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ISRAELI-TRANSJORDAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT NOW EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED DURING WEEK-END

RHODES, March 28. (JTA) -- An indication that the anticipated signing of the Israeli-Transjordan armistice agreement here may take place next week-end was seen today in a communique issued by acting United Nations Palestine mediator Dr. Ralph J. Bunche which said that the mediator conferred this morning with Col. Moshe Dayan and Yehoshua Shiloah, of the Israeli delegation, and that he would meet with Transjordan delegate Sidki Jundi later today.

The communique added that drafting of the pact will begin tomorrow or Wednesday after which it will be submitted to both delegations. Since the most important points at issue seem to have been ironed out already, observers here agree that the Israeli and Transjordan delegates will not take long in consulting with their respective governments for approval of the draft. It is generally believed that formal signing of the agreement will take place within a day or two after the completed draft is agreed on here.

The only outstanding issue which is still considered crucial, is Transjordan's demand that the draft agreement also cover the so-called Arab triangle in central Palestine, which the Jews regard as a separate front manned by Iraqi troops. The Amman representatives have asked for instructions from their government on whether to sign the armistice pact if the Arab triangle is omitted from the points covered.

(The New York Times, in a Beirut dispatch, reported today that strikes and demonstrations have taken place in the Syrian port city of Latakia against the Syrian Government's announced intention to enter into armistice negotiations with Israel.)

ISRAELI HOPES RHODES PACT WILL MAKE IT UNNECESSARY TO SEND TROOPS TO AQABA AREA

LONDON, March 28. (JTA) -- Foreign Undersecretary Mayhew, commenting today on Commons on Transjordan's request for British troops to patrol the Aqaba-Dead Sea area, said that the British Government hopes that a successful conclusion to the Israeli-Transjordan armistice negotiations now taking place at Rhodes would make such action unnecessary.

Replying to a question by Barnett Janner, Laborite M.P., Mayhew added: "So far from the presence of a defense British force at Aqaba impeding negotiations between Israel and Transjordan, the British Government are convinced that it is only the presence of this force which has stabilized the situation and enabled the negotiations to proceed as far as they have now done."

Mayhew also asserted that "the British force at Aqaba is there at the request of the Transjordan Government, a request with which the British Government were obliged to comply under the Anglo-Transjordan treaty. It has recently been reinforced in view of the advance of Israeli forces to the Gulf of Aqaba so that it should be capable of fulfilling its mission in any circumstances."

Earlier, a Foreign Office spokesman confirmed a report that Transjordan had asked for Royal Air Force assistance in creating a Transjordan Air Force. The spokesman said the request, which was received some months ago, was still under consideration. The requested assistance would be in pilot training and not provision of equipment, the spokesman added.

AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO TEL AVIV PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO WEIZMANN AT FORMAL CEREMONY

TEL AVIV, March 28. (JTA) -- James G. McDonald, American Ambassador to Israel, today presented his credentials to Israeli President Weizmann in the first formal ceremony of its kind in the history of the young Jewish state. Previously, the Soviet Minister to Tel Aviv, Pavel Yershov, presented his credentials to Premier David Ben Gurion, in the absence of the President.

The Ambassador was escorted from the embassy to Hakirya, the seat of the government, in President Weizmann's state car escorted by a squad of army and police motorcycleists. The ambassadorial party, whose vehicles were decorated with Stars and Stripes and red-white-and-blue streamers, was received at the government offices by a band playing the Star Spangled Banner. After the 20-minute formal ceremony, refreshments were served.

Presenting his credentials, McDonald told the Israeli President that this occasion marks another stage in the development of relations between the two nations which "from the beginning have been based on friendship and cooperation." He stressed the "sympathetic desire" of the U.S. Government to "aid the advancement of the goal set for Israel--a free people securely at peace with its Arab neighbors and cooperating with them to obtain the common good gifts of modern science, industry and agriculture."

President Weizmann, in response, said that MacDonald's appointment as U.S. Ambassador to Israel was further proof of the sympathetic and constructive interest which the President and the Government of the United States have taken in Israel ever since it came into being. Recalling the warm support by the United States of the U.N. General Assembly's Palestine partition resolution, Weizmann also noted President Truman's efforts in behalf of displaced persons and said that "it is a matter of deep gratification that Israel has been able to absorb, within a short period, more than the 100,000 persons for whom Truman pleaded."

ISRAEL HAS ACCEPTED MORE REFUGEE IMMIGRANTS THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY, I.R.O. ANNOUNCES

GENEVA, March 28. (JTA) -- Israel has accepted more refugee immigrants than any other country since the establishment of the International Refugee Organization in July, 1947, it was announced here today by the I.R.O.

By the end of January, 1949, Israel had received 86,384 DP's, or 5,000 more than the total number of displaced persons accepted by Britain, hitherto the largest refugee-receiving country, the I.R.O. announcement said. (Many of the immigrants who have entered Israel are not listed in the I.R.O. total because they are not officially defined as DP's by that organization. The countries which took the greatest number of refugees between July, 1947, and January, 1949, follow in order: Israel, Britain, Canada, France, Argentina, United States, Belgium, Australia and Venezuela.

BEN GURION ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT OF BODY TO STUDY ADMINISTRATION OF OCCUPIED AREAS

TEL AVIV, March 28. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion today announced in the Israeli Knesseth that a special committee has been appointed to study the necessity of continuing military governorships in Arab areas occupied by Israeli troops and the restoration of full or partial freedom of movement for Arabs in these areas.

During today's Knesseth session the question of the establishment of a special parliamentary sub-committee to deal with the Arab minority problem was raised. The two Arab members of the body split on the problem, with Communist Tewfik Toubi backing the establishment of such a sub-committee and Mapai delegate Amin Jourjoura declaring that there is no need for it. A Mapam delegate also called for such a subcommittee, charging that the government has not fully carried out its pledges to the Arab minority.

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STATE DEPARTMENT ADVISOR ON U.N. PREDICTS APPROVAL OF ISRAELI BID FOR U.N. MEMBERSHIP

WASHINGTON, March 28. (JTA) -- Assistant Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Department advisor on the United Nations, said today that he expects approval of Israel's application for membership in the U.N. He qualified the prediction by adding that Israel's acceptance might be delayed only if some very unexpected event occurs between now and the final vote.

Meanwhile, an Israeli embassy spokesman announced the purchase of a long-range DC-4 plane from the United States by Israel. The four-engine Douglas aircraft will be used by Israeli President Chaim Weizmann.

TURKISH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES DECISION TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL; 49TH NATION TO ACT

ANKARA, March 28. (JTA) -- The Turkish Government announced today that it has decided to extend recognition to Israel. Turkey's acknowledgment of the Jewish state would make the Ankara regime the 49th nation to recognize Israel.

BERNE, Switzerland, March 28. (JTA) -- The Swiss Government today extended de jure recognition to Israel. Earlier, the Swiss granted de facto recognition to the Jewish state.

DR. BRODETSKY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF BRITISH ZIONIST FEDERATION; CONVENTION CLOSES

LONDON, March 28. (JTA) -- Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and veteran British Zionist leader, was elected president of the British Zionist Federation today at the closing session of the golden jubilee three-day convention of the Federation. He succeeds Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of Israel, who was elected "patron" of the organization.

Earlier, Fred Nettler, chairman of the Joint Palestine Appeal, urged delegates to the convention to meet the 1949 goal of the Appeal, which previously was announced as \$12,000,000. Over \$8,000,000 was raised during 1948 by the Appeal, Nettler revealed.

Denouncing the "propaganda launched by the British Foreign Office and the British press against so-called Israeli aggressiveness," Prof. Brodetsky told the political session of the convention that "we British Jews have the right to say to the government, 'it is your duty to help peace and not place obstacles in its way.'"

Touching on the question of the Palestine Arab refugees, the new president of the British Zionist Federation said that "measures have been taken to counteract the unfounded charges which are expected to be raised in Lords tomorrow by our good friend, the Archbishop of York." He termed the demand that Israel allow the Arab refugees to return to their former homes "a most impudent" request, emphasizing that Israel is willing to cooperate with the Arabs by settling displaced Arabs in underpopulated Arab countries.

GREEK KING SIGNS DECREE TRANSFERRING JEWISH HEIRLESS PROPERTY TO REHABILITATION FUND

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- King Paul of Greece today signed a governmental decree transferring Jewish heirless property to a Jewish foundation for the relief and rehabilitation of needy Greek Jews, it was announced here today by the American Jewish Committee.

Dr. John Slawson, executive vice-president of the A.J.C., who is presently in Paris, en route to Israel, wired appreciation to Greek Prime Minister Themistocles Sophoulis for the decree which constitutes the culmination of efforts in this direction of the A.J.C., the World Jewish Congress, the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Fund. The property involved is estimated to be worth \$5,000,000.

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A.M.G. TO GET NEW INDEMNIFICATION PLAN FOR DISPLACED PERSONS IN PROVINCE OF HESSE

MUNICH, March 28. (JTA) -- A draft of a new indemnification plan will be submitted to American Military Government headquarters in Frankfurt by the provincial government of Hesse following the rejection of an earlier proposal by A.M.G. authorities, it was reported here today.

Under the new draft, displaced persons in Hesse will be entitled to receive 150 German marks (approximately \$50) for each month spent in a concentration camp, prison or ghetto. Previously, only political or racial prisoners--or persecutees who resided in the U.S. zone of Germany prior to September 1, 1939--were entitled to indemnification payments.

TURKISH GOVT. TURNS DOWN ISRAELI BID TO STATION ENVOY IN COUNTRY TO AID IMMIGRANTS

ISTANBUL, March 28. (JTA) -- The Turkish Government has turned down a request by the Israeli Government for permission to station an official representative in Turkey to assist Jews emigrating from that country to Israel, a special Turkish language broadcast beamed to this country has revealed.

The Israeli broadcaster said that the Israeli authorities were surprised at the Turkish Government's action, since the Israeli envoy was not to be assigned to a political mission. He also said that Israel hopes for a reversal of the Turkish decision. The bid was made through the Turkish consulate in Jerusalem, the announcer said.

The city of Izmir, which last year had a Jewish population of 14,000, now has a total of 8,000 Jews as a result of migration of Jews from that city to Israel, it was reported here today. These reports said that a contingent of 2,000 Izmir Jews will leave shortly for Israel.

During the past two weeks over 2,500 Jews from this city left for the Jewish state. An Israeli vessel is due here this week to embark an additional 1,000 Jewish immigrants, while smaller Turkish ships sailed recently for Israel with approximately 1,000 Jewish passengers.

2,000-MEMBER JEWISH COMMUNITY OF INDONESIA AFFILIATES WITH WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- The Vereniging voor Joodse Belangen, central Jewish representative body in Indonesia, has become affiliated with the World Jewish Congress, it was announced today by Dr. I. Schwartzbart, W.J.C. organization director. The total number of national affiliates of the Congress is now 66.

The announcement said that there are approximately 2,000 Jews living in Indonesia. Sixty percent of them are of European origin while the remainder come from Oriental backgrounds. Principal Jewish communities in Indonesia are located in Batavia, Surabaya and Bandung, the announcement added.

BUDAPEST SYNAGOGUE SERVICES DEVOTED TO EINSTEIN; CHIEF RABBI STRESSES HIS VIEWS

BUDAPEST, March 28. (JTA) -- Religious services in the central synagogue here on Saturday were devoted to tributes to Prof. Albert Einstein, who recently celebrated his 70th birthday. Chief Rabbi Fabian Herskovitz pointed up Einstein's views on progress, science and universality and read from the scientist's works to a large congregation. A special prayer in Hebrew was also recited for Einstein.

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CJFW ISSUES BUDGET SERIES TO AID COMMUNITIES IN ALLOCATING FUNDS TO JEWISH AGENCIES

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- The Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds today issued its annual series of "budget digests" designed "to aid local budget committees in determining appropriations proportionate to relative needs."

The C.J.F.W.F. pointed out that these budget digests were necessary "with communities being asked to give \$250,000,000 to the United Jewish Appeal and with 67 other major agencies having an aggregate 1949 goal of approximately \$68,000,000." The Council noted that the goals for 1949 "represent approximately a 50 percent rise over the 1948 expenditures of \$45,000,000 of these agencies."

In the study on overseas agencies, the budget series note that seven organizations, outside the U.J.A., "show 1948 expenditures of \$5,289,000 as against a 1949 goal of \$9,250,000." In the section devoted to agencies for Israel, the series reports that eleven organizations outside the U.J.A. spent \$19,290,000 in 1948 while their goal this year is \$31,438,000. Religious agencies last year expended a total of \$1,820,000, the Council report said, adding that in 1949 they are seeking \$2,509,000.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY PLANNING EXPANSION. DR. DUSHKIN, NEW DIRECTOR OF STUDIES, ANNOUNCES

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- The Hebrew University in Jerusalem is planning a program expansion including the establishment of important new departments and schools and the building of new facilities, it was announced here today at a press conference by Dr. Alexander M. Dushkin. The appointment of Dr. Dushkin as Director of Undergraduate Studies at the Hebrew University was also announced by Dr. Israel S. Wechsler, president of the American Friends of the University.

Dr. Dushkin disclosed that the new plan proposed to divide the work of the University into two parts: the first three academic years of undergraduate study leading to a B.A. degree; two more years of graduate work leading to M.A. and Ph.D. degrees, without an intermediate baccalaureate degree. The undergraduate three-year curriculum will provide the full equivalent of an American four-year college course, he said. "It is to be expected that before long the undergraduate college of the Hebrew University will become not only the central collegiate institution for the growing population of Israel, but also one of the main cultural bridges between Israel and America," Dr. Dushkin declared.

U.S. TOURISTS IN ISRAEL FOR PASSOVER AND EASTER URGED TO CHECK HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- American tourists planning to visit Israel during the forthcoming Passover and Easter holidays were urged today by Israeli Consul-General Arthur Lourie to check in advance for available hotel and other accommodations. The announcement added that inquiries may be made at the following Israeli Government information offices: Jerusalem, 5 Ben Yehuda St.; Tel Aviv, 87 Hayarkon St.; Haifa, 5 Balfour St. Lourie said that "it is possible that many visitors may have to stay as paying guests at private homes."

FORMER U.S. NAVY SHIP TO BE CONVERTED INTO PASSENGER VESSEL FOR U.S.-ISRAEL SERVICE

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- A former U.S. Navy landing vessel will be converted by the American-Israeli Line into a passenger ship accommodating 1,200 persons. The ship, which will be renamed the Star of Judea, will ply between Israel and U.S. ports. The vessel will fly under the Panamanian flag and round-trip fares will begin at \$350. Religious services and kosher cuisine will be provided.

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Buenos Aires, March 28. (JTA) -- President Juan Peron has given Sucher

traft, president of the pro-Peron Jewish group, Organizacion Israelita Argentina, a personal letter and autographed photograph for President Dr. Chaim Weizmann of Israel. The O.I.A. president and his wife will leave shortly on a visit to Israel.

PERMISSION TO BUILD JEWISH CENTER IN MASSACHUSETTS TOWN REVOKED; BIAS CHARGED

MILTON, Mass., March 28. (JTA) -- Permission to construct a Jewish community center here was revoked yesterday by a local building inspector, who explained that he was acting in accordance with zoning regulations. Town officials said that the neighborhood where the Jewish center was scheduled to be built was zoned for residential buildings and houses of worship.

Revocation of an earlier permit to build the center was announced while concrete for the building's foundation was being poured. Several Milton residents, at a meeting last week of Selectmen, protested against the proposed construction of the center. Arthur Greenburg, chairman of the center building committee, commented that the revocation was a "case of prejudice since the purpose of the center is for the church."

MAYOR O'DWYER TO BE ASKED TO OMIT OFFICIAL RECEPTION WHEN BEVIN ARRIVES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- A delegation of prominent New York leaders in all walks of life will call on Mayor William O'Dwyer this week to urge him not to accord British Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin the usual reception extended to visiting foreign dignitaries when Bevin arrives here Wednesday, it was announced by the Joint Committee To Combat Anti-Semitism. The Committee, defense agency of the Jewish People's Fraternal Order and the American Jewish Labor Council, has announced plans to picket Bevin on his arrival to protest his "notorious anti-Semitic record and his hostility to the state of Israel."

PIONEER WOMEN'S NATIONAL BOARD OPENS THREE-DAY PARLEY IN N.Y.; TO PLAN CONVENTION

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- A three-day meeting of the national board of the Pioneer Women's Organization opened here today with members from all parts of the United States in attendance. Plans for the organization's convention in June will be formulated. Mrs. Israel Goldstein, who is leaving for Israel next week to join her husband, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Jewish Agency treasurer, will report to the parley on her recently-completed three-month tour of Israel.

LEON A. KOHN IS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF AMERICAN ZIONIST YOUTH COMMISSION

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- Leon A. Kohn has been elected chairman of the American Zionist Youth Commission--a joint agency of the Zionist Organization of America and Hadassah which promotes General Zionist youth activities in communities throughout the United States--it was announced by Rabbi Amram Frero, national director. Mrs. Emanuel Halpern was elected co-chairman of the A.Z.Y.C.

"ELISHEVA," WELL-KNOWN HEBREW POETESS, DIES IN TIBERIAS AT AGE OF 60

TEL AVIV, March 28. (JTA) -- "Elisheva," well-known Hebrew poetess, died in Tiberias today at the age of 60. Yelizavta Ivanovna Zhirkova, which was her real name, was a Russian Christian who came to Palestine during the early 1920's and later adopted the Jewish faith. Among her best-known works is the "Song of Kinnereth," which was set to music.