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ARAB-JEWISH CONFERENCE ON PALESTINE OPENS IN LAUSANNE UNDER UNITED NATIONS AUSPICES

LAUSANNE, April 27. (JTA) -- The preliminary Palestine peace conference, arranged by the U.N. Conciliation Commission, opened here today preceded by a meeting of the three members of the Commission under the chairmanship of Mark E. Stettin, the U.S. representative.

Commission members said they expect the conference to continue for at least three weeks and possibly for three months. No formal agenda has yet been arranged, since this will depend on the preliminary exchange of views now taking place between the Israeli and Arab delegations.

The U.N. Commission--which in addition to its American member is composed of representatives of France and Turkey--first met with members of the Israeli delegation, represented by Eliahu Sassoon and Gershon Hirsch, of the Foreign Ministry. Certain sources close to the Commission displayed surprise at the apparently unbending attitude adopted by the Israeli delegates.

In a second session in the afternoon, the Commission met with members of the Egyptian delegation, the leader of which, Mounir Bey Mostapha, director-general of Arab Affairs, has not yet arrived here. The delegation was temporarily represented by Chami el Labbane Maymud Fawzy, delegation secretary. Later, the Lebanese delegation, headed by Fiad Amoun, director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also met with the Commission for an exchange of views.

The Syrian delegation, consisting of Adnan Stassi, Syrian Minister to Paris, and Farid Zeinlein, former envoy to Moscow, will arrive here tomorrow when they are scheduled to meet with the U.N. body.

News Blackout Imposed on Israeli-Transjordan Talks on Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, April 27. (JTA) -- A news blackout was imposed today on the Israeli-Transjordan negotiations over Jerusalem. An official Israeli source, however, announced that a communique covering the discussions to date would be issued in the next few days. Other sources said that there was considerable "hard bargaining" under way between the two parties over the proposed armistice lines, communication channels and other public service facilities.

Reports received here today revealed a renewal of the bitter fight between King Abdullah of Transjordan and the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem. Abdullah has issued an order to his Arab Legion calling for the rounding up and immediate military trial of "irregulars" who have been active against Israel and who apparently are followers of the Mufti.

Other Arab reports indicate that the Transjordan monarch has appointed Lt. Col. Abdullah el Tel, former Legion commander in Jerusalem, as military attache at the embassy which Transjordan expects to establish in Washington.

ISRAELI MINISTRY OF RELIGION WILL MOVE NEXT WEEK FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM

TEL AVIV, April 27. (JTA) -- The Ministry of Religion will move to Jerusalem next week, Minister of Religion Rabbi Judah L. Fishman announced today. He pointed out that the move will make his Ministry the first government department to transfer its entire headquarters from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Addressing a press conference, Minister Fishman outlined plans to make Israel the spiritual center of the Jewish people throughout the world by arranging for the Israeli Chief Rabbinate to offer religious instruction to Jewish communities abroad. The Ministry of Religion does not wish to make Israel a theocratic state, Rabbi Fishman declared, but does want the future Israeli constitution to be based on Jewish religious law.

Lt. Col. L. Gorontchik, chief chaplain of the Israeli Army, speaking at the same news parley, lauded the aid extended by the office of Premier David Ben Gurion and by Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Yeacov Dori, in connection with kashruth observance in the armed forces. He revealed that a total of 52 new synagogues have been established to date for use among newly-arrived immigrants in Israel. He also disclosed that efforts are now being made to find a universal formula of worship which would make it possible for Ashkenazic and Oriental Jews to worship in each other's synagogues.

TWELVE-HOUR DEBATE ON AUSTERITY PROGRAM OPENS IN ISRAELI PARLIAMENT; CRITICISM VOICED

TEL AVIV, April 27. (JTA) -- Severe criticism against the austerity program presented by the government yesterday to the Knesset, was voiced today at the opening of a general debate in the parliament. The debate is scheduled to last 12 hours.

Dr. Fritz Bornstein, leader of the General Zionists, in attacking the program, announced that his party will propose an alternative plan. He claimed that by announcing its program prior to enforcing it, the government has helped to create a black market. Criticism of the program was also voiced by Uri Zvi Greenberg on behalf of the Freedom Movement group which is composed of former Irgunists.

The austerity program as made public by the government last night was the subject of discussion today throughout the country, with many defending it and others opposing it. Israeli newspapers published critical articles on the ground that the government did not announce sufficient details of the plan.

A resolution calling upon the Israeli Government to continue its efforts with the United Nations in order to insure the civil rights for Jews living in Arab countries, as well as their right to immigrate to Israel, was adopted unanimously today by the Knesset.

JEWISH AGENCY BUDGET THIS YEAR EXPECTED TO REACH \$142,000,000; WILL SET UP 70 COLONIES

JERUSALEM, April 27. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency's budget for the Hebrew year 5709 will be at least \$124,000,000 and will probably reach \$142,000,000, it was announced here today. The Agency expects to establish 7,000 agricultural units--approximately 70 new settlements--in the course of the year.

Twenty-one hundred immigrants arrived at Haifa today. The immigrants, who came from France aboard the Israeli vessel Atzmaut, were immediately disembarked.

MEMBERS OF CATHOLIC CHURCH IN U.S. ASK FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION OF JERUSALEM

WASHINGTON, April 27. (JTA) -- Acting in accordance with the recent request of the Pope that Jerusalem be internationalized, the administrative board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference -- composed of three Cardinals, five Archbishops and four Bishops -- last night issued a statement here insisting that the United Nations decision for the internationalization of Jerusalem "be implemented."

The statement, signed by Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York, Edward Cardinal Mooney of Detroit, Samuel Cardinal Streitch of Chicago and nine other leaders of American Catholicism, appealed to Catholics in the United States "to use their democratic privileges" to exert pressure on the U.S. Government and the United Nations with a view toward securing the internationalization of Jerusalem.

"Conscious of our sacred duty as leaders of the Catholics in the United States," the statement said, "we exhort our people to use their democratic privileges in this free nation to obtain from those in our government and in the United Nations continued assurances that the original commitments as to Christian rights in Palestine will be carried out. We know that millions of American share our sentiments when we expect that religious and humanitarian rights cannot be obscured or neglected in that land for which every true Christian cherishes deepest devotion."

PALESTINE MEDIATOR GETS AWARD FOR BRINGING ABOUT ARAB-ISRAELI ARMISTICE

NEW YORK, April 27. (JTA) -- The belief that "peace will be fully restored to Palestine through United Nations intervention and persistent effort" was expressed here today by Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, acting U.N. mediator for Palestine, at a Town Hall ceremony in which he was presented with the Town Hall Distinguished Public Service Award for successfully negotiating armistice agreements between Arabs and Jews.

Dr. Bunche said he was confident that the U.N. Conciliation Commission will successfully lead the Arabs and the Jews "toward an amicable solution of their outstanding political problems." The armistice agreements, he said, have gone a long way toward eliminating any prospect of resumption of fighting and have greatly lessened the tension.

"Perhaps the greatest significance of the armistice agreements," he stated, "is to be found in the fact that the representatives of the Arab and Israeli Governments have now for the first time in the history of their bitter disputes sat down together in earnest consultations and have learned that it is possible for them to resolve vital differences by reason of good statesmanship and a mutual spirit of conciliation."

CHIEF RABBI HERZOG OF ISRAEL ARRIVES IN NEW YORK; WILL ASSIST IN U.J.A. CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, April 27. (JTA) -- The steadily deteriorating position of the more than 60,000 homeless immigrants in Israel threatens a "grave crisis" for the Jewish state unless immediate large-scale financial aid is forthcoming from the Jewish communities of the United States, Chief Rabbi Isaac Halevi Herzog of Israel said here today upon his arrival by air from Jerusalem.

The Chief Rabbi, who has come to the United States at the invitation of Henry Morgenthau, Jr., to assist in the nationwide United Jewish Appeal campaign, declared that the influx of refugees, who are coming into Israel at the rate of more than 1,000 a day, has "created grave problems for the new state, which is still on a war footing." He was greeted at the Idlewild Airport by a large group of rabbis, as well as prominent Jewish lay leaders and Israeli officials. Moshe Yuval, First Secretary of the Israeli Embassy, represented the Israeli Government. Morgenthau was not at the airport, since he is currently on a tour of major cities on behalf of the U.J.A.

GERMAN COUNCIL OF STATES IN U.S. ZONE PASSES RESTITUTION LAW FOR NAZI VICTIMS

STUTTGART, April 27. (JTA) -- A restitution law providing for the repayment to victims of the Nazi regime for losses they suffered as a result of Nazi persecution was passed here last night by the German Council of States in the American occupation zone. The Council had balked at passing such a law for about three years despite the insistence of A.I.A.G.

The new law provides for the return of personal property seized by the Nazis and for compensation for jobs or professions from which the Nazi victims were ousted under the Hitler regime. Displaced persons, too, are entitled to compensation under the law. The provision to include DP's was adopted following the expression of bitter opposition against this point on the part of some members of the Council.

The American Military Government officially decreed restitution about two years ago after the German Council of States refused to pass such a law. However, no payments were made to any of the Nazi victims.

TENNY-ONE NAZIS SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT FOR ATTACKING JEWS AND LOOTING PROPERTY

HAMBURG, April 27. (JTA) -- Karl Wilhelm Dreescher, former Nazi district leader of Hamburg, was sentenced to three-and-a-half years imprisonment by a German court here today for burning down the Hamburg synagogue and plundering Jewish property. Hamburg is located near here. Dreescher and 74 former stormtroopers were charged with "excesses" conducted against Jews in October, 1938.

Twenty-one of the brownshirts who carried out his orders to attack Jews and their property received sentences ranging from four months to three-and-a-quarter years. Four were acquitted and the indictments against nine others were quashed. Some 150 witnesses were called during the seven weeks' trial.

The prosecution produced a secret teleprinter message from the chief of the Gestapo to all branches of the Nazi Party and to police stations ordering that "spontaneous acts by the population" against Jewish shops and especially synagogues were not to be stopped. The order said prisons should be prepared to receive 20,000-30,000 Jews who were to be arrested during the pogroms. Provincial and district offices of the Nazi Party were ordered to concentrate on the arrest of wealthy Jews.

FIRST AIR TRANSPORT OF JEWISH DP'S LEAVES GERMANY FOR THE UNITED STATES

FRANKFURT, April 27. (JTA) -- The first air transport of United States-bound displaced persons left Munich today aboard a Seaboard and Western Airline plane, carrying 55 hardship cases, including 43 Jewish women and children. Officials of the International Refugee Organization announced that arrangements have now been made for semi-weekly charter flights.

200 NORTH AFRICAN JEWISH CHILDREN TO BE BROUGHT TO NORWAY FOR CONVALESCENT CARE

BERGSLIDE, April 27. (JTA) -- A first group of 60 Jewish children from North Africa, who had been housed in a refugee camp here, left by air for Norway last night to spend the next eight months in a convalescent camp near Holmestrand.

A total of 200 children will be taken to Norway from the camp by the Norwegian relief organization, Europa Hjelpen. The relief group sent a four-engine Skymaster plane to bring the children to their new home. The children will be accompanied by instructors who will train them for settlement in Israel.

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER LAUDS JUDGE PROSKAUER FOR HELPING EMERGENCE OF ISRAEL

NEW YORK, April 27. (JTA) -- "We in Israel will never forget the noble efforts of Judge Proskauer in helping to secure the political conditions which facilitated the emergence of the Jewish state," Prime Minister David Ben Gurion said in a statement cabled from Tel Aviv today to the American Jewish Committee on the occasion of a dinner tendered tonight in honor of Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, honorary president of the Committee. The dinner was sponsored by the Joint Defense Appeal on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York.

Judge Proskauer was presented at the dinner with a Joint Defense Appeal citation by Justice Meir Steinbrink, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The citation paid tribute to Judge Proskauer for his "five decades of statesmanlike leadership and distinguished services on behalf of Jewry throughout the world." More than 600 leaders in all walks of Jewish life attended the affair which took place in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Waldorf Astoria.

"American Jewry," the Israeli Premier continued in his message, "has a great share in the creation of Israel and the political efforts of Judge Proskauer have a high place in this American Jewish contribution. I have been happy to welcome in our midst President Jacob Blaustein and members of the American Jewish Committee in the last few days and they, I believe, know that they have seen something of our work and problems.

"We stand on the threshold of our real task--the reception of hundreds of thousands of our brethren who wish and need to come to Israel. They must be housed, fed, clothed, settled and enabled to play their part in building anew both their own lives and our liberated homeland. We hope that we can count on you, Judge Proskauer, and on you all present at the dinner, to stand by us in the coming years in the same spirit of solidarity and comradeship which you offered freely to us in the grim years of the past," Ben Gurion concluded.

CHAIRMAN OF JUDICIARY COMMITTEE INTRODUCES NEW DP BILL IN SENATE; SUPPORTS DISCRIMINATORY

WASHINGTON, April 27. (JTA) -- Chairman Pat McCarran of the Senate Judiciary Committee introduced a bill in the Senate late yesterday which would establish a 507,000 four-year ceiling for admission of DP's and retain all provisions of the present law criticized as discriminatory. His bill was attacked today as "meaningless" by Senator Irving Ives of New York.

McCarran told the Senate that "the present law has been falsely criticized as being unjust and discriminatory." He defended all provisions of the law which have been called discriminatory by Jewish organizations and attacked proposals to liberalize it, declaring that 39 percent of the DP's admitted so far have been Jewish. The Catholic percentage, he stated, amounted to 44 percent.

The McCarran Bill would increase the number of DP's brought in from 205,000 to 507,000 and permit the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to grant loans up to \$5,000,000 to private or public agencies to transport DP's to their final destinations in the U.S.

EL SALVADOR BECOMES 23RD NATION TO SIGN UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON GENOCIDE

LAKE SUCCESS, April 27. (JTA) -- El Salvador today became the 23rd nation to sign the United Nations convention on genocide. The ratification of only 20 nations is required to make the convention binding upon their signatories.

GENERAL HILLDRING ARRIVES IN ISRAEL; U.S. OFFICIALS STUDY EXPANSION OF HAIFA PORT

HAIFA, April 27. (JTA) -- Major General John Hilldring, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State and special representative in charge of Palestine affairs, arrived here today aboard the Israeli ship *Neghav*, which carried 1,200 immigrants. The General, who is regarded as one of the persons chiefly responsible for the State Department's favorable attitude toward Israel, said he would spend two weeks in the Jewish state.

A seven-member group of American experts on housing which was invited by the government to come to Israel arrived today, and will remain in the country until the end of May.

Three officials of the U.S. Export-Import Bank today visited the Haifa port and studied plans for the expansion of its facilities.

NEW SETTLEMENT TO BE NAMED FOR RABBI BERLIN; ISRAELI ENVOY TO LONDON LAUDS LATE LEADER

LONDON, April 27. (JTA) -- A new settlement will be named for the late world Mizrahi leader, Rabbi Meir Berlin, who died in Jerusalem last week, the British Mizrahi Federation was informed today by Dr. Abraham Granovsky, head of the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem. The new colony will be called Kfar Meir. A forest previously named for Rabbi Berlin will be enlarged.

Israeli Minister to Britain Mordecai Eliash, making his first public address here since assuming his new post, paid tribute to the late Mizrahi leader at a memorial meeting called by Hapoel Hamizrachi. In describing Rabbi Berlin, Eliash said he was "a respected elder statesman, religious aristocrat of the Yishuv and the stalwart defender of Jerusalem." Tributes to Rabbi Berlin were also paid by the British Zionist Federation at a meeting addressed by Barnett Janner, M.P., Prof. Selig Brodetsky and other notables.

MAYOR O'DWYER PROCLAIMS MAY 4 AS "ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY"; URGES PRAYERS FOR NEW STATE

NEW YORK, April 27. (JTA) -- Mayor William O'Dwyer of New York yesterday proclaimed May 4--the first anniversary of the proclamation of Israeli statehood--as "Israel Independence Day" and called on citizens of this city to join him in "expressions of prayer, support and good wishes for the new state of Israel." The American Zionist Emergency Council will hold two public functions on that day in New York to mark the Israeli anniversary.

SAMUEL BAUSMAN, GENERAL CHAIRMAN OF NEW YORK U.J.A., LEAVES FOR SURVEY OF ISRAEL

NEW YORK, April 27. (JTA) -- Samuel Bausman, a general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, left today for Israel to survey and report on conditions there, it was announced by Monroe Goldwater, president. Bausman will also study certain matters important to the New York campaign of the U.J.A., the announcement added.

RABBI WISE LEFT ESTATE VALUED AT \$45,000; BEQUESTS MADE TO JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

NEW YORK, April 27. (JTA) -- Rabbi Stephen S. Wise left an estate valued at about \$45,000, it was revealed here when his will was filed for probate in Surrogate's Court. While most of the estate is bequeathed to the late Jewish leader's two children--Justine Wise Polier and James Waterman Wise--several bequests were also made to the American Jewish Congress, World Jewish Congress, Palestine Endowment Funds, Inc., American Friends of the Hebrew University and other institutions.

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