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PARLEY WITH SYRIA OPENS TODAY; ARMISTICE PACT SIGNINGS CLEAR PATH FOR PEACE TALKS

TEL AVIV, April 4. (JTA) -- Israel will enter the last phase of armistice negotiations tomorrow with the Arab states which invaded Palestine on May 15, last, when her representatives meet with Syrian delegates in the border town of Tenet, between Rosh Pinah and Mishmar Hayarden.

Pacts have already been signed with the other three states--Egypt, Lebanon and Transjordan--which made up the Arab League's invasion force. Yemen and Saudi Arabia never had troops in the invasion and Iraq is withdrawing hers and turning over positions on the central front to Abdullah's Arab Legion. Once the last armistice pact is signed the path will be clear for the calling of a peace conference.

TRANSJORDAN PACT WILL EASE ISRAELI ENTRY INTO U.N., FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SAYS

TEL AVIV, April 4. (JTA) -- The Israeli-Transjordan agreement will facilitate the Jewish state's acceptance by the United Nations General Assembly which begins meeting at Lake Success tomorrow, Walter Eytan, Foreign Ministry director-general, told a press conference here today.

Eytan voiced the belief that "there is little doubt that the outstanding problems in Jerusalem, such as access to the Holy Places, passage through Latrun and access to Mt. Scopus, will be solved very soon on a give-and-take basis by a special joint Transjordan-Israeli commission to be set up for this purpose."

The Foreign Ministry official emphasized that the most important points approved in the armistice agreement include retention of the entire Negev by Israel, the transfer to it of the Glibca Mountains, the Wadi Araba road and the Ras el Ain-Baifa railway--with the exception of a small stretch near Tulkarm and Qalqilya. (The total land area gained by Israel under the agreement amounts to some 150 square miles, it was learned here.)

Eytan stressed that the Rhodes pact does not represent recognition by Israel of Transjordan's title to the Arab triangle area. Nor does this concession "prejudice a final settlement" of the issue, he pointed out.

Israeli Knesseth Votes for Full Discussion of Transjordan Pact

Following a statement today by Premier David Ben Gurion, the Israeli Knesseth voted for an immediate and full-scale discussion of the armistice agreement signed yesterday with Transjordan. The vote came on a motion by Menachem Beigin, Heruth deputy and former Irgun commander.

In his statement, the Israeli Premier said that the accord was an additional step toward peace and toward the achievement of greater independence and progress by the Arab states, as well as for the peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem as a whole. He noted that the consolidation of Israel would be furthered by a strengthening of the independence of the Arab states from all foreign influences.

ISRAELI U.N. REPRESENTATIVE HOPES ARMISTICE PACT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

LAKE SUCCESS, April 4. (JTA) -- Israeli delegate to the United Nations Aubrey S. Eban, commenting on the Israeli-Transjordan agreement, said here today that "the Government of Israel hopes that the armistice agreements will be followed swiftly by peace negotiations, looking to the settlement of all political questions still outstanding between Israel and its Arab neighbors." His statement, issued on the eve of the opening of the U.N. General Assembly here tomorrow at 3 P.M., follows:

"The signing of the Israel-Transjordan armistice agreement, coming on the eve of the opening of the General Assembly of the United Nations, is a reflection of the moderation and peaceful intentions of both governments. It is also a signal milestone in the United Nations' efforts to ensure peace and stability in the Near East. The two governments owe a debt to acting mediator Ralph Bunche for his persevering contribution to the conclusion of the armistice agreement.

"The Government of Israel has consistently maintained that direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbors would prove the most effective means for the achievement of peace and settlement of political as well as military problems. The validity of this position, previously vindicated in the agreements with Egypt and Lebanon, has once again been demonstrated.

"From the standpoint of world interest and concern, one of the most significant elements of the armistice agreement is the assurance of peace and tranquility for the city of Jerusalem. The Holy City, the object of devout reverence of the entire world, is now to be guaranteed stability, with security for all its inhabitants, and the most solemn regard for the sanctity of all its shrines held sacred by Christians, Arabs and Jews.

"This system of armistice agreements is a precedent for the future. The Government of Israel hopes that the armistice agreements will be followed swiftly by peace negotiations, looking to the settlement of all political questions still outstanding between Israel and its Arab neighbors."

ONLY 3,000 JEWISH REFUGEES REMAIN IN ITALY, ISRAELI CONSUL GENERAL AT ROME DISCLOSES

TEL AVIV, April 4. (JTA) -- Only about three to four thousand Jewish refugees remain in Italian displaced persons camps and will be transferred to Israel soon, Arie Oren, Israeli consul general at Rome, said on his arrival here today.

In all, since the end of the war, he said, 40,000 Jewish refugees and 20,000 illegal immigrants had passed through Italy en route to Israel. He expressed warm appreciation for the treatment the Italian Government and people had extended to these refugees.

Oren declared the Italian Jewish community now numbers 30,000. Commercial negotiations between Israel and Italy will be started soon in Rome, he added, following the arrival there of Richard Clinton, newly-appointed Israeli commercial attache.

PLAN FOR MEETING OF ISRAEL AND ARAB STATES ANNOUNCED BY U.N. CONCILIATION COMMISSION

LAKE SUCCESS, April 4. (JTA) -- The U.N. Conciliation Commission for Palestine has announced a plan to bring representatives of Israel and all of the Arab states together at some "neutral place" in what may be the first step to a round-table peace conference, a cable received here today from Beirut revealed.

4/5/49

5,000,000 SET ASIDE BY I.R.O. FOR POSSIBLE USE IN TRANSPORTING REFUGEES TO ISRAEL

GENEVA, April 4. (JTA) -- The proposed budget for the International Refugee Organization's next year of operations--which was submitted to the I.R.O. general council today by director William H. Tuck--provides an additional \$5,000,000 from a contingency fund for the transportation to and resettlement in Israel of refugees. It is expected that the recommended budget will be approved by the council.

J.D.C. AND HIAS IN ITALY SET UP BODY TO FACILITATE APPLICATIONS FOR IMMIGRATION TO U.S.

ROME, April 4. (JTA) -- Representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee and the HIAS in Italy have set up a coordinating committee to facilitate the applications of Jewish displaced persons in this country who desire to immigrate to the United States under the Displaced Persons Act of 1948, it was reported here.

Meanwhile, it was revealed by Louis Horowitz, J.D.C. director for Italy, that a recently-announced International Refugee Organization-Italian Government-J.D.C. agreement designed to speed the transfer of Jewish DP's from this country to Israel has not yet gone into effect. The only point actually agreed on to date, the J.D.C. official said, is that DP's reaching Italy from Germany and Austria who reside in I.R.O. camps will be aided by the J.D.C.

DECREES TURNING OVER HEIRLESS JEWISH PROPERTY TO REHABILITATION FUND PUBLISHED IN GREECE

ATHENS, April 4. (JTA) -- A government decree implementing a 1946 law providing for the turning over of Jewish heirless property to a fund for the rehabilitation of needy Greek Jews was published in the Official Gazette today. The decree, approved by the Cabinet several weeks ago, was signed by King Paul March 27.

BRITISH POLICE HUNTING JEWISH RESIDENT BELIEVED ATTEMPTING TO ENTER ISRAEL ILLEGALLY

LONDON, April 4. (JTA) -- Scotland Yard detectives were today hunting Sidney Stanley, Polish Jew resident in Britain, who was recently involved in a public investigation of an alleged scandal in British Government circles.

It is believed here that Stanley, acting on advice of counsel, is making an attempt to enter Israel illegally. Stanley, whom the Israeli Government has refused an entry visa, failed to report to a London police station yesterday. He has been reporting daily on police orders because of deportation proceedings against him.

HIAS OFFICE IN BUCHAREST PROCESSING 2,000 JEWS LEAVING FOR OVERSEAS; NONE GOING TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, April 4. (JTA) -- The HIAS office in Bucharest is currently processing more than 2,000 emigration cases, it was revealed today by Isaac L. Asofsky, executive director, on the basis of a report just received from the organization's director in Rumania, Dr. Mauriciu Zengher. The report said that the prospective emigrants are being aided to go to 38 countries.

Despite government restrictions on emigration, the HIAS office in Rumania last year "aided hundreds of Jews to leave that country," the report said. Most of the countries to which the Rumanian Jews will go to are in Latin America. None of the 2,000 currently being processed for emigration by the HIAS are proceeding to Israel, the report revealed.

U.S. GOVT. CONSIDERS NAZI DISCRIMINATORY LAWS INVALID IN PROPERTY RECOVERY CASES

NEW YORK, April 4. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee has been advised by the State and Justice Departments that it is contrary to U.S. Government policy to accord "any validity to German confiscatory and discriminatory laws, decrees and acts insofar as they may be concerned in the consideration of claims filed against vested German interests," it was revealed today by Victor S. Riesenfeld, chairman of the A.J.C. administrative committee.

The policy ruling affects suits for recovery of bank accounts and other property seized by the Nazis and subsequently vested with the U.S. Custodian of Alien Property or blocked in banks by Government order. According to a letter to Seymour A. Rubin, counsel for the Committee, from Assistant Attorney General David L. Bazelon, Director of the Office of Alien Property, "the Office of Alien Property will not assert as a defense to debt claims filed under section 34 (of the Trading with the Enemy Act), decrees, laws and regulations of the former government of Germany, enacted or promulgated during the period between January 30, 1933, and May 8, 1945, which discriminated against individuals because of membership in a political, racial, or religious group."

Restitution to original owners of property in Germany looted during the Nazi regime will be furthered by a clause introduced by the Social Democratic Party for inclusion in the preamble of the proposed constitution for Western Germany now being drafted by a German parliamentary group at Bonn, according to information received by the Committee through its European representatives. The constitution is intended to serve as the basic law for the projected West German state.

ISRAELI CONSUL IN NEW YORK EXPLAINS NEED FOR CUSTOMS DUTIES ON GIFT PARCELS FROM U.S.

NEW YORK, April 4. (JTA) -- A statement by the Israeli Consul-General here explains the need for customs duties which friends and relatives in Israel receiving food and clothing parcels from persons in the U.S. must pay. Announcing that the customs duty for standard food parcels varies from \$1.20 to \$1.60, while clothing is subject to a tax of 35 percent, the statement says in part:

"It must be understood that the people of Israel, having come through a critical and costly struggle for survival, are now living under and have readily accepted a regime of severe austerity. Food is subject to rationing and all residents are restricted in the amount they may purchase. Clothing is being manufactured under a utility planning scheme. All people in Israel, making their fair contribution to the cost of war and reconstruction, are paying heavy taxes. Some of these taxes are indirect, since the prices of food and clothing reflect import duties.

"It follows, therefore, that anyone who receives a gift parcel of food and clothing from relatives outside the country may equitably be expected to assume the customs duty which the general population is called upon to pay. We believe that the people of Israel are determined to make their fair contribution to the country's national existence and that accordingly, they understand the wisdom, equity and necessity of the import regulations in this period of emergency."

PIONEER WOMEN TO INSCRIBE NAME OF BEN GURION IN JEWISH NATIONAL FUND GOLDEN BOOK

NEW YORK, April 4. (JTA) -- The Pioneer Women's Organization will present Israeli Premier David Ben Gurion with an inscription in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund, it was revealed today by Mrs. Bert Goldstein, president, who is scheduled to leave for Israel tomorrow by air to join her husband, Jewish Agency treasurer R. Israel Goldstein, in Jerusalem. At the same time it was announced that 700 delegates from the U.S., Canada, Mexico and several South American countries will participate in the Pioneer Women's annual convention to be held in Philadelphia June 11-15.

NEW PLASTICS FIRM ESTABLISHED IN ISRAEL, PALESTINE ECONOMIC CORPORATION OFFICIAL SAYS

NEW YORK, April 4. (JTA) -- Establishment of a company to manufacture soft plastics and the expansion of two food processing and chemical firms in Israel have been undertaken by the Palestine Economic Corporation, it was announced today by Robert Szold, P.E.C. executive committee chairman, who has just completed a four-week tour of that country.

"Housing remains the most acute problem," he said. He revealed that a committee of realty and building experts will go to Israel within a few weeks on a P.E.C. mission to study conditions "preliminary to drafting a huge construction program." Szold said that intensified "commercial and industrial activity may well advance Israel to leadership as a producing and exporting center for the entire Middle East."

PRESIDENT WEIZMANN AND PARTY DUE TO ARRIVE HERE NEXT MONDAY FOR TESTIMONIAL DINNER

NEW YORK, April 4. (JTA) -- President Dr. Chaim Weizmann of Israel and his Member Party will arrive here Monday, April 11, it was revealed today by the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science. The Committee is tendering a "Salute to the President of Israel" dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria on April 23. The Weizmann party will stop off in Paris for five days before proceeding to the U.S.

ANTI-SEMITISM BEING REVIVED IN GERMANY, YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEAGUE OF UNITED SYNAGOGUE HEARS

ATLANTIC CITY, April 4. (JTA) -- Charges that there has been a revival of anti-Semitism in occupied Germany were made here last night at the closing session of the 22nd annual convention of the Young People's League of the United Synagogue of America, attended by more than 750 delegates.

Major Wellesley Aron, Israeli war hero, told the convention that "spiritual and cultural values will overflow the boundaries of Israel and will inspire young Jews throughout the world to a new conception of Judaism." He predicted that "Jewish life in America will be reinvigorated as a result of the reintroduction of the Jewish tradition in the native soil of Israel." Melvin B. Perlman, of Boston, was elected president of the League succeeding Irving Rubin, of New York.

ALL-DAY CONFERENCE MARKS TEN YEARS OF PUBLICATION OF JEWISH SOCIAL STUDIES MAGAZINE

NEW YORK, April 4. (JTA) -- An all-day conference at the New School here yesterday marked the completion of ten years of the publication Jewish Social Studies.

The general subject of the conference was "Problems of Research in the Study of the Jewish Catastrophe 1939-45." One session, under the chairmanship of Salo W. Baron, professor of Jewish history at Columbia University, discussed "The Status of Research." A second session, chaired by Max Weinreich of the Yiddish Scientific Institute, discussed "The Social Sciences and the Jewish Catastrophe."

U.S.A. EDUCATION DEPT. ANNOUNCES ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING CONTEST: OFFERS \$1,000 IN PRIZES

NEW YORK, April 4. (JTA) -- A playwriting contest with \$1,000 in prizes to be awarded for the best one-act dramatic presentations dealing with the "problem of developing a full and meaningful Jewish life in the United States or elsewhere" was announced here by the education department of the Zionist Organization of America. First prize for the competition, which closes Oct. 4, 1949, will be \$500 while second and third prizes will be \$250 each. The contest is open both to professional and amateur playwrights and funds for the awards have been made available by the American Zionist Fund.

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