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ISRAELI-TRANSJORDAN ARMISTICE PACT NOW EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED MONDAY, TEL AVIV HEARS

TEL AVIV, March 31. (JTA) -- The armistice agreement between Israel and Transjordan probably will be signed next Monday at Rhodes, responsible sources predicted today.

Reuven Shiloah, of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, and Lt. Col. Moshe Dayan, commander of the Jerusalem front, were scheduled to return today to Rhodes but their departure has now been delayed until tomorrow. The final negotiations preliminary to the formal signing of the armistice pact are not expected to require more than three days.

MESSAGE FROM NEW SYRIAN GOVT. TO U.N. INDICATES NO CHANGE IN ISRAELI ARMISTICE TALKS

LAKE SUCCESS, March 31. (JTA) -- The United Nations today received the first communication from the new Syrian Government. It virtually assures the U.N. that previously initiated negotiations for peace in Palestine will not be disturbed by the new regime.

The communication of the new government, which staged an overnight, bloodless coup in Damascus, was addressed to Secretary-General Trygve Lie and signed by "Commander-in-Chief" Husni al Zaim, who took over the government pending the formation of a new cabinet.

It reads as follows: "By demand of the people, the Syrian Army intervened to put an end to internal anarchy. The Syrian Army command affirms respect for external obligations previously entered upon and attachment to democratic regime."

Meanwhile, the possibility of converting the current all-Arab conference at Beirut into an over-all peace conference over Palestine appears to be temporarily ruled out, according to a report today from the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission headquarters which was released here.

At the same time, the report indicated that the Commission may have succeeded in getting the Arabs to back into such a conference with the minimum degree of outright commitment. According to the report, the Commission has pushed the Arab delegations into "studying" a plan for sustained consultation among them and possibly to extend these exchanges of views between the Commission "and all governments concerned." Thus, the consultants may at some opportune point bring Israel into the picture.

Syria Is Bound to Go Ahead With Armistice Talks, Eban Declares

WASHINGTON, March 31. (JTA) -- Syria has an "unchangeable obligation to continue peace negotiations despite yesterday's coup d'etat," Israeli delegate to the United Nations Aubrey S. Eban declared last night at a Hadassah dinner here.

KNESSETH APPROVES ISRAELI BUDGET FOR ONE MONTH; ISRAEL TO COMBAT HIGH COST OF LIVING

TEL AVIV, March 31. (JTA) -- The Israeli Knesseth late last night approved the budget submitted by Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan, but limited its approval to one month, stipulating that the finance committee of the Knesseth should work out details of the budget for the full three-month period and submit its report next week for further study.

In proposing the budget, Kaplan said that almost the entire burden of the recent war was met by the Israeli Government without any outside assistance. This put a heavy financial burden on Israel, he said, although only about 20 percent of last year's national income--some 140,000,000 to 150,000,000 Israeli pounds--was received by the state as taxes. The average per capita tax, he revealed, was approximately 27 pounds.

Kaplan also disclosed that the Israeli Government plans soon to submit a series of proposals to combat the high cost of living and inflation which will, he pointed out, place a heavy burden on all citizens. The government will soon allocate the necessary land areas for large-scale building programs which will begin in earnest in April.

Kaplan also revealed that a special fund to aid Arabs living in Israel will soon be established by the government and will be designed to assist Arabs displaced in the Jewish state to find employment.

A large group of United States capitalists is planning to establish a mortgage bank here soon, according to Abraham Zabarsky, treasurer of the Ministry of Defense, who returned to Israel this week after a tour abroad of several weeks.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK EXTENDS $5,000,000 TO ISRAEL FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

WASHINGTON, March 31. (JTA) -- A credit of $5,000,000 earmarked for the purchase in the United States of telecommunications equipment for Israel has been extended to the Israeli Government by the Export-Import Bank, a spokesman for the Bank said today. This sum brings to $51,000,000 the amount already advanced on the Bank's $100,000,000 loan.

The equipment will be used to establish radio-telephone and radio-telegraph service with the United States and other countries and for the expansion of local telephone facilities in Israel. Israel proposes during the next five years to replace most of the manually-operated telephone exchanges in Israel by automatic multi-exchange systems. The new exchanges will permit service to 25,000 new subscribers, an increase by more than 150 percent. The major cities will be linked by radio-telephone multi-channel circuits.

Israel's new international service will have contacts not only with America but also with Switzerland, Prague, and possibly Moscow. Now the only Israeli-U.S. connection is via Tangiers, with the exception of a British-owned submarine cable. The Export-Import Bank was informed that Israel suffers from a serious deficiency in telephone installations, particularly handicapping in government offices. Only 12,000 telephones are now in service in Israel, mostly for commercial and government uses.

Meanwhile, Israeli Ambassador Eliahu Elath today signed contracts for $16,000,000 in credits from the Export-Import Bank. The credits were previously announced and provide for the purchase here of bus and truck chassis, materials for housing, and telecommunications equipment for Israel.

THREE OF SEVEN ISRAELIS ARRESTED IN RUMANIA FOR "INTERFERING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS" FREED

BUCHAREST, March 31. (JTA) -- Three of the seven Israelis who have been under arrest by the Rumanian Government on charges of "interfering with the internal affairs" of the country were released Tuesday, it was announced today.

The three are Andrei Stoessel, Adam Rabinovitch and Leon Negru. They will proceed to Israel by rail tonight. Meanwhile, no information concerning the four other Israelis who are still under arrest was available here today.

ISRAELI SPOKESMAN IN LONDON SAYS PALESTINE ARAB REFUGEE PROBLEM MUST BE SOLVED SOON

LONDON, March 31. (JTA) -- The solution of the Palestine Arab refugee problem must be reached quickly to relieve the suffering of hundreds of thousands of persons, an Israeli spokesman said today at a press conference.

Pointing out that the problem arose from the war of aggression against Israel, he noted that Arab countries neighboring on Israel have shown an unwillingness to tackle the problem. He dismissed charges made this week in the House of Lords that 220 Arab DP's are dying every day. He cited official figures proving that food supplies which the Arabs are receiving compare favorably with wartime British rations.

Brig. Sir Edward Spears, pro-Arab Middle East expert and former envoy to the Levant states, in a letter published in the London Times today, urged that the Israeli Government turn over to the U.N. Conciliation Commission for Palestine the sum of $1,200,000,000 to compensate the Palestine Arabs who fled their homes during the Israeli-Arab fighting.

FRENCH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DISCUSSES QUESTION OF GRANTING ISRAEL FULL RECOGNITION

PARIS, March 31. (JTA) -- Full de jure recognition of the state of Israel by France is expected shortly following discussion of this move by the French Cabinet yesterday. At present, France accords de facto recognition to the Jewish state.

ISRAELI CABINET AND JEWISH AGENCY SCHEDULED TO HOLD JOINT MEETING IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, March 31. (JTA) -- The Israeli Cabinet and the Jewish Agency executive were scheduled to meet here today at a joint session to discuss financial questions and the problem of absorption of new immigrants.

JUDGE ROTHENBERG DISQUALIFIES HIMSELF IN CASE OF ARRESTED ANTI-BEVIN DEMONSTRATORS

NEW YORK, March 31. (JTA) -- Judge Morris Rothenberg, acting national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, disqualified himself yesterday when three persons charged with disorderly conduct at the mass picketing of British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin--who arrived here earlier yesterday--were brought before him in Mid-Manhattan Magistrate's Court. Refusing to accept a plea of guilty from one of the three, Judge Rothenberg said:

"I have such a feeling of sorrow for the tens of thousands of survivors of the Nazi terror whom Mr. Bevin prevented from finding refuge in the Jewish homeland and caused to be imprisoned in the island of Cyprus, where they endured long months of further sufferings and humiliation, that I do not feel I can properly exercise the judicial function in these cases."

AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO PAY FOR MAINTENANCE OF DP'S IN I.R.O. CAMPS IN COUNTRY

VIENNA, March 31. (JTA) -- The Austrian Government has notified the International Refugee Organization and the high commissioners of the four occupation powers in Austria that it will cease all payments to the I.R.O. for maintenance of displaced persons in I.R.O. camps, Oskar Helmer, the Minister of the Interior, revealed today in an interview here.

He said that the 80,000,000 schillings for this purpose allocated in the government budget had been exhausted and that further payments would cease April 30. There are an estimated 9,500 Jews in I.R.O. camps in Austria. Helmer complained that the I.R.O. had met with little success in resettling displaced persons now in Austria.

JEWS IN HESSE PROTEST MILD JAIL SENTENCE GIVEN MANUFACTURER OF POISON GAS FOR GESTAPO

LONDON, March 31. (JTA) -- Jewish communities in the German province of Hesse termed "a mockery of justice" a five-year prison sentence imposed this week on Dr. Gerhardt Peters, manager of a firm which supplied the Gestapo with poison gas for exterminating Jews in concentration camps, Reuters reported from Frankfurt today.

"While the ashes of millions of victims have been strewn to the four winds, the merchants of death are riding high," the Association of Jewish Communities of Hesse said. "We call on all those who survived the hell of Auschwitz to raise their voices against this mockery of justice," the Association added, according to the news agency. Two of Peters' associates were acquitted.

UNION OF JEWISH WRITERS, ARTISTS IN ITALY DISSOLVES DUE TO DECREASE IN NUMBER OF DP'S

ROME, March 31. (JTA) -- The Union of Jewish Writers, Journalists and Artists in Italy, which was established in July, 1946, has dissolved itself in line with the policy of Jewish cultural groups to wind up their activities as the rate of Jewish emigration from Italy continues to decrease the number of displaced Jews in this country. The Union, during the course of its existence, published its own magazine and arranged numerous cultural meetings.

SEVEN RUMANIAN STATE SCHOOLS INTRODUCE COURSES IN YIDDISH AT REQUEST OF JEWISH PARENTS

BUCHAREST, March 31. (JTA) -- Yiddish will be taught as a separate course in the curriculum of seven Rumanian state schools in Timisoara and Galatzi, it was reported here today. The decision is in line with the policy of the Ministry of Education to introduce courses in Yiddish in general state schools where the parents of the students request it and a sufficient enrollment is guaranteed.

ISRAEL MUST AND WILL HELP SOLVE ARAB REFUGEE PROBLEM, DR. NAHUM GOLDMANN DECLARES

MONTREAL, March 31. (JTA) -- "Israel must and will help solve the Arab refugee problem by constructive methods," Dr. Nahum Goldmann, acting chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, declared here at a fund-raising dinner of the United Israel Appeal. "Israel will help in their resettlement in Arab countries, thus avoiding the creation of a dangerous minority problem in Israel," he added.

"Wartime solidarity and discipline often break down under peaceful conditions, while defeated countries retain their unity and devotion to duty," Dr. Goldmann stated. "In this way the Jews, victors in 1948, may lose their gains during the next two years if they forget the bigger problems now facing them," he added.

ISRAELI WAR HEROES HERE TO TOUR U.S. FOR U.J.A. PLACE WREATH ON GRAVE OF COL. MARCUS

WEST POINT, N.Y., March 31. (JTA) -- Nine Israeli war heroes, who arrived here yesterday to begin a nationwide tour in behalf of the United Jewish Appeal, today visited the U.S. Military Academy here, where they placed a wreath on the grave of Col. David Marcus, West Pointer who was killed last year while commanding Israeli troops in the battle for Jerusalem.

The wreath was placed on the grave by Major Yeruham Cohen, who served with Col. Marcus on the Galilee and Jerusalem fronts and was with him shortly before he was killed. Major Cohen was designated by the Israeli Army command to visit Col. Marcus' grave. While in the United States, he will also meet Col. Marcus' widow to convey a personal message of sympathy from the Israeli General Staff.

N.Y. FEDERATION OF JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES TO BUILD GENERAL HOSPITAL FOR LONG ISLAND

NEW YORK, March 31. (JTA) -- The Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York announced today that it plans to raise funds for the construction of a general hospital to serve the Queens and Long Island areas. The announcement was made at the Federation's annual meeting by Ralph Samuel, president.

Samuel reported that the Federation's 1948 fund-raising campaign, which had a goal of $16,500,000, would probably result in a total income of "somewhat above $14,500,000."

INWOOD ZIONIST DISTRICT SUPPORTS CANDIDACY OF DANIEL FRISCH FOR Z.O.A. PRESIDENCY

NEW YORK, March 31. (JTA) -- A resolution unanimously endorsing the candidacy of Daniel Frisch for the presidency of the Zionist Organization of America was adopted here last night at a meeting of the executive committee of the Inwood Zionist District of the Z.O.A., which has a membership of more than 1,000.

HIAS ANNUAL MEETING REELECTS SAMUEL TELSEY PRESIDENT; WILL SERVE THIRD TERM

NEW YORK, March 31. (JTA) -- Samuel A. Telsey, president of HIAS, was re-elected today at the organization's annual election meeting to serve a third term. Other incumbents renamed were John L. Bernstein, chairman of the executive committee, Samuel Goldstein, treasurer, and Isaac L. Asofsky, secretary.

MEYER BROWN INDUCTED AS PRESIDENT OF JEWISH NATIONAL WORKERS ALLIANCE; BOOK DRIVE BEGUN

NEW YORK, March 31. (JTA) -- Meyer L. Brown, newly-elected president of the Jewish National Workers Alliance, was inducted today as head of the labor Zionist fraternal order at a reception attended by Dr. Hayim Greenberg, Jewish Agency executive member; Judge Morris Rothenberg, acting chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, Louis Lipsky, veteran Zionist leader, and Louis Segal, general secretary of the Alliance, who presided.

A "Books for Israel" campaign was launched by the Alliance in response to a request by the Israeli Army, it was announced at the meeting. Fiction and non-fiction books in Hebrew, Yiddish and English will be collected in this country by the Alliance and forwarded to Israel for distribution among members of the armed forces.

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