indigenous American Jewish culture."

For service to Jews in the armed forces and in veterans hospitals, the JWB's programs include activities for GI's here and overseas. The Jewish Welfare Board, through its Division of Religious Activities, recruits and endorses Jewish chaplains for the armed forces and Veterans Administration, and through its corps of 191 full and part-time chaplains covers more than 400 military installations and hospitals.

NATIONWIDE JEWISH MUSIC FESTIVAL OPENS WITH "SALUTE TO ISRAEL DAY"; TO LAST FULL MONTH

NEW YORK, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- A nationwide Jewish Music Festival will start tomorrow throughout the United States and will continue until March 15, it was announced today by the National Jewish Music Council, sponsored by the National Jewish Welfare Board. More than 1,000 Jewish community centers, synagogues, Jewish schools and other Jewish organizations will participate in the observance of the Festival which will open with a musical "Salute to Israel Day."

This is the fifth anniversary of the Festival and will be marked by symphonic, chamber and chamber concerts, lectures, exhibits, contests and radio programs. The Council has issued a wide variety of program aids including illustrated lectures, recordings, mats, posters, and articles for those planning programs. In a letter addressed to Mrs. Frank Cohen, Council chairman, Eliahu Epstein, Israeli representative to the U.S., said that "the staging of hundreds of concerts of Palestinian music by Jewish and even non-Jewish bodies is bound to give a powerful emotional lift not merely to the participants in your country but to my fellow citizens in Israel."

RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY WILL BE OBSERVED TODAY BY MANY CHURCHES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

NEW YORK, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Race Relations Sunday will be observed on Sunday throughout the country in all churches affiliated with the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America. A call issued by the Council urges Christians in the United States "to take the lead in correcting racial injustices." A special message adopted by the executive committee of the Council will be read from many pulpits, and mass meetings, pulpit exchanges and other pertinent programs will take place in numerous cities and towns.

MEMORIAL SERVICES HELD FOR DR. HYMAN; EULOGIES DELIVERED BY WARBURG, LEHMAN

NEW YORK, Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Memorial services were held today in Freedom House for the late Dr. Joseph C. Hyman, former executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, who died in Los Angeles last Tuesday. Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the J.D.C., and former Governor Herbert H. Lehman, vice-chairman, eulogized the late J.D.C. leader. Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein, a member of J.D.C.'s administration committee, conducted the services. More than 300 friends and associates of Dr. Hyman attended.