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ISRAEL EXTENDS HAND OF FRIENDSHIP TO ALL NATIONS, WEIZMANN SAYS AT OPENING OF ASSEMBLY

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- Friendship to all peace-loving nations was offered today by Israeli President Chaim Weizmann in his address opening the Israeli Constituent Assembly, the first parliament elected by Israel since its establishment as an independent nation.

Dr. Weizmann told the assembled 120 members of the parliament, and the hundreds of guests who were invited to attend the historic event, that the aim of the Jewish state will be, before everything else, "to gather in the exiles from all parts of the world." He emphasized that this was a great day not only in the lives of the Jewish people but also in the history of the world.

"It is from this place that a message of hope and good cheer is going out in this hour from the sacred city to all the oppressed and to all who are struggling for freedom and equality," he said. "From this place we send fraternal blessings to our brethren all over the world and to all the states, great and small, that recognized Israel."

Weizmann Escorted Through Bedecked Streets; City in Holiday Mood

A holiday spirit prevailed in Jerusalem since early morning, when Dr. Weizmann arrived. He was met by a number of members of the Israeli Cabinet and by an army and police guard of honor. He was then escorted through the "Triumph Gates" and beflagged and decorated streets to the Jewish Agency building where the Israeli parliament was to open its first session a few hours later.

A procession of schoolchildren carrying flags and huge bouquets of flowers marched through the principal streets and stopped in the front of the Jewish Agency building, where Weizmann, Premier David Ben Gurion, members of the Cabinet, the newly-elected members of the Assembly and guests attended a solemn service in honor of the Jewish war dead. Services were conducted by the two Chief Rabbis, Drs. Isaac Herzog and Ben Zion Uziel.

Earlier, a ceremony marking the planting of a forest in honor of the defenders of Israel took place near Jerusalem. The ceremony was attended by members of the Cabinet and addressed by Dr. Abraham Granovsky, head of the Jewish National Fund. "On the day when we open the first Jewish parliament it is only fitting to remember our fallen heroes and to honor them," Dr. Granovsky said.

All morning, a fleet of cars, buses and trucks converged on Jerusalem, with Jews from all parts of the country arriving to witness the ceremonies marking the opening of the Assembly. All along the highway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem ceremonies were held to honor the memory of those who fell in the battle for liberation of this vital communications line. Ben Gurion and members of his Cabinet participated

in these services. Similar ceremonies were held all over the country with 6,000,000 trees being planted in various sections of Israel in memory of the 6,000,000 Jews annihilated in Europe by the Nazis.

Addressing a tree-planting ceremony in the Judean hills, Army Chief of Staff General Yacov Dori said: "The war is not over as yet and we must be ready for any emergency." Ben Gurion, addressing the same ceremony, pointed out that "these most valuable lives were lost in defending our own soil and in linking Jerusalem with Israel, while previously millions of Jews perished abroad without any purpose."

At the conclusion of his speech at the Assembly opening, Dr. Weizmann administered the following oath of allegiance to all members of the Constituent Assembly: "I undertake to be faithful to the state of Israel and to faithfully fulfill my duties as a member of the Constituent Assembly."

The Assembly hall has two large Eternal Lights, one in memory of all Jews who perished in Europe at the hands of the Nazis and one for the Israeli troops who were killed in last year's fighting in Palestine.

Assefath Hanivcharim Dissolves Itself on Eve of Assembly Opening

Last night, on the eve of the opening of the Constituent Assembly, the Assefath Hanivcharim, the Jewish National Assembly which functioned as a quasi-parliament during the Palestine Mandator regime, was dissolved by a vote of its members. The dissolution resolution declared that "with the establishment of the Jewish state the task of the Assefath Hanivcharim and its institutions is completed, and it ceases to exist." A committee, headed by Isaac Ben Zvi, president of the Jewish National Council, was named to liquidate the organization, which began functioning in 1920.

Addressing the Assefath Hanivcharim session Premier David Ben Gurion declared that the final decision on Jerusalem's future will not be made by the United Nations or its Palestine Conciliation Commission, but by the Jews. Scoring the Commission which, he said, had been sent to Palestine without any instructions except in the matter of Jerusalem, Ben Gurion insisted that the decision on Jerusalem was made during the centuries by the Jews who maintained Jerusalem as their capital despite the efforts of the Babylonians, the Greeks and the Romans to wipe it out.

"This historical judgment will not be changed--Jerusalem is and will remain Jewish," he stated. He said that the Commission was adding "new worry to our worries," and added that what was needed was a commission to "conciliate the Jewish people to the wrongs committed against it during the last 2,000 years."

Ben Zvi reviewed the development of the Vaad Leumi--Jewish National Council--during the past 30 years and maintained that without the Council the Jewish state could not have come into existence so smoothly and with all forces within the community in complete unity. Abraham Katznelson, head of the Council's health services, expressed the hope that the state would take over all the health education, child care and other services initiated by the Council. The Assefath Hanivcharim's last session was formally opened by its oldest member, 85-year-old Eliahu Berliquin. Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog also spoke.

GOLDIE MEYERSON, ISRAELI MINISTER TO USSR, RETURNING TO TEL AVIV FOR CONSULTATIONS

MOSCOW, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- Mrs. Goldie Meyerson, Israeli Minister to the Soviet Union, is leaving Moscow for Tel Aviv by plane tomorrow for consultations with her government and participation in the Israeli Constituent Assembly, of which she was elected a member.

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OPENING OF ISRAELI CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY CELEBRATED BY ZIONIST GROUPS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- The opening of the Constituent Assembly of Israel was celebrated here last night and today by various Zionist groups. The American section of the Jewish Agency marked the event with a special reception arranged at Agency headquarters here which was attended by many notables. The reception was addressed by Israeli Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan; Berl Locker, chairman of the Agency executive in Jerusalem; and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Agency.

About 5,000 persons crowded the St. Nicholas Arena here last night to celebrate the historic event. Principal speakers at the celebration included Eliezer Kaplan, Berl Locker, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Hayim Greenberg and others. The rally was sponsored by the Jewish National Workers Alliance.

Mr. Kaplan, addressing the audience in Hebrew, pointed out that "the Government of Israel has opened the gates, but only Jewry and men of good will can keep them open." The gathering was attended by representatives of Canada, Uruguay and other countries which have extended recognition to Israel. Messages of greetings were read from Israeli Premier David Ben Gurion, Dr. Albert Einstein, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, Philip Murray, president of the C.I.O.

Vice-President Barkley Joins Chicago Rally Hailing Assembly's Opening

CHICAGO, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- Vice-President Alben W. Barkley told 4,000 persons here last night at a rally celebrating United States full recognition of Israel and the opening of the Israeli Constituent Assembly that the valor of the Israeli Army and the victories which it has achieved can contribute to the peace of the world.

Mr. Barkley also voiced the hope that the current Israeli-Egyptian armistice talks on the island of Rhodes would be a forerunner of permanent peace in the Middle East. Rabbi Morton Berman, chairman of the Chicago Zionist Emergency Council, which called the meeting, lauded President Truman for the U.S. Government's de jure recognition of Israel.

10,000 BUCHAREST JEWS STAGE DEMONSTRATION CELEBRATING OPENING OF ISRAELI PARLIAMENT

BUCHAREST, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- A spontaneous demonstration by an estimated 10,000 persons took place tonight near the Israeli legation marking the opening of the first session of the newly-elected Israeli Constituent Assembly in Jerusalem.

Crowds danced and cheered in the streets near the legation and shouted "Long Live Israel" and "Aliyah."

CUBAN SENATE SENDS MESSAGE OF GREETINGS TO ISRAELI CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

HAVANA, Cuba, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- The Cuban Senate, in a message signed by its president, Miguel A. Suarez Fernandez, today greeted the Israeli Constituent Assembly.

U.S. WRITER REPORTS 68 ZIONISTS ARRESTED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON "ESPIONAGE" CHARGES

NEW YORK, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- Drew Pearson, well-known columnist, reported last night in a radio broadcast that 68 Zionists have been arrested in Czechoslovakia on charges of conducting espionage activities for the United States and Britain.

JEWISH AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES IN GERMANY HOLD TWO-DAY PARLEY ON LIQUIDATION OF DP CAMPS

MUNICH, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- Representatives of the Jewish Agency in Germany today concluded a two-day conference on problems relating to the closing of Jewish DP camps and immigration to Israel. Eighty men and women attended the parley.

It was reported that a number of DP camps have already been closed and turned over to the International Refugee Organization or the occupation authorities, including a number of centers not slated to be closed until much later this year. It was also announced that 5,200 Jews left Germany for Israel in January, the bulk travelling by train to Marseilles where they boarded vessels for the Mediterranean trip.

CASABLANCA COURT CONDEMNES TWO MOROCCANS FOR PARTICIPATING IN POGROMS; 11 OTHERS JAILED

PARIS, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- Two Moroccans were today condemned to death by a Casablanca court for participating in a pogrom in the town of Oujda last year in which five persons were killed. Eleven other defendants were given various prison terms up to 20 years at hard labor. Twenty-one defendants were acquitted.

A second trial, however, continues before the court. Some 40-odd other Moroccans are charged with taking part in another series of pogroms in the town of Djeraba. Thirty-five persons died in the second string of riots. In dealing with today's case, the court made no attempt to place responsibility on the instigators of the pogroms, but merely handled the entire matter as mob excesses.

MOSLEY FOLLOWERS STAGE PARADE IN LONDON'S EAST END FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1936

LONDON, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- Supporters of Sir Oswald Mosley's fascist and anti-Semitic Union Movement staged a march through London's East End yesterday for the first time since 1936. Residents in the preponderantly Jewish neighborhood ignored the parade, which had extensive police protection.

THE RABBINICAL CONFERENCE ASK U.S. TO IMPLEMENT PRINCIPLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION

NEW YORK, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- The Joint Commission on Social Action of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis yesterday called on the United States Government to "implement to the fullest extent" the doctrine of the brotherhood of man and the principle of human equality embodied in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. The statement was issued in connection with the observance of Race Relations Day, during which many Jewish congregations invited Negro preachers to their pulpits to speak on the significance of the day.

The message of the Joint Commission on Social Action urges the federal government to eliminate all forms of segregation in our armed forces and to give no aid or subsidy to any state using such funds in a program of discrimination or segregation. The government should forbid race discrimination or segregation in the production of goods and services which go into interstate commerce and should use its constitutional powers to prohibit the poll tax and to make lynching a federal offense," the message added.

The Joint Commission also reminded Americans that the enemy in the Second World War "was our enemy because he insisted on the racial superiority of a specific group of human beings and denounced other human beings as racial inferiors subject to enslavement and extermination." It also appealed directly to the individual states to enact laws "providing for fair employment practices, fair educational practices, fair housing practices, as well as equality in public transportation and all other areas of public accommodations."

BRITAIN AND ISRAEL WILL NEGOTIATE ON FATE OF PALESTINE ASSETS FROZEN IN ENGLAND

LONDON, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- Douglas Jay, treasury spokesman in Parliament, replying today to a question in Commons as to whether the release of frozen Palestine assets held in England is being considered, declared that these assets -- sterling balances from Palestine banks -- will be taken up at forthcoming negotiations with the Israeli Government. The extent to which the release of these balances will be linked to the settlement of claims against Israel will be considered, he added.

FIRST RESULTS IN HISTADRUTH ELECTIONS MADE KNOWN; MAPAI LEADING WITH 60 PERCENT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- First results in the country-wide Histadrut elections held here yesterday were announced today. Mapai was reported leading with 60 percent, Mapam had 30 percent, the Communists, four percent. Mapai candidates registered a seven-to-nine percent increase over previous elections in industrial areas.

It became known today that before the elections anti-Zionist Communists asked the Histadrut to remove the names of "pro-Zionist Communist" candidates from the Histadrut lists. The split in the ranks of the Communist Party in Israel is now at its widest. The anti-Zionist faction now charges that the "pro-Zionist Communists" have made contact with elements of the Stern Group.

(The United Press reported from Tel Aviv today that the Israeli Communist Party has purged nine members of its 25-man central committee, including Eliezer Preminger, who was elected on the Communist ticket to the Israeli Constituent Assembly, on charges that they plotted with Sternists to undermine the party.)

900 SHANGHAI REFUGEES ARRIVE IN HAIFA; TWO NEW HAPOEL HAMIZRACHI COLONIES FOUNDED

TEL AVIV, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- Nine hundred Jewish refugees evacuated from Shanghai arrived in Haifa today. This is the first major contingent of Shanghai Jews to reach the Jewish state.

Two new Hapoel Hamizrachi settlements were established yesterday. One was founded in southern Israel by former settlers of Kfar Darom and was named N'tivot (Roads). Kfar Darom was destroyed by the Egyptians during last year's fighting. The second colony was established in the Negev by Hapoel Hamizrachi settlers from the United States and South Africa and was named Morasha.

U.S. OPPOSES BRINGING PLIGHT OF JEWS IN ARAB STATES BEFORE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL

LAKE SUCCESS, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- The United States today described as "unnecessary" a proposal to bring the plight of the terrorized Jewish communities in Arab states before the United Nations Security Council. The proposal was put forth as an amendment to a resolution recommended by the committee on non-governmental organizations of the Economic and Social Council.

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL GETS \$2,500,000 FROM NEW YORK U.J.A. TO MEET URGENT NEEDS

NEW YORK, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- More than \$2,500,000 has been raised by the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York in an emergency pre-campaign drive to secure funds needed to prevent sharp curtailment of the mass immigration of Jews from Europe to Israel, it was announced here today.

The announcement said that in an effort to secure funds to meet the pressing needs of the constituent agencies of the U.J.A., community campaigns will be launched throughout the country within the coming week. The decision to spur drives in cities across the nation was taken at a national U.J.A. conference in Miami, which concluded yesterday, and was attended by leaders from more than 75 communities in 25 states.

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MORE THAN 9,000 JEWS ENTERED CANADA IN 1948 AMONG TOTAL OF 125,000 IMMIGRANTS

OTTAWA, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- A total of 9,386 Jews arrived in Canada in 1948 among a total of 125,414 immigrants, it was revealed here in a statistical analysis released over the week-end. Most of the Jewish immigrants came from various European DP camps. The number of Jews who entered Canada in 1947 was 1,886.

ISRAEL-AMERICA LINE FORMED TO PROVIDE DIRECT FREIGHT SERVICE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND U.S.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- Formation of the Israel-America Line, Ltd., of Haifa, to carry freight between Israel and American and Canadian East Coast ports was announced here yesterday. An outgrowth of the American-Israeli Line which was set up immediately after the establishment of the Jewish state last May when regular freighters to Palestine suspended operations in that area as a result of the fighting, the new firm will provide direct service to and from the ports of Haifa and Tel Aviv.

Raphael Recanati, operations manager, and Elie Schalit, traffic manager, reported that the firm will soon purchase its first vessel--a Canadian Victory ship--which will make its first port of call in New York under the flag of Israel within three weeks. Two other vessels will be purchased by the firm before the end of 1949, the officials said, while the company will also continue to operate seven chartered ships, which were formerly run by the American-Israeli Line.

The Israel-America Line was organized in Haifa following negotiations between the Zim Navigation Company, which operates an intra-Mediterranean service, a group of Israeli financiers and importers, and the American-Israeli Shipping Company. Sailings between Israel and East Coast ports will be scheduled every ten to 15 days.

UNESCO EXPERTS VISIT CRT SCHOOL IN PARIS; WILL PREPARE REPORT ON CRT'S PROGRAMS

PARIS, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- A group of experts associated with UNESCO paid a visit to the CRT school here over the week-end in connection with a report which will be prepared for UNESCO on the operations of the CRT program. The World CRT Union has a consultative status with UNESCO.

NATIONWIDE CELEBRATION OF RABBI WISE'S 75TH BIRTHDAY PLANNED; TO BE HELD IN MARCH

NEW YORK, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- A nationwide celebration of the 75th birthday of Dr. Stephen S. Wise is being planned in March, to be climaxed at a Diamond Jubilee Dinner in honor of Dr. Wise on March 20th at the Hotel Biltmore here, it was announced today. Heading the national committee of sponsors is Henry Morgenthau, Jr., with Dr. Albert Einstein, former Governor Herbert H. Lehman and Dr. John Haynes Holmes as co-chairmen for the Diamond Jubilee Dinner.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL FOUNDATIONS MARKED AT YALE

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Feb. 14. (JTA) -- The 25th anniversary of the establishment of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations was marked here last night at a dinner at which President Charles Seymour of Yale University declared that both the town of New Haven and Yale College, from their earliest days, "have been vitally concerned with Hebrew culture, language and history."

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