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ISRAELI-TRANSJORDAN ARMISTICE TALKS FACE OBSTACLES; NO AGREEMENT REACHED ON AGENDA

REODES, March 2. (JTA) -- The preliminary stages of the Transjordan-Israeli armistice negotiations here are proceeding at a snail's pace, with numerous objections being raised by both parties. Despite intensive, day-long efforts by acting U.N. mediator Ralph J. Bunche not even the first point on a tentative agenda has been agreed to by either the Jews or the Arabs, and it is not considered likely that the negotiations will begin even tomorrow.

The Transjordanian delegation refuses to accept on the agenda a discussion of an armistice in that portion of the Negev not covered in the Israeli-Egyptian pact--the northern and eastern section of the desert. The reason advanced for this position is that the Transjordanians fear that consideration of the point "may create the impression that Transjordan recognizes the partition of Palestine."

On the other hand, the Israeli delegation refuses to agree to the inclusion on the agenda of the question of the Arab "triangle"--the Nablus-Jenin-Tulkarm area. The Jews insist that discussion of this item "may create the impression that Israel recognizes King Abdullah's right to a part of the territory of Palestine."

(In Tel Aviv it was reported that both the Israeli and Lebanese delegations to the armistice talks at Ras el Nakara, on the northern Israeli border, are studying a draft agreement drawn up by United Nations mediation personnel and delivered to both parties yesterday at their first meeting. A second joint session is scheduled for tomorrow when both sides will comment on the U.N. draft.)

It was revealed here today that of the 525 observers originally on duty with the U.N. mediation staff in various parts of the Middle East only 125 remain. The "improvement of conditions" on the various battlefronts and generally throughout the Middle East was given as a reason for the decrease. A Col. Valentine of the U.N. staff has been named chairman of the seven-man Egyptian-Israeli armistice commission and he will have ten U.N. observers at his disposal.

U.N. Conciliation Group Meets on Future Status of Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, March 2. (JTA) -- The sub-committee of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has begun meeting to seek a permanent solution for control of Jerusalem. The sub-committee, composed of technical advisers of the three-man commission, will hear Israeli and Arab spokesmen present their respective claims to the city and proposals for its future administration.

The commission would welcome a direct agreement between the parties concerned on the future of Jerusalem, Mark Ethridge, chairman of the Commission, said last night, if this agreement included some form of international statute. Otherwise, he pointed out, the Commission, which is bound by the General Assembly resolution providing for internationalization of Jerusalem, will have to make its report to the Assembly and the Assembly will have to take the decision.

AMERICAN SECTION OF JEWISH AGENCY REORGANIZED; DR. GOLDMANN ELECTED ACTING CHAIRMAN

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- The American section of the Jewish Agency met last night and elected Dr. Nahum Goldmann acting chairman of the branch. He will replace Dr. Abba Hillel Silver who has refused to withdraw his resignation.

It was decided at the meeting that the work of the American section of the executive will be divided among various departments, each headed by a member of the executive. Dr. Goldmann is to be the head of the public relations department. Dr. Lynn Greenberg was chosen to head the Latin American department, while the economic department will be administered by Mrs. Rose Halprin.

Baruch Zuckerman was named to head the organization department. Together with Lurie, he will also supervise the youth chalutz department. Lurie will be in charge of the immigration department and Dr. Joseph Schechtman will control the research department. Gottlieb Hammer was appointed executive director and Maurice M. Epstein was named general counsel to the executive.

WAYS HONOR PRESIDENT IN TEL AVIV; "WEIZMANN PRIZES" AWARDED TO ISRAELI SCIENTISTS

TEL AVIV, March 2. (JTA) -- "Weizmann Day" celebrations reached their climax last night with a festive reception in honor of the Israeli President at Babimah Hall. There following an all-day welcome in which children lined the 12-mile highway from Dr. Weizmann's home in Rehovoth to Tel Aviv, waving and cheering as he passed on his first visit to Tel Aviv since his election last month.

Tens of thousands of people crowded the streets leading to Babimah Hall. There lined rooftops and balconies of flag-decked houses. The reception was attended by the entire diplomatic corps, members of the newly-elected Israeli parliament, members of the Tel Aviv municipal council, the Chief Rabbi and other distinguished guests.

Three prizes in honor of President Weizmann were announced at the reception by Mayor Israel Rokach. The prizes, established by the Tel Aviv municipality to encourage scientific work, will be awarded annually and will be known as "Weizmann Awards." Last night they were granted to Prof. Shaul Adler for his work in the field of combatting malaria and healing leprosy, to Prof. M. Glendoff of the Haifa Technical Institute for his achievements in chemistry and bio-chemistry, and to Dr. M. Rosenfeld of the Weizmann Institute for his efforts in the field of vision.

Replying to greetings, President Weizmann said that Israel, the world's youngest state, will have to develop and grow through science. It is not sufficient for Israel to be a free people in its own state, he said, adding that science will have to be taught "to all our people," especially to the younger generation. Israel must develop scientific institutions, he insisted.

"We must serve as an example to all peoples of the Middle East. Our young state can be a source of renaissance and regeneration for this entire region. We must let our neighboring countries know that we have not returned as enemies," Dr. Weizmann said.

U.N. ESTABLISHES BODY TO DEVISE SYSTEM OF DISPOSING OF PROPERTY OF MISSING PERSONS

LAKE SUCCESS, March 2. (JTA) -- The U.N. Economic and Social Council today set up a seven-nation body to determine an international system of disposing of the property of missing persons. The problem involves the properties of millions of Jews who died in Hitler's death factories as well as that of other victims of the war in all parts of the world. The seven nations who will appoint experts to this body are Brazil, Denmark, France, Lebanon, Poland, United States and Soviet Union.

BUST OF GEORGE WASHINGTON PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT WEIZMANN BY U.J.A. DELEGATION

TEL AVIV, March 2. (JTA) -- A bust of George Washington sent by Mayor William O'Dwyer of New York to President Weizmann with the delegation of the United Jewish Appeal now visiting the Jewish state, was today presented to Dr. Weizmann at his home in Rehovoth.

In making the presentation, Julian Venetzky, the head of the U.J.A. delegation, said: "This gift is a symbol of the close friendship existing between the people of the United States and those of Israel." He expressed pride in bringing the bust to President Weizmann as "an expression of brotherhood and understanding."

At a reception given the U.J.A. delegation in Tel Aviv by the Joint Distribution Committee, James G. McDonald, American Ambassador, welcomed the visitors. "That the confidence of President Truman," he said, "was fully warranted has been demonstrated by the extraordinary achievements of Israel. Amidst an armed struggle, the state welcomed an unprecedentedly large number of newcomers; established an effective provisional regime, carried through free democratic elections, and is now engaged in friendly armistice negotiations with its Arab neighbors."

Appealing to his listeners not to "underestimate the gigantic task ahead," McDonald said: "The need of the financial aid you Americans bring to Israel is all the greater because it is necessary to continue the pace of its development. Otherwise it will be impossible for Israel to be a home for outcasts. None sensing the needs and envisioning the possibilities of their fulfillment can fail to do the utmost to make the prophets' dream come true."

Harry Viteles, greeting the delegation on behalf of the J.D.C., reported on his recent visit to Iran and Aden and on the need for J.D.C. aid to Jews in Middle East countries. He revealed that the J.D.C. spent about \$500,000 to bring to Israel by airplane more than 4,000 Jews from camps in Aden. He emphasized that the overwhelming majority of the 110,000 Jews in Iraq are in need of relief, while in Bagdad alone there are 25,000 urgent relief cases. About a half of the Jewish population of Iran also need aid, he stated.

PROBLEM OF IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL MUST BE SOLVED NOW OR NEVER, EBAN TELLS U.J.A. RALLY

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- The problem of Jewish immigration to Israel must be solved in the immediate future or not at all, Aubrey S. Eban, Israeli representative to the United Nations, declared here today at the launching of the 1949 campaign of the Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York.

Referring to Jewish emigration from the countries of Eastern Europe, Eban told the rally, which was attended by 2,500 Jewish women leaders from all parts of the city, that this question "should not be regarded in political contexts." He added: "The Government of Israel has managed since its inception to elicit and maintain in international councils the support of both the United States and the Soviet Union. My government will continue to maintain tenaciously in its full integrity the foreign policy which has brought that result about."

Another speaker at the rally, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., called for support of the U.J.A. campaign this year not only to prevent starvation or the horrors of war, but also to help "a new democracy to flourish." Speakers at a fund-raising luncheon, which followed the rally, included Nelson A. Rockefeller and Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee.

HUNGARY DISSOLVES ALL ZIONIST GROUPS; EXPELS TEN ZIONIST LEADERS FROM THE COUNTRY

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- The Hungarian Government last week dissolved all Zionist organizations, closed their headquarters and expelled ten Zionist leaders, it was reported here today by the New York Times in a Vienna dispatch quoting authoritative Jewish sources in the Austrian capital.

The principal groups affected, according to the Times, were the local Jewish Agency office, Jewish National Fund and local Zionist groups. It stated that hope was expressed in Jewish circles that the dissolution of the Zionist groups did not also mean the collapse of negotiations for large-scale emigration of Jews from Hungary to Israel.

HUNGARY LIMITS JEWISH EMIGRATION; ONLY ZIONISTS AND CLOSE RELATIVES CAN LEAVE COUNTRY

WARSAW, March 2. (JTA) -- Following the announcement of new rules for the emigration of Israel-bound Jews from Poland, there has been a rush of would-be emigrants at three offices which are involved in the issuance of passports under the latest regulations.

The offices--the Israeli legation, the Central Jewish Committee and the Ministry of Public Administration--are crowded all day long with applicants who must either prove that they are active Zionists or have close relatives residing in Israel before they are given permission to emigrate. All applicants must first receive certification from the Central Jewish Committee stating that they are Jews, then they must obtain from the Israeli consulate a statement that they will be issued a visa for Israel. Only after the first two steps are completed will the government agency handle the application.

A major obstacle in the path of would-be emigrants is the furnishing of proof of active membership in a Zionist organization. This proof must be furnished by the various Zionist groups to the Ministry of Public Administration. What constitutes evidence of active membership has still not been decided officially, and it is feared in some circles that it will be interpreted to mean membership prior to the outbreak of the recent war.

Under these conditions the Israeli consulate is not issuing any promise of a visa for persons who cannot demonstrate satisfactory proof of membership in a Zionist group. Meanwhile, the rush to join Zionist organizations has caused at least one such group--the Mizrahi--to close its membership books, to assist its earlier members in obtaining visas.

As for persons who wish to emigrate because they have close relatives in the Jewish state, it has thus far been interpreted that such a relative is a parent, child or, in some cases, a sibling. In general, it appears that this regulation is applied liberally in the case of persons who have lost all members of the Polish branch of their families.

BILL GIVING JEWISH COMMUNITY CONTROL OF ITS INSTITUTIONS DUE TO REACH TURKISH PARLIAMENT

ISTANBUL, March 2. (JTA) -- A bill which would grant the Jewish community of Turkey the right to administer its own synagogues, hospitals and other institutions has been discussed and approved by several ministries and will soon be presented to Parliament for debate, it was learned here today. Under the present system the Jews, as well as all other minority communities, do not have the final word in the administration of their communal property, which is controlled by a central government agency.

The bill was originally drafted and introduced by Salomon Adatto, a Jewish M.P. It was referred to the Finance Commission, of which Adatto is a member, where it was recently approved. From there it was directed to the Justice and Budget Commissions which are presently at work on the legislation.

AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSE ETHNIC BASIS FOR DP SELECTION

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- Major national and local Jewish organizations today told a Congressional committee holding hearings on immigration that they objected strongly to the provision in the Displaced Persons Act which allocates 50 percent of German and Austrian quotas to the so-called Volksdeutsche or "ethnic Germans," who were expelled from Eastern Europe, and that they "vigorously opposed" the pro-race of views among the elements or groups composing the DP population.

In a written statement presented to the Sub-committee on Immigration of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Jewish organizations urged that the benefits of the DP Act be extended to displaced persons who managed to establish themselves temporarily outside the zones now covered by the law, and that the cut-off date be advanced to January 1, 1949. This would "extend relief to displaced persons who are recent victims of totalitarianism."

The statement was submitted in behalf of six national Jewish organizations--American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans, Union of American Hebrew Congregations--and twenty-six local Jewish councils in all parts of the country, by Lester Karmel, chairman of the committee on immigration of the National Community Relations Advisory Council, a coordinating body.

NATIONAL PHYSICIANS COMMITTEE DENIES CHARGES OF ENCOURAGING ANTI-JEWISH FEELINGS

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- The National Physicians Committee, a registered congressional lobbying group which has the approval of the American Medical Association, today denied charges of encouraging racial discrimination made against it earlier this week by a meeting of the New York County Medical Society, an affiliate of the A.M.A. The denial was voiced by John M. Pratt, administrator of the National Physicians Committee.

The charges were precipitated by the Committee's mailing letters to 160,000 physicians throughout the country which were addressed: "Dear Christian American." The letters were reprints of a circular written by the Rev. Dan Gilbert, one-time editor of The Defender, anti-Semitic publication of Gerald Winrod, who was indicted for sedition in 1942.

The New York medical group also asked its parent body to "deplore" the letter and to withdraw its endorsement of the National Physicians Committee. Similar action was taken by the Brooklyn and Queens Medical Societies at earlier meetings. An A.M.A. spokesman has declared that no official of the medical association saw the Gilbert letter before it was mailed.

RUTGERS STUDENT COUNCIL BARS HONORARY FRATERNITIES WHICH PRACTICE DISCRIMINATION

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- The Student Council of Rutgers University today announced its decision to recommend that any honorary fraternity which practices discrimination be barred from the campus.

A recommendation that Vassar College alumnae throughout the country should hold meetings at places that "have no policy of racial or religious discrimination" was made public today by the Associate Alumnae of the College. The recommendation was prompted by an incident in 1947 when a local Vassar Club met at the Denver Country Club where membership policy is "white Gentiles only."

SHARK DOCKS IN NEW YORK WITH 312 JEWISH DP'S; MET BY USIA, HIAS REPRESENTATIVES

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- The S.S. Marine Shark, twelfth DP boat to arrive United States port with refugees admitted under the DP Immigration Act, docked New York today from Hamburg. Its 349 immigrant passengers included 312 Jews. Representatives of the United Service for New Americans and HIAS were at the pier to meet the Jewish immigrants.

LABOR COMMITTEE TO ENDOW CHAIR IN HEBREW UNIVERSITY IN HONOR OF ABRAHAM CAHAN

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- The Jewish Labor Committee today announced the conclusion of an agreement with the Hebrew University in Jerusalem for the establishment of a chair for the study of the Jewish labor movement. The chair will be named in honor of Abraham Cahan, editor of the Jewish Daily Forward, and will be maintained by the Committee.

HADASSAH GRANTS \$400,000 FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN ISRAEL; INCLUDES BRANDEIS REQUEST

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- A \$400,000 appropriation to expand vocational education in Israel has been approved by the national board of Hadassah, it was announced here today. Included in the appropriation is a \$180,000 bequest left to Hadassah for vocational education in Israel by the late Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis and his wife.

NEWARK MAYOR OFFICIALLY WELCOMES JEWISH AGENCY IMMIGRATION HEAD; GIVES HIM KEY TO CITY

NEWARK, N.J., March 2. (JTA) -- Mayor Vincent J. Murphy today extended a formal welcome to Dr. Yitzhak Werfel, member of the executive of the Jewish Agency and head of its immigration Department. Dr. Werfel, who is a leader of the Hapoel Haizrachi, religious Labor Zionist organization, received the keys to the city from the Mayor.

CHICAGO ZIONISTS ENDORSE DANIEL FRISCH FOR PRESIDENT OF ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

CHICAGO, March 2. (JTA) -- The executive committee of the Zionist Organization here, representing 11,000 members, today accepted a resolution endorsing the candidacy of Daniel Frisch for the presidency of the Zionist Organization of America. The elections are to take place at the forthcoming Z.O.A. convention.

MRS. ROOSEVELT TO RECEIVE "AMERICAN HEBREW" AWARD FOR PROMOTING RACIAL UNDERSTANDING

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt was selected by the board of judges of the American Hebrew Medal Award Committee, as the 1948 recipient of the annual medal bestowed upon the person deemed to have done most during the year to promote better understanding between Christians and Jews in America, it was announced here today by Joseph H. Biben, editor and publisher of the American Hebrew magazine.

RABBI HENRY BERKOWITZ, FORMER NAVY CHAPLAIN AND AUTHOR, DIES IN PORTLAND

PORTLAND, Oregon, March 2. (JTA) -- Rabbi Henry J. Berkowitz of Temple Israel, the largest Jewish congregation in the Pacific Northwest, died here last night after a long illness. He was 54.

Rabbi Berkowitz was born in Philadelphia and was graduated from the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati in 1921. During the last war he served in the Navy for a period of three years. He is the author of several books including "Boot Camp," published last year, in which he described his experiences as a Navy chaplain.

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