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FRIENDSHIP TO ALL NATIONS PLEDGED BY BEN GURION AT OPENING OF KNESSETH IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, March 8. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben Gurion today told the Parliament of Israel that his government would follow a policy of loyalty to the United Nations Charter and friendship toward all peace-loving states, particularly the United States and the Soviet Union, and would make a determined effort to establish an Arab-Jewish alliance within the framework of the United Nations.

Making his first appearance before the Knesseth, the elected parliament of the country, to introduce his coalition Cabinet and announce his government's program, the Israeli Prime Minister also pledged his government's support for all measures guaranteeing the rights of man, the equality of nations and the strengthening of the United Nations. Most of his speech, however, was devoted to domestic policies and problems.

All 120 members of the Knesseth were present when the session opened in a former motion-picture house and hotel which had been converted into a meeting place for the Israeli Parliament. United States Ambassador James G. McDonald was in the section of the gallery reserved for distinguished guests as were other members of the diplomatic colony.

The speaker and members of the Cabinet occupied places on the stage which was bedecked with flags emblematic of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. For the benefit of Arab members of the Knesseth, a special telephone system was employed whereby, through headphones, they received almost instantaneous translations, in Arabic, of the speeches delivered in Hebrew.

Government Will Guarantee Equality of Rights, Religion, Culture

In presenting his Cabinet, Ben-Gurion expressed regret that the Mapam and the General Zionists, who had agreed to enter a coalition government, had made unacceptable demands. He said portfolios had been reserved for them in the event they changed their minds and meanwhile the Cabinet as a whole would be responsible for the unfilled portfolios.

Parties entering the coalition, Ben Gurion said, had accepted collective responsibility for government decisions but were free to criticize if the government departed from the program laid down. He then outlined a ten-point program of his coalition government.

The Prime Minister declared that the Government of Israel will be democratic and republican, guaranteeing complete equality of rights, religion and culture to its citizens regardless of religion, race or language. It guarantees freedom of association and speech, equality of rights in law and a universal franchise. While the Government will make the Sabbath and other Jewish festivals days of rest, non-Jews will be able to observe their own Sabbath.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the foreign policy principles enunciated in the government program did not differ from those that had been followed by the Provisional Government. That policy, he said, had borne fruitful results. On the home front, the Prime Minister declared, the problem is now an economic one, rather than a

ilitary problem, which, he asserted, had been successfully solved. The major task, declared, was immigration and resettlement.

Four-Year Plan to Double Population Presented by Premier

Ben Gurion presented a four-year program for doubling the population by mass immigration. He also called for intensive development of the country on the basis of planned economy and speedy population of underpopulated areas. He outlined a plan for increased development of the new city of Jerusalem by concentrating there the cultural, national and governmental organizations, as well as transferring a part of the country's industry to the area, and building a network of settlements from the city to the coastal plain.

Afforestation and soil improvement are included among the features of the government's program. The nationalization of water and other natural resources is urged. Compensation will be paid for all property which is requisitioned. The program provides for compulsory development of all neglected lands and the encouragement of cooperative and private enterprises with capital.

It undertakes to combat the cost of living, to control imports and foreign exchange and to introduce an austerity regime entailing strict rationing. It would eliminate inefficient industry and increase the workers' productivity. The citrus industry would be rehabilitated. The imposition of a progressive income tax, and a tariff and trade policy was outlined, to speed the building of industry.

The formation of a special Ministry of Education is promised, with provision for general education for all children, including immigrants and Arabs. Schooling will be free to everybody until an age to be fixed by law. Talented children will be enabled to continue their studies.

Labor legislation, declared Ben Gurion, should embrace the formation of an all-inclusive trade union organization, the enactment of social security and old age insurance, minimum wages and the education of Arab workers to the level of the Jews. As for civil service, the program calls for the appointment of officials on the basis of examinations.

Debate on Government Policy is Limited to 16 Hours

Following the conclusion of Ben Gurion's address, Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan reported to the Knesseth on the details of the American loan, arrangements for which were made by him during his recent visit to the United States. He pointed out that the funds offered by the Export-Import Bank would be made available immediately after the Assembly ratified the loan agreement.

The pact, he said, was similar to other loans by the U.S. It provided that all equipment and machinery bought with the funds be purchased from the U.S. He declared that the first installment, which was granted specifically for agricultural development, would be used to establish 6,500 agricultural units for refugee immigrants and seven irrigation stations.

After Kaplan's report, the Knesseth adjourned until late tonight when the general debate on the new government's program will begin. Debate has been limited to 16 hours.

TRANSJORDANIAN DELEGATION AT RHODES AGREES TO INFORMAL JOINT MEETING WITH JEWS TODAY

RHODES, March 8. (JTA) -- The Transjordanian delegation at the Rhodes armistice negotiations today suddenly agreed to participate in an informal joint meeting with the Israeli delegation tomorrow. The announcement of this reversal was made in a U.S. communique, which added that acting U.N. mediator Ralph J. Bunche was entertaining the members of the Jewish group at dinner tonight.

Tomorrow's session will discuss a suggested line of demarcation for Arab legion units in the area from Beit Naballah to Jerusalem. The Israelis, who asked for the joint meeting, pointed out that Dr. Bunche was chairman of the joint delegations and not a go-between. Another Arab courier was dispatched to Amman today, apparently to obtain new instructions from Abdallah.

ISRAELI ARMY IS BEING REORGANIZED ON PEACETIME BASIS; DEMOBILIZATION PROCEEDING

TEL AVIV, March 8. (JTA) -- Although armistice agreements and final peace treaties are still to be concluded, the Army of Israel is being reorganized on a peacetime basis. The Ministry of Defense, which was responsible for the mobilization of the Jews of Palestine following proclamation of statehood in Israel last May, and for the conduct of Israel's defense, is also being reorganized.

A peacetime Army establishment which would provide for effective mobilization of the entire population of the country in the event of emergency is now under consideration.

Meanwhile, the authorities are demobilizing many of the estimated 80,000 men and women called to active service during hostilities. Eliezer Perlson, Director-General of the Defense Ministry, announced today that all troops scheduled for discharge from service during January and February have been released. An agreement has been reached with the Hebrew University and the Haifa Technical Institute whereby former students there will be released to resume their studies, thus permitting the reopening of these institutions immediately after Passover.

The Army is also releasing for civilian use a number of buildings requisitioned during the period of hostilities, including several hotels needed for the tourist trade. The Jaffa Hospital, which had been taken over by the Army, was returned to the municipality for civilian use on March 1.

BRITISH TROOPS STILL STATIONED IN AKABA, WAR SECRETARY TELLS HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON, March 8. (JTA) -- A British task force is still stationed at Akaba, at the tip of the Gulf of Akaba, Secretary of War Emanuel Shinwell told the House of Commons today. Akaba lies at the junction of Transjordan territory and the Negev territory assigned to the state of Israel by the United Nations partition plan.

Shinwell denied that the British forces were building permanent installations there. British troops were moved into Akaba to prevent an alleged move by Israeli forces to occupy the district. Shinwell today declined to answer questions whether there was any confirmation of the report that the Israeli Army was moving on Akaba.

2,000 TURKISH JEWISH IMMIGRANTS ARRIVE IN ISRAEL; LARGEST GROUP FROM COUNTRY

HAIFA, March 8. (JTA) -- Two thousand Jewish immigrants from Turkey, the largest group from that country to arrive in Israel, disembarked here today.

D.C. AND CRT LIQUIDATED BY GOVERNMENT IN RUMANIA; PROPERTY TRANSFERRED TO COMMUNITIES

BUCAREST, March 8. (JTA) -- The Rumanian Cabinet today published a decree dissolving the offices of the Joint Distribution Committee and the CRT in Rumania. The decree appoints the Federation of Jewish Communities as liquidator of the property of the two organizations.

An official statement issued by the government says that the liquidation of the J.D.C. and the CRT offices was ordered "in view of the fact that all activities of assistance and vocational retraining are now concentrated in the hands of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare."

A spokesman for the Jewish Democratic Committee told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the relief supplies taken over from the J.D.C. will be distributed by the Federation of Jewish Communities to needy Jews. The Ministry of Labor will take over the CRT vocational training schools and increase the number of students in attendance there, the spokesman said.

U.S. AUTHORITIES IN AUSTRIA AGREE TO POSTPONE LIQUIDATION OF THREE JEWISH DP CAMPS

VIENNA, March 8. (JTA) -- United States Army authorities here agreed to postpone closing of three camps used to house Jewish refugees because of the increasing flow of Jewish refugees from southeastern Europe.

The three camps had been scheduled for closing this month and readaptation for use by the Army. In view, however, of the increased flight of Jews from the eastern European countries, particularly Hungary, it was decided to keep the camps open another month to provide housing for the new refugees until their transportation to Israel could be arranged.

Arrival of refugees from Hungary is now greater than departures to Israel as a result of inadequate shipping accommodation. Jewish authorities here have just received word that they will have shipping space this month for 2,000 men, women and children, but new arrivals will more than make up for these departures.

Two factors spurring illegal emigration from Hungary today are the nationalization process, which is depriving many Jews of their means of livelihood, and the mounting anti-Zionist campaign in the country which many Jews fear will eventually lead to a ban on legal emigration from Hungary to Israel.

THREE GERMANS ON TRIAL FOR SUPPLYING GESTAPO WITH POISON GAS FOR ANNIHILATING JEWS

FRANKFURT, March 8. (JTA) -- The trial of three employees of the Degesch firm, a chemical-manufacturing corporation, opened before a German court here this week. The defendants are accused of having knowingly supplied the Gestapo with large quantities of Cyclon-B gas for the extermination of at least 300,000 concentration camp inmates, most of whom were Jews. The defendants are Dr. Gerhard Peters, formerly manager of the plant, and Hans Ulrich Kaufmann and Karl Amend, executives in the factory.

The prosecution charges that the manufacture of the gas, originally used to exterminate rodents and disease-bearing insects, was changed by Gestapo order. In 1942 Dr. Peters was told to change the specifications of the gas to remove from it an irritant intended to guard against accidental poisoning, which was causing severe agonies to prisoners who were experimentally killed with it. Afterwards, the prosecution declares, the gas without the warning irritant was shipped only to concentration camps.

At today's session, Dr. Peters denied knowledge of the general use of Cyclon-B in concentration camps, asserting that he was informed that it was to be used on special criminals only. Kaufmann placed all the blame on Peters, asserting that when he expressed doubts to Peters as to the Gestapo's use of the gas, Peters told him to "let it go."

WASHINGTON MOURNS DEATH OF REP. BLOOM; FLAGS FLY AT HALF-MAST; FUNERAL TOMORROW

WASHINGTON, March 8. (JTA) -- The House of Representatives adjourned all regular business today in tribute to Rep. Sol Bloom, chairman of its Foreign Affairs Committee, who died last night following a heart attack at a naval hospital here. Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn devoted today's session to eulogies. Capitol flags flew at half-mast.

The remains of Rep. Bloom were brought this afternoon to New York where funeral services will be held on Thursday at the West Side Institutional Synagogue. Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein will officiate. Before the funeral, the body will lie in state at the Riverside Memorial Chapel in New York. *

Bloom, who was a member of Congress since 1923, would have been 79 tomorrow. A party to mark his 79th birthday had been arranged for tomorrow in his office. His friends, who include just about everybody of importance in Washington, were prepared to honor him as they had done in previous years. His sudden death was mourned today not only in this country, but throughout the entire world. Messages of condolence from many countries have been pouring in all day.

Truman Says Bloom's Death is Loss to Nation; Lauds His Patriotism

President Truman led a long list of Washington officials who mourned the passing of Bloom. In a wire from Key West, Florida, to Bloom's daughter, Vera, Truman said that he was "shocked and saddened" by the news of the sudden death of the distinguished member of the House of Representatives.

"His untimely passing on the eve of his 79th birthday is a loss to the State of New York and to the nation," President Truman's message said. "Fourteen consecutive elections to the House of Representatives bear eloquent witness to the fidelity of his service and the confidence and affection of his constituents. As a member and twice chairman of the great Committee of Foreign Affairs, he was a tower of strength to his country in a most critical period of our international relations. His service in Congress spans the pre-war and war years and the period that has followed active hostilities. Thoroughly American, he was animated by the highest patriotism and a real zeal for service to his fellow-men."

Similar messages were sent by Secretary of State Dean G. Acheson and other members of the Cabinet. His death was termed a grievous loss to the whole country. The affection and esteem in which he was held by his Congressional colleagues were reflected in statements issued by many Democratic and Republican members of Congress.

Played Important Role in Securing Passage of U.N. Palestine Partition Decision

Always interested in Jewish affairs, Bloom played a very important role in helping to swing the two-thirds vote required for passage of the Palestine partition resolution at the General Assembly of the United Nations, which led to the establishment of Israel. At one point, the vote of General Carlos P. Romulo, the Philippine delegate, was crucial. It was Bloom who reached General Romulo by radio-telephone aboard the Queen Mary, in mid-Atlantic, and succeeded in convincing him to instruct the Philippine delegation to vote for the partition decision.

An ardent Zionist and a representative of a New York district with a large Jewish constituency, Bloom conferred numerous times with President Truman on the Palestine question. Born in Pekin, Illinois, he rose from poverty and obscurity to wealth and distinction in San Francisco, prior to his becoming a member of Congress.

AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM PLEADS FOR REHABILITATION OF ARAB REFUGEES

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- The American Council for Judaism today addressed a letter to various religious bodies throughout the country urging them to issue a joint statement calling for "adequate relief and early repatriation and resettlement and social rehabilitation of 750,000 refugees from the recent hostilities in Palestine."

The letter, signed by Lessing J. Rosenwald, president of the organization, called attention to the difficult situation of the Arab refugees and emphasized that the joint statement in support of refugee relief measures should be issued "in that spirit of compassion and brotherhood which is a cardinal tenet of our Judaic-Christian heritage."

Central religious bodies to which the letter was sent included the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, the Synagogue Council of America, the National Catholic Welfare Conference and the Church World Service.

ISRAEL WILL NOT PERMIT MASS-REPATRIATION OF ARAB REFUGEES, ZIONIST LEADER REPORTS

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- Any mass repatriation of Arab refugees who fled Israel during the fighting would mean bringing a fifth column into the Jewish state, and this the Israeli Government will never allow, Mrs. Israel Goldstein, president of Pioneer Women, the women's labor Zionist Organization in America, said today, upon her return from Israel.

"There is a Custodian of Enemy Property in the Israeli Government who will arrange compensatory payment for the Arabs who left property behind, but Israel will not allow them to return to strategic places and create havoc among the Jewish citizens. The Arabs who fled had nothing to fear from the Jews but abandoned their homes voluntarily. Those who remained are working at higher wages than they ever received in their lives."

She related that some Arabs who had returned to the northern part of the country had committed acts of robbery and sniping. She suggested that the money Great Britain has given to Transjordan for military purposes be used instead to settle the Arab refugees in the vast, uninhabited sections of Transjordan territory--a step which would also be of economic aid to the poverty-ridden Arab country.

INCREASED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS OVER 45 SOUGHT BY N.Y. JEWISH GROUP

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- Establishment of a permanent citizen's committee to educate the employers and people of New York City to the need for increasing employment opportunities for persons 45 years and older is the principal recommendation made by the Employment Service of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies here in a report released today on the results of its campaign to stimulate job opportunities for middle-aged and older workers conducted last Spring.

The report pointed out that the problem "is not local, but national in scope; is not temporary, but one with permanent long range implication." The problem has become more urgent, it continued, "because we are faced with a population that is growing older and must support itself longer; yet industry, by and large, prefers to hire younger workers and retire older ones at an age when many of the latter can still work productively."

Other recommendations made by the agency as the result of its effort to get more jobs for the aging include: 1. An industry by industry analysis of jobs to determine which of them are appropriate for middle-aged and older workers; 2. A study into the private pension systems operated by industry with a view towards eliminating whatever barriers there may be in the employment of older workers; 3. An educational campaign among employers to make the age of industrial retirement more flexible.

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