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106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.ISRAELI CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OPENS TODAY IN JERUSALEM; WEIZMANN WILL DELIVER ADDRESS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The first session of the newly-elected Israeli Constituent Assembly will open here tomorrow at 3:30 P.M., local time, when the 120 members elected to the Assembly and all invited guests enter the specially-prepared hall here where the session will take place. Provisional President Dr. Chaim Weizmann and members of the Cabinet will arrive in the hall at 3:45 and will take the salute from an honor guard composed of units of the Israeli Army and police force. Batikvah will be played by a combined army-police band at this point.

At precisely 4 o'clock, Dr. Weizmann and the Cabinet will occupy their seats and the Assembly's secretary, Moshe Rosette, will approach Dr. Weizmann's table and strike it three times with a gavel, after which the Israeli President will rise to address the Assembly for 15 minutes.

Dr. Weizmann, after concluding his address, will call upon the Israeli Government's secretary-general, Zeev Scharf, to read the oath of allegiance to the state of Israel. The oath will then be translated into Arabic and each member of the Assembly will be called to rise and recite the oath. At this point, the doyen of the largest party in Israel will be asked to propose the name of the speaker of the Assembly. It has not yet been decided whether voting for the speaker will be conducted by secret ballot.

After the speaker is chosen, he will address the Assembly briefly, after which the session will be adjourned until Tuesday. It is generally believed that the speaker of the Assembly will be Joseph Sprinzak, chairman of the Provisional State Council.

At present there are four candidates for the Israeli Presidency--Dr. Weizmann, Rabbi Meir Berlin, Prof. Joseph Klausner and S. Eisenstadt. Weizmann's only serious opponent is Rabbi Berlin, world Mizrahi leader, who is expected to be supported by the Religious Bloc, the Heruth and, to a certain extent, the General Zionists. Prof. Klausner was nominated by the Heruth and Eisenstadt by the Communists.

The method for choosing the Israeli President--whether by a two-thirds or simple majority--is expected to be decided tonight. Balloting for the Presidency will take place on Thursday. Rabbi Berlin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that he has not yet decided whether he will run for the Presidency, but promised to reveal his decision on Wednesday.

ELECTIONS TO CHOOSE NEW HISTADRUT ADMINISTRATION HELD THROUGHOUT ISRAEL; 170,000 VOTE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Elections to choose a new administration for the Histadrut were held here today throughout Israel, but results of the balloting are not expected to be known until next week-end. Candidates are running on five tickets--Mapai, Mapam, Haoved Hadati, Haoved Hazioni and Communist. Nearly 170,000 votes were expected to be cast before nightfall.

MORDECAI ELIAH APPOINTED ISRAELI ENVOY TO UNITED KINGDOM; LIBERIA RECOGNIZES ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Mordecai Eliah, legal counsellor to the Jewish National Council, has been appointed Israeli representative to the United Kingdom, it was officially announced here today. Eliah was born in the Ukraine 57 years ago and studied at Oxford University.

The Government of Liberia has extended de facto recognition to Israel, it was announced here over the week-end.

Colin Crowe, formerly economic advisor to the British Embassy in Paris, has been appointed first secretary to the British Legation in Tel Aviv, it was announced here today.

LIBERIA EXTENDS DE FACTO RECOGNITION TO ISRAEL; IS REPORTEDLY CONCERNED OVER JERUSALEM

LONDON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The Government of Eire has granted Israel de facto recognition, it was announced here today. Earlier, I.J. Linton, acting Israeli representative here, conferred with the Eire High Commissioner in London and discussed problems of mutual interest.

It is known that Eire is anxious about the question of Jerusalem's future status and would like to see the problem of the Holy City solved to the satisfaction of Catholic opinion.

ISRAELI CONSUL IN ROME RECEIVED BY ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER; VOICES FRIENDSHIP FOR ITALY

ROME, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Israeli consul-general Arish Oren was received here over the week-end by Foreign Minister Count Carlo Sforza. Oren voiced the Israeli Government's friendship for Italy and transmitted to Sforza Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok's personal greetings.

ISRAELI ENVOY TO SCANDINAVIA WILL SOON TAKE UP POST IN STOCKHOLM; TRADE FACTS DISCUSSED

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Israeli envoy to Scandinavia Dr. Richard Wolfberg will soon take up his position at Stockholm, it was learned here today. Meanwhile, the Israeli trade representative, Mr. Guelfat, arrived here recently from Helsinki where he negotiated the preliminaries of a Finnish-Israeli commercial agreement.

Similar negotiations are taking place with the Danish Government and private Danish companies. Guelfat said that Israel was already a good customer of Finland, Sweden and Denmark, and wants to increase the exchange of goods.

In Denmark many firms are interested in export to Israel and at present the Israeli-Danish trade balance is unfavorable for Israel. Israel buys Danish poultry, eggs and cheese and in future will want Danish fish which at present it receives mainly from Norway. Israel is also interested in Danish cement, machinery and tools.

In Sweden, Israel wants to buy wooden crates, prefabricated wooden houses, electrical material and machinery and offers to sell in exchange textiles, aromatic oils from citrus fruits and other by-products. It is hoped later to send potash products from the Jewish state. Scandinavian industry, particularly in Sweden, is interested in the products of the Israeli diamond industry.

Trade with the Scandinavian countries is handled mostly by a Swedish shipping line, although the Danes are now beginning to compete.

ROMANIAN JEWS CROWD ISRAELI LEGATION IN BUCHAREST TO APPLY FOR VISAS TO JEWISH STATE

BUCHAREST, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Following a report that the Israeli Legation was assuming the registration of applicants for emigration, thousands of Rumanian Jews this week-end jammed the street facing the building while applications were handed in by the baskets-full.

Legation officials said that no registration was planned and that the report must have been spread by unidentified sources. Saturday afternoon, when the Legation was closed for the Sabbath, several hundred more applicants turned up. They threw their appeals over the gate and waited until the legation porter picked them up. Normally the Bucharest legation receives several hundred visa applications daily but only a few from passport-holders can be processed.

I.R.O. TO REPAY J.D.C. \$2,000,000 FOR TRANSFER OF JEWISH DP'S TO ISRAEL SINCE LAST MAY

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The International Refugee Organization will remit immediately \$2,000,000 to the Joint Distribution Committee in repayment for the transfer of eligible displaced persons to Israel since May 18, 1949, the New York Times reported from Geneva today. At the same time, the I.R.O. released figures showing the rapid emptying of Jewish refugees from camps in recent months, largely as a result of resettlement in Israel.

Announcing the payment to the J.D.C., William H. Tuck, I.R.O. director-general, stated: "The I.R.O. is happy that it is again in a position to participate in the resettlement of Jewish displaced persons to Israel. We have been aware that the position was forced to adopt during the fighting in Palestine had prevented us from fulfilling our obligations and desire to send those who suffered most heavily under Nazism to the haven they have long desired." The executive committee of the I.R.O. recently authorized the resumption of I.R.O. financial aid to resettlement in Israel.

GUARDED TRAIN TO BRING 489 ISRAEL-BOUND SHANGHAI DP'S FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO ELLIS ISLAND

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- A guarded train carrying 489 Israel-bound displaced persons from Shanghai will arrive in New York from San Francisco on Feb. 27, and the migrants will be detained at Ellis Island until March 2, when they will board a ship for Italy, it was announced today by HIAS.

The DP's will arrive in San Francisco aboard the I.R.O. ship, S.S. General Gorlon, on Feb. 21. Because they lack U.S. visas, they will be transferred to the East coast in cars which they will not be permitted to leave until they reach New York. However, HIAS officials in San Francisco have arranged with immigration officials and the President Lines for American friends and relatives of the migrants to board the General Gorlon from noon to midnight on Feb. 21.

The Southern Pacific Railroad will give the U.S. Government a \$500 bond for each of the transmigrants, guaranteeing that the refugees will be delivered to officials at Ellis Island. HIAS and railroad officials have worked out a menu for all meals to be served aboard the special train during the five-day trip. At Ellis Island the future Israeli citizens will be given special kosher foods prepared in the HIAS kitchen.

JOINT PALESTINE APPEAL IN BRITAIN LAUNCHES \$12,000,000 DRIVE TO AID MIGRATION TO ISRAEL

LONDON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- An emergency campaign to raise \$12,000,000 to help finance the immigration of 250,000 Jews to Israel was launched here today at a national conference called by the Joint Palestine Appeal.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS PLANS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NUMEROUS MEDIUM-SIZED TOWNS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Plans for erecting numerous medium-sized towns of 50,000-60,000 population throughout Israel have been accepted by the government and will be put into effect, it was announced here last night. The author of the plans is Anthony Solov, an American town planning expert, who is in this country at the invitation of the Ministry of Labor and Reconstruction.

The government announcement to the press emphasized that within the next decade the population of Israel is expected to increase to somewhere between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000. Such an increase carries with it the danger of excessive density of population in some areas and must be prevented by decentralization, according to town planners.

Abraham Sharon, director-general of the Ministry of Labor, revealed that the town planning scheme provides for the sectioning of the country into ten districts, in accordance with geographical divisions. Each area will have its own administrative, industrial and commercial center, he added.

ISRAELI AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS MAY NEGOTIATE COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT NEXT MONTH

LONDON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- An Anglo-Israeli trade agreement will be negotiated next month, it was reported here today. According to the report, Israel will ship citrus products to Britain in exchange for machinery and textiles.

Three points which must be ironed out before a final agreement is reached are: 1. Israel's entry into the Sterling area; 2. Ninety million pounds blocked in Palestine balances in London; and 3. The Haifa oil refineries.

WEIZMANN TO LEAVE ISRAEL FOR U.S. APRIL 8; TO STOP OFF IN PARIS ON WESTWARD FLIGHT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- President Weizmann will fly to the United States April 8 to attend a dinner in New York April 23 sponsored by the American Friends of the Weizmann Institute of Science at which President Truman will also be present, it was announced over the week-end.

On his westward flight, Dr. Weizmann will stop off at Paris for several days and will arrive in the U.S. April 12. He will rest during the Passover holidays and will attend only two functions before his return to Israel in time to celebrate the first anniversary of the establishment of Israel, May 14. On that day he will also participate in the official opening of the Weizmann Institute.

ISRAEL IS STUDYING ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ARAB STATES WHICH WILL FOLLOW FINAL PEACE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The Israeli Government is giving considerable thought to the question of economic relations with the Arab states which will be established following the final conclusion of peace treaties, a government spokesman said here. Israel, he stated, is not now interested in a customs union with her Arab neighbors because of the sharp differences in living standards--and consequently in wages and prices--between the Jewish state and the Arab countries.

ISRAEL REJECTS VISA APPLICATION OF SYDNEY STANLEY, KEY FIGURE IN BRITISH GOVT. INQUIRY

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- An Israeli Government spokesman confirmed today that the application of Sydney Stanley--key figure in the recent investigation into alleged corruption in British Government circles--for admission to the Jewish state has been rejected by the Israeli consulate in London. He gave no reasons for the action.

Z.O.A. EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE ADOPTS RESOLUTION VOICING CONFIDENCE IN ADMINISTRATION

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- More than 1,000 leading members of the Zionist Organization of America, meeting here today in an all-day extraordinary national conference, unanimously adopted a resolution expressing confidence in the "administration headed by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Dr. Emanuel Neumann."

The resolution noted that the "conference heard the reports rendered by the national administration on recent developments in our movement in its various aspects, including fund-raising, and having reviewed these developments and the position taken by the administration with regard to the problems which have arisen, affecting the status and future of the movement, hereby expresses its full confidence in the administration." The resolution added: "The conference voices its approval of the position taken by its responsible officers and spokesmen and the policies they have pursued. We declare that the Zionist Organization of America in its overwhelming majority stands firmly united behind its democratically-elected leadership whose historic services to the cause of Zionism and Israel reborn will be forever enshrined in the history of our people."

Other resolutions adopted at the parley hailed the "historic convening in the ancient, eternal city of Jerusalem" of the first Constituent Assembly of Israel; "noted with satisfaction" the success of the Food for Israel campaign; and urged all Z.O.A. members to "redouble their efforts towards increasing our ranks" to continue to provide unstinting financial support for the United Jewish Appeal and for the many vital projects of the organization."

Dr. Silver declared in a statement released at the conference that the Z.O.A. is a "democratically-elected body, within which there is room for differences of opinion and points of view. This present administration, elected at the last Zionist convention, can be changed, if the Zionists so desire, at the next Zionist convention. In the meantime, a minority cannot act as if it were the majority, nor can the Z.O.A. be captured by the expenditure of a quarter of a million dollars by the opposition. The place to agitate for a change in the administration is not in the public press."

Dr. Neumann asserted in a statement: "I deeply regret that the opposition has again displayed lack of responsibility by indulging in another broadside given to the press at the very time when the national conference was in session and when prominent spokesmen for the opposition were expected to present their point of view, and were, in fact, given full opportunity to speak and availed themselves of it. We had hoped to avoid further recriminations in the press and had taken precautions to avoid it. The conference after a full discussion has adopted a resolution of confidence in my administration by an overwhelming majority. That's the best answer to the opposition. I let it go at that."

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRESSIVE ZIONISM ADOPTS FIVE-POINT RESOLUTION HITTING Z.O.A. LEADERS

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Severe criticism of the present Zionist Organization of America leadership was voiced today at a meeting of the Committee for Progressive Zionism, opposition group within the Z.O.A., which met here at the same time that the Z.O.A. held its extraordinary national conference. A resolution was adopted at the parley which "noted with regret" the following five points:

"1. The antagonism of the present Z.O.A. administration toward suggestions made by lay individuals and groups; 2. The closing of the pages of the New Palestine toward any opinions offered for print that happen to be contrary to the individual wishes and ideas of the national leadership; 3. The intervention of the Z.O.A. leadership into political affairs within Israel and the subsequent support of a political party within that country; 4. The lack of contact between Z.O.A. leaders with the present administration in Washington due primarily to errors in judgment over a period of time; and 5. The complete failure of the present Z.O.A. leadership to collaborate successfully with a so-called 'dissident' group within the Z.O.A."

DISSOLUTION OF AMERICAN LEAGUE FOR FREE PALESTINE MARKED AT CEREMONY IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Ceremonies marking the dissolution of the American League for a Free Palestine and the Hebrew Committee for National Liberation were held today at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria. Guy Gillette, honorary president of the league, told the gathering that full recognition of Israel by the United States is a new phase in the history of the Jewish state, "making it proper to terminate the functions of the League."

The meeting, which was also addressed by Elliott Roosevelt, Will Rogers Jr., Martin Reynolds and others, sent a message of congratulations to Peter Bergson and Samuel Merlin, former leaders of the Hebrew Committee for National Liberation, on their election on the Heruth ticket to the Israeli Constituent Assembly.

U.P.A. NATIONAL CHAIRMAN URGES ISRAELI GOVT. TO CURB "SPLINTER CAMPAIGNS" IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- A plea addressed to the Government of Israel to "prompt and unequivocal action the multiplicity of splinter campaigns" in the United States, which are a "threat to the priority of the United Jewish Appeal drive," was made public over the week-end by Herman L. Weisman, acting national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal.

Recognizing that the campaigns were mostly motivated by a desire to help Israel, Weisman stressed that "these multiple fund-raising efforts, for relatively small goals, are nevertheless substantial and in cumulative effect, present a diversicary and competitive assault upon the U.J.A. campaign." He also charged that the campaigns were "mushrooming to create chaotic conditions because organizations and authorities in Israel have failed to exercise restraint in giving authorization for special campaigns which collectively work great prejudice to the U.J.A. in its effort to raise its full goal."

The U.P.A. leader labeled the multiple campaigns "an abuse" and urged "officials of Israel, in the government, in the Jewish Agency and in other organizations" to put a halt to these activities "if they are to avert the calamity of weakening the primacy of the United Jewish Appeal." At the same time, Weisman urged community leaders represented on the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds to limit campaigns for local requirements in view of Israel's desperate need. He said that the emergency situation in Israel created by the vast influx of immigrants "makes it imperative that local campaigns for community needs be kept within reasonable bounds."

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY GETS \$25,000 GIFT FROM FRATERNITY TO SET UP BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

WALTHAM, Mass., Feb. 11. (JTA) -- Alpha Omega, national dental fraternity, has turned over \$25,000 to Brandeis University here for the creation of a biological laboratory, it was announced today. The laboratory is expected to be completed before the opening of the 1949-50 semester in September.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR MENACHEM BORAISHA, WELL-KNOWN YIDDISH POET AND AUTHOR, HELD IN N.Y.

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for Menachem Boraisha, well-known Yiddish poet and writer, who died yesterday at the age of 61. Boraisha, who was known for many years under the pseudonym, Menachem, was a member of the editorial staff of The Day and chief editorial writer for Congress Weekly, official publication of the American Jewish Congress.

Born in Brest-Litovsk, Poland, he arrived in the United States in 1915. He began to write poetry at an early age and his work was published in magazines and anthologies edited by distinguished Jewish authors. For ten years he was associated with the press department of the Joint Distribution Committee. One of his book-length Yiddish poems, "Poilen," was translated into Hebrew and Polish.

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