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JTA Daily News Bulletin

NEWS GETS BILL ASKING FOR COMMISSION TO SURVEY NEEDS OF NEAR EASTERN LANDS

WASHINGTON, May 18. (JTA) -- A bill was introduced in the House and in the Senate today urging the establishment of a Near East survey commission as the first step to implement Point 4 of President Truman's program to aid undeveloped countries. The Congressional commission, if appointed, will investigate development possibilities in Israel.

The commission, to be formed under the bill, would be composed of 15 members, including five senators, five members of the House, and five persons appointed by the President. It would be authorized to draw on the executive departments and agencies of the government for personnel and information. The bill is sponsored in the House by 45 Congressmen, and is authored by Reps. Jacob K. Javits and Abraham J. Multer, both of New York. In the Senate, the sponsors are Sens. Paul H. Douglas of Illinois and Raymond E. Baldwin of Connecticut.

The bill stipulates that the Congressional commission only visit countries "on the invitation of the government or administration thereof." It provides for a comprehensive inquiry with respect to action the U.S. should take, in cooperation with other nations or alone, to advance the economic development of the Near East. In addition to Israel, beneficiary countries would include Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Trans-Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and Yemen.

State Department Consulted; Sponsors Interested in Lowdermilk Plan

Proponents of the bill said today that the State Department had been consulted and many of its recommendations are incorporated in the bill. Sen. Douglas heartily endorsed the measure at a press conference today. He declared that the development of the Jordan River irrigation project would bring about prosperity in that area and would thus reduce friction between Arabs and Jews.

The sponsors of the bill emphasized that they are particularly interested in helping to promote projects for the development of power and water resources for irrigation, such as the Jordan Valley Authority. The development of the Tigris and the Euphrates Valley was mentioned as a possible answer to the Arab refugee problem. The over-all purpose of the bill is to stimulate industrial and agricultural production and trade among the Near Eastern countries and the improvement of health, education, and the general standard of living in the area.

The preliminary survey work done by Dr. Walter Clay Lowdermilk and by the British High Commission in this field was cited. The sponsors also recalled the international recommendations for Palestine economic development, including the various plans for Palestine partition, the Grady-Morrison plan, and the plan adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 29, 1947.

It is planned that the Commission make interim reports to Congress and maintain an office in Washington. The Commission would have the power to appoint and fix compensation of technical personnel and experts. Ninety days after submission of the final report to Congress the Commission would cease to exist.

BLAUSTEIN DISCUSSES ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC NEEDS WITH PRESIDENT TRUMAN AT WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, May 18. (JTA) -- Jacob Blaustein, president of the American Jewish Committee, today reported to President Truman at the White House on economic conditions in Israel and said he found the President "generally sympathetic."

Blaustein described to the President the findings of a survey he recently completed in Israel at the request of Prime Minister David Ben Gurion. He said he discussed "general economic needs" with President Truman, in light of increasing immigration; inflation, unemployment problems, and the housing shortage.

The President indicated sympathy not only for the sake of Israel but for the progress of Israel as part of the peaceful development of the Near East, Blaustein stated. The need for investment of foreign capital in Israel was stressed by the leader of the American Jewish Committee in an interview after he emerged from the President's office.

ARAB DELEGATIONS THREATEN TO LEAVE LAUSANNE; DISSATISFIED WITH ISRAELI DEMANDS

LAUSANNE, May 18. (JTA) -- The Arab delegations told the United Nations Conciliation Commission today that they are not prepared to remain in Lausanne for continued talks if Israel means to raise issues such as the demand for immediate withdrawal of all Arab armies from Palestine.

The Arabs are reported to have demanded the immediate return of 25,000 Arab refugees to work in Israeli orange groves before the delegates are prepared to discuss the question of frontiers with Israel.

The Egyptian and Transjordan delegations, which now appear to be working closely together, have indicated that they propose to leave Lausanne in a matter of days if no further advance can be made on the refugee issue. There is no sign of any such advance forthcoming from the Israeli side.

The Israelis yesterday agreed to take back the broken-up families of Arab refugees. They also explained to the Commission that the Israeli interpretation of compensation rules out the restitution of property previously held by refugees or their return to homes they previously inhabited. Israeli compensation would be paid into a general fund and returning refugees would be directed to homes where they could reside, the Israeli delegation explained.

(The New York Times today reported from Lausanne that Palestine Arab representatives there, supported by the Arab delegations, have proposed to the U.N. Conciliation Commission the creation of a mixed commission--composed of representatives of the Commission, Arab refugees and Israelis--for the purpose of establishing the status of Arab property in Palestine.)

CANADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ANNOUNCES EXTENSION OF DE JURE RECOGNITION TO JEWISH STATE

MONTREAL, May 18. (JTA) -- Canadian de jure recognition of Israel was announced here yesterday by Lester Pearson, Minister for External Affairs, at a political rally.

The rally was sponsored in support of David Croll, a Jewish M.P. who is campaigning for reelection. Asserting that Canada was "privileged" to support the campaign in the United Nations for the establishment and international recognition of the Jewish state, the Minister expressed the hope that Israel will be a leading factor in the establishment of a "true peace" in the Middle East.

ISRAELI FINANCIAL MISSION IN LONDON RESUMES TALKS WITH BRITISH GOVT. REPRESENTATIVES

LONDON, May 18. (JTA) -- The Israeli financial mission now in London yesterday held its first formal meeting with British Government representatives since last Wednesday. No details of the talks were made public.

Sir William Strang, permanent Undersecretary in the Foreign Office, "will be welcome guest" at Tel Aviv, an Israeli legation spokesman declared here today. The announcement was made in connection with Strang's scheduled departure Saturday for a month's trip to Tripoli and the Middle East, including Cairo, Baghdad, Amman, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

The Foreign Office said today that Sir William's tour will be a "fact finding assignment." A spokesman declared that it is not the purpose of the Strang mission to conduct any negotiations but to make an on-the-spot survey of conditions in each country. He will confer with leading government figures in each of the countries he visits. The spokesman compared Strang's forthcoming Middle East journey to his recent tour of the Far East.

EVATT CLOSES U.N. ASSEMBLY; CITES ISRAEL'S ADMISSION; IS HONORED BY ISRAELI GOVERNMENT

FLUSHING MEADOWS, May 18. (JTA) -- Palestine and Israel figured conspicuously in the closing speeches today before the United Nations General Assembly by Assembly president Dr. Herbert V. Evatt and Secretary-General Trygve Lie.

Dr. Evatt cited the admission of Israel as the 59th member as a sign that the U.N. is "not only a dynamic peoples organization but a 'growing representative body.'" Lie mentioned Palestine as one of the "trouble spots" of the world that the U.N. is facing. "In Palestine and the whole Near East there are many wounds to heal," Lie said. "The armistice agreements must be followed by permanent peace between Israel and her neighbor states."

Following adjournment, the Government of Israel expressed its gratitude to Dr. Evatt for the "decisive part" he played throughout the Assembly's consideration of the Palestine problem from the earliest proceedings on the partition plan to the manner in which he expedited Assembly action on Israel's admission.

This thanks was transmitted to Dr. Evatt in his office by Israel's representative to the U.N., Aubrey Eban, in the form of a letter from Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett, together with certificates recording the names of Evatt and the Australian Government in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund at Jerusalem.

Sharett's letter declared that "we are deeply indebted to the Australian delegation for its consistent and effective support of our cause in the Assembly and its organs through all the stages of the consideration of our problem by the United Nations." Referring to Dr. Evatt's personal assistance to the Israeli cause, the letter stated: "Both as Australian Representative and as a distinguished officer of the United Nations, you have by your handling of the Palestine problem added a worthy chapter to your record as a champion of human rights and of international equity, and have contributed vastly to the prestige and authority of the parliament of the world."

2,000 IMMIGRANTS ARRIVE AT ISRAELI PORTS IN TWO-DAY PERIOD; BROUGHT IN FOUR SHIPS

TEL AVIV, May 18. (JTA) -- More than 2,000 immigrants arrived at Israeli ports in four ships yesterday and today.

RUMANIAN JEW SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR BETRAYING JEWISH DEPORTEES

BUCHAREST, May 18. (JTA) -- Jacob Windisch of Siret, Bukovina, was sentenced today to five years' imprisonment by a Bucharest court on a charge that he misused his authority while secretary of the Judenrat of the city of Obodova, which was established during the Rumanian occupation of Transnistria in 1942-1944.

A number of witnesses testified that Windisch sold relief supplies sent to the deported Jews in the Obodova ghetto on the black market and pocketed the proceeds. Windisch was also found guilty of accepting bribes from wealthy Jewish deportees whom he saved from transfer to slave labor camps in the Nazi-occupied part of the Ukraine. For every rich man who bribed Windisch, a poor man was put on the list, the court was told.

U.N. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS DECIDES TO COMPLETE DRAFT COVENANT AT THIS SESSION

LAKE SUCCESS, May 18. (JTA) -- The United Nations Commission on Human Rights today adopted a Lebanese resolution providing for the body to complete a draft Covenant on Human Rights during its present session. The resolution was adopted by a vote of nine to zero, with the U.S.S.R., the Ukraine and China abstaining.

In addition to the schedule on the draft Covenant, the proposal called for: The Secretary-General to transmit the draft Covenant and draft measures of implementation to member governments for their comments, fixing January 1, 1950, as the final date by which all comments and further proposals should be received by the Secretariat, and to circulate to the members of the Commission the replies of member governments as soon as they are received; the revision at its next session of the draft Covenant and draft measures of implementation in the light of such replies as will be received; and, the presentation of these revised drafts to the Economic and Social Council in time to enable the Council to submit them to the General Assembly at its 1950 session.

The Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, composed of B'nai B'rith, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, yesterday proposed to the Commission that:

1. A survey be made by each member nation of "the present observance and protection of human rights within its territories" and such measures to be taken as are practicable to narrow the gap between existing practices and the standard established by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
2. The Secretary General and the Commission be kept fully informed of the activities of these "watchdog" commissions, and be authorized to make "independent studies of their own";
3. Establishment of a procedure by which the Secretary General and the Commission be enabled to examine the many communications now being received by the U.N. concerning human rights.

In a statement on the Board's memorandum, Frank Goldman, president of B'nai B'rith, pointed out that it would probably take "at least half a dozen years" before the Human Rights Covenant now being drafted by the Commission would become effective. He added: "Our purpose in presenting this is to get the United Nations to act now to protect human rights without waiting until the complicated legal processes of adopting the Covenant are completed. Human rights must be safeguarded in the meantime."

DR. SCHWARTZ REPORTS ON SITUATION OF JEWS IN NORTH AFRICA; J.D.C. SENDS REPRESENTATIVE

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- "Encouraging progress" in meeting the needs of the Jews of North Africa--both transients crowding into the port cities from the hinterland en route to Israel and resident populations--was reported today by Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, chairman of the European Executive Council of the J.D.C., at a meeting of the J.D.C. executive committee.

The last four months have seen "good gains along a broad front in the fight against Jewish poverty and sickness in North Africa," he said. He pointed out that newly-opened J.D.C. offices in Casablanca, Algiers and Tangiers are directing an enlarged assistance program covering shelter, child-care and medical services.

To meet the emergency problem of Jews trekking from the villages and cities of Morocco to the city of Algiers, from which point they hope to emigrate to Israel, the J.D.C. has opened in the last three months three transient centers in the city which provide shelter for nearly 3,000 men, women and children, Dr. Schwartz disclosed. At these shelters, Jewish transients receive food, clothing and complete physical examinations, the latter serving to screen out the sick from the well. Prompt diagnosis and treatment are provided for those persons found too weak or ill to continue on to Marseilles, chief European embarkation point for Israel.

Several permanent health centers have also been opened in the major cities of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, in order to help overcome the "appalling" health conditions prevailing among the 500,000 Jews of North Africa. "In these centers, an expanded campaign is being waged against trachoma, favus, tuberculosis and other diseases which afflict the Jews of North Africa," Dr. Schwartz reported.

Morris Laub, veteran welfare worker who supervised the J.D.C. assistance programs in behalf of 53,000 Jewish refugees on Cyprus for almost three years, has been appointed J.D.C. director for Morocco and Algeria, it was announced by Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman of the agency.

AGUDATH ISRAEL OF AMERICA OPENS ANNUAL CONVENTION; GREETED BY PRESIDENT TRUMAN

HURLEYVILLE, N.Y., May 18. (JTA) -- The eighth annual convention of Agudath Israel of America was opened here tonight with the reading of a message of greetings from President Truman, recalling his recent meeting with Chief Rabbi Herzog of Israel.

The convention, attended by 500 delegates, will deliberate on the religious problems facing Jews in the United States, Israel, and Europe. Principal speakers will include Dr. Jacob Rosenheim, president of the Agudath Israel World Organization and Rabbi Menahem Porush, of Israel. The full text of President Truman's message, which was addressed to Michael G. Tress, president of Agudath Israel of America, reads:

"Please extend my cordial greetings to all those who are attending the eighth annual convention of Agudath Israel of America. I was recently visited by Dr. Isaac Halevi Herzog, Chief Rabbi of Israel, and had the pleasure of exchanging with him passages from the Bible. Rabbi Herzog read Psalm 126 to me and I read to him from the Book of Isaiah: 'And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plow-shares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.' This passage expresses a feeling which I have stated publicly many times: I would rather have lasting peace than be President."

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND C.I.O. WILL AID IN \$15,000,000 PLAN FOR ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, May 18. (JTA) -- Jacob Potofsky, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America who is now visiting Israel, revealed today that both the C.I.O. and A.F.L. will aid in a project announced yesterday calling for the construction of housing for new immigrants to be financed by low-interest, long-term bonds floated in the United States, largely among labor union members sympathetic to Israel.

The Mapai evening newspaper Hador today reported that the new housing company to be established under terms of Potofsky's project will seek to raise \$15,000,000.

AMERICAN JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE DELEGATION LEAVES FRANCE FOR ISRAEL

PARIS, May 18. (JTA) -- A Jewish Labor Committee delegation, headed by Adolph Held of New York, left tonight by air for Israel after a stay of several days here during which it was received by Premier Henri Queuille, Minister of Labor Daniel Mayer, other members of the government, and former Premier Leon Blum.

The delegation also inspected a number of Jewish organizations and institutions here. Earlier, in Brussels, its members were received by Premier Paul-Henri Spaak.

COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM ASKS AMERICAN PRESS NOT TO DESCRIBE ISRAELI CITIZENS AS "JEWS"

WASHINGTON, May 18. (JTA) -- Editors of major press associations in Washington have been asked to refrain from describing citizens of Israel as "Jews" in a letter addressed to them by Joseph D. Kaufman, chairman of the Washington chapter of the American Council for Judaism. The letter points out that "careless use of the words 'Jew' and 'Jewish' to describe aspects of the sovereign state of Israel can lead only to confusion."

EIRE JEWS MARK FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL; WILL PLANT 3,500 TREES ON J.N.F. LAND

DUBLIN, May 18. (JTA) -- The first anniversary of Israel was celebrated by the Jewish community of Eire at a youth jamboree and a Jewish National Fund banquet addressed by Irish Chief Rabbi Dr. Emanuel Jacobovitz Aaron Wright, president of the J.N.F. of Great Britain and Ireland, and S. Silverman, Laborite M.P.

Guests at the banquet pledged to plant 3,500 trees on Keren Kayemeth land. The celebrations of the Jewish state's anniversary will be climaxed tonight at a function to be held at the official residence of the mayor of Dublin.

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE TO CONFER HONORARY DEGREES ON AUBREY EBAN AND DR. RALPH BUNCHE

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, acting United Nations mediator for Palestine, and Aubrey S. Eban, Israeli representative to the U.N., will be awarded the honorary degrees of Doctor of Hebrew Letters at the commencement exercises of Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, it was announced here today by Dr. Nelson Glueck, president of H.U.C. The commencement exercises will be held June 11.

DENVER NATIONAL JEWISH HOSPITAL NAMES PHILIP HOUTZ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- Philip Houtz of New York has been named executive director of the National Jewish Hospital at Denver and secretary of its board of trustees, it was announced here yesterday by Milton Anfenger, the hospital's president. After eleven years director of the hospital's local office, Houtz will assume his new posts in Denver on July 1.