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JTA Daily News Bulletin

U.N. MEDIATOR PREPARES PLAN TO BREAK DEADLOCK IN ISRAELI-SYRIAN ARMISTICE TALKS

LAKE SUCCESS, May 23. (JTA) -- Brig. Gen. William E. Riley, chief of staff to Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, acting U.N. mediator for Palestine, arrived here today by air for consultations with Dr. Bunche on the deadlocked Israeli-Syrian armistice negotiations.

Reliable United Nations sources today stated that a new formula designed to break the deadlock between Israel and Syria will be submitted to both sides within a week's time. The new plan has been formulated by Bunche. It will be delivered to both governments by Riley upon his return to Palestine.

U.N. officials today denied that armistice talks between Syria and Israel had broken down. They insisted that Syria's refusal to evacuate forces from Mishmar Ezyarden was a genuine obstacle, but categorically denied that the situation had at any time in the negotiations approached a complete collapse.

The same sources were equally emphatic in denying that either Gen. Riley or Dr. Bunche was considering calling a meeting of the U.N. Security Council to intervene in the situation. They said that Dr. Bunche plans to give a complete report to the U.N. Security Council after all armistice negotiations, as visualized in the Paris resolution, are completed.

ISRAELI DELEGATION AT LAUSANNE FIRM AGAINST CONCESSIONS; DEADLOCK CONSIDERED POSSIBLE

LAUSANNE, May 23. (JTA) -- Week-end consultations at Geneva between Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett and the Israeli delegation to the Arab-Israeli-United Nations parleys here have not eliminated the prospect of a total deadlock of the peace talks.

Dr. Walter Eytan, director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry and head of the delegation, returned from Geneva convinced that the United Nations Conciliation Commission's proposals for Israeli concessions on the refugee question were unacceptable.

The Israeli conference at Geneva seems to have strengthened the Israeli stand against compromise. The Israeli delegates believe the Arab threat to quit the conference is a bluff and they are apparently ready to call it. Meanwhile, the three-nation Conciliation Commission is making every effort to prevent the present deadlock from developing into a breakdown.

The Israeli delegation believes that the first phase of the conference is concluded. The delegation is being reduced to about half its original strength but, at the same time, Col. Yigal Yadin, Israeli chief of staff, is expected here this week. The Commission hopes that Col. Yadin can be convinced of the advantages to Israel of concluding peace with the Arab states at this stage and not in the distant future.

Israeli Foreign Minister Returns to Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV, May 23. (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett arrived at Lydda airport today and was greeted by the heads of the various departments of the Foreign Ministry and by other government officials. He will be tendered a reception at the Ministry offices this evening.

ISRAELI LABOR MINISTER REPORTS TO KNESSET ON UNEMPLOYMENT; 5,000 IDLE DURING MAY.

TEL AVIV, May 23. (JTA) -- Labor Minister Golda Myerson, in a report today to the Knesset on the unemployment situation in the Jewish state, declared that there were 5,000 persons idle in May, of whom 75 percent were unskilled workers. She emphasized the new state's need for skilled and professional workers.

Mrs. Myerson said that as a result of government loans--totaling \$1,800,000--extended to various localities in March for the construction of public works, approximately 2,000 laborers were given employment while 2,800 persons found public works jobs during April and May. The Israeli Labor Minister predicted that some 3,700 persons would be employed in public works in June and July.

The government is now constructing 4,000 prefabricated houses, Mrs. Myerson said, estimating that 5,000 workers will find employment in this project. Plans for the establishment of 1,200 auxiliary farm units have been completed, she added. A vote on her report was postponed until the Knesset's next session, when Mrs. Myerson will make a detailed report on the government's plans for housing and related problems.

W.O.A. AUTONOMY ISSUE WAS NOT DISPOSED OF AT ACTIONS COMMITTEE, DR. GOLDMANN REPORTS

NEW YORK, May 23. (JTA) -- The extent to which Zionist bodies in the United States will enjoy autonomy and whether they must subject themselves to decisions of the Jewish Agency executive was not formally disposed of by the Zionist Actions Committee, as there was no motion to this effect, it was reported here today by Dr. Nathan Goldmann, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency executive. Dr. Goldmann, who addressed a press conference, has just returned from Jerusalem where he attended the ten-day session of the Actions Committee.

This issue was the one over which Drs. Abba Hillel Silver and Emanuel Neumann resigned from the executive. Dr. Goldmann emphasized that while no formal decision was taken by the Actions Committee, the tendency of all parties was to maintain the central authority of the world executive with regard to vital problems concerning the whole of the Zionist movement.

"The resignations," Dr. Goldmann said, "were accepted unanimously and one of the vacant places filled. The other was kept vacant in order to allow the Zionist Organization of America, after its forthcoming convention this month, to make proposals as to the filling of this seat at the next meeting of the Actions Committee."

Dr. Goldmann reported that all Zionist groups, as well as the Israeli Cabinet, agreed on the necessity of maintaining and strengthening the World Zionist Organization as the main channel for mobilizing the resources of Jews all over the world in support of Israel. At the same time, he added, it was recognized that the great tasks of the Zionist Organization in this respect require that structural changes in the organization may have to be effected to enlist the maximum number of Jews who are ready to help. "Decisions in this respect were left to the World Zionist Congress which will probably take place this fall or winter in Jerusalem," Dr. Goldmann said.

The session of the Actions Committee, Dr. Goldmann stated, did much to establish a system of cooperation between the Israeli Government and the Jewish Agency executive in the field of immigration and absorption. Permanent committees were established to deal on a day-to-day basis with current problems in this field, he said.

DR. CHAIM WEIZMANN RESIGNS AS PRESIDENT OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

JERUSALEM, May 23. (JTA) -- The resignations of Dr. Chaim Weizmann as president of the board of governors of the Hebrew University and Sir Leon Simon as chairman of the University's executive committee were announced here today at the 15th meeting of the board. A committee was appointed to nominate candidates to fill these positions and that of president of the University, left vacant by the death of Dr. Judah L. Magnes.

Sir Leon, Prof. Selig Brodetsky, a member of the board, Dr. Simcha Assaf, rector, and Dr. Werner Senator, administrator, reported on the institution's progress since the last meeting of the board. The emphasis of most speakers was on the need for expansion in the light of the situation which developed since the creation of the Jewish state.

Dr. Assaf pointed to the establishment of the Yiddish chair and mentioned the need for the setting up of a Faculty of Modern Moslem Culture, Religion and Social and Political Progress; a Faculty of Indian and Far East Studies; a Labor Faculty and others; and the widening of the modern languages department, including the addition of Russian. Dr. Senator described the University's plight during the past year--the shelling of its buildings and its isolation from the city proper.

The board today elected constitutional and finance committees. The current session is expected to last four days.

BRITISH-OWNED OIL REFINERIES IN HAIFA REPORTEDLY BEING READIED FOR REOPENING

LONDON, May 23. (JTA) -- Preparations are continuing at the Haifa oil refineries to reopen operations, the London Daily Telegraph reported today.

Cyril Marriott, British Consul-General at Haifa, is expected to leave for London with financial experts employed by the refineries to discuss future operations. Among the principle points of discussion are concessions and remunerations in foreign currency to the British. The dispatch adds that overhauling of the electric plant of the refineries has been completed, and that this installation is now helping to supply the Haifa Bay area with power.

THIRD TRANSPORT OF SHANGHAI JEWS LANDS IN JAPAN EN ROUTE TO CANADA; AIDED BY J.D.C.

NEW YORK, May 23. (JTA) -- An additional 60 Jewish refugees were air-lifted from Shanghai to Japan by a J.D.C.-chartered Alaska Airline plane on the first leg of a flight to Canada, bringing to 150 the total number evacuated from the strife-torn Chinese city, it was announced today by the Joint Distribution Committee. The plane, which took off on Friday, was the third to leave Shanghai. Eighty-eight other refugees arrived in Canada on Saturday.

The refugees are part of a group of 320 who have been granted entry into Canada through the intercession of J.D.C.'s cooperating agency, the Canadian Jewish Congress. Fifty of them have been granted permanent stay, while the remainder were given six-month visas. They will be maintained by the Canadian Jewish Congress while in Canada. Costs for the airlift operation will be assumed by the J.D.C. and the International Refugee Organization.

NON-JEWISH CAMP CLEARED IN GERMANY TO SET UP PROCESSING CENTER FOR ISRAEL-BOUND DP'S

MUNICH, May 23. (JTA) -- The Neu-Freimann DP camp near here has been converted into a processing center for Jewish immigrants bound for Israel. In order to clear the camp for this purpose, over 1,000 non-Jewish DP's were transferred by the I.R.O. to other centers in Bavaria.

A total of 25,000 immigrants will be processed through Neu Freimann, which has served as a DP center since 1945, at the rate of approximately 5,000 per month. Originally, it was planned to send 10,000 a month through the camp, but the backlog in Israel caused the slow-down here.

Representatives of the British military authorities and German officials attended a ceremony marking the restoration of the Jewish cemetery at Dortmund, in the British zone, and the erection of a memorial to the Jewish war dead, it was reported here today. The head of the Dortmund municipality, a non-Jew who was active in restoring the cemetery, was one of the chief speakers at the ceremony.

DISPLACED JEWS LIVING OUTSIDE OF CAMPS IN ITALY CONCERNED OVER THREATENED RESTRICTIONS

ROME, May 23. (JTA) -- The checking of identity papers and the legal status of displaced Jews living outside the regular camps and in Hachsharah training centers in Italy will begin within the next few days. The check is part of the current I.R.O.-Italian Government control of DP's--Jewish and non-Jewish--which is slated to be completed by July 15.

The Jews living outside the camps are concerned about the control process because the Italian Government has indicated that as soon as new identity papers are issued--at the conclusion of the check--the movement of DP's outside of camps will be limited. It is planned to keep them under curfew at the same hours when the camp inmates are restricted.

HUNGARIAN EX-OFFICER GETS LIFE IN RUMANIA FOR MISTREATMENT OF JEWISH SLAVES DURING WAR

BUCHAREST, May 23. (JTA) -- Zoltan Szocs, formerly a lieutenant in the Hungarian Army, was today sentenced to life imprisonment by a Rumanian court which convicted him of "savage mistreatment" of Rumanian Jewish slave laborers in a detachment under his command during the war.

Three enlisted men in Szocs' command were also convicted of complicity in the crimes against the Jews and were given sentences ranging from 15 years imprisonment to life. Evidence introduced at the trial proved that of 214 Jews originally assigned to Szocs' labor battalion only ten survived, the remainder having succumbed to starvation and brutality.

POLISH GOVERNMENT READY TO RECOGNIZE JEWISH THEATRES AS STATE INSTITUTIONS

WARSAW, May 23. (JTA) -- The Polish Ministry of Culture and Art is ready to recognize Jewish theatres in Lodz and Lower Silesia as state institutions and to have their expenses covered in the government budget.

Official notification to this effect was given by the Ministry to the Central Jewish Committee. The Committee has been negotiating with the Polish Government for some time to secure full state rights for Jewish theatres in the country.

ARGENTINE JEWRY TO START UNITED FUND-RAISING DRIVE; INTEND TO TOP LAST YEAR'S RECORD

BUENOS AIRES, May 23. (JTA) -- Argentine Jewry's United Campaign for Israeli, overseas and local needs has once again been established, with all groups in the Jewish community participating. The 1949 drive, which will begin shortly, will have no fixed goal except that of topping last year's record-smashing 43,000,000 pesos (approximately \$10,750,000).

At a recent Congress of Workers and Contributors of the United Campaign at which the drive was mapped, it was agreed that the major emphasis of the drive will remain Israeli needs and that the Ayuda, which covers local and overseas relief programs, shall receive the same percentages and maximum as last year. The Ayuda, which is the fund-raising arm of the Joint Distribution Committee, World Jewish Congress, IJAS, CRT and CSE, will receive 15 percent of the first 10,000,000 pesos collected, 10 percent of the second 10,000,000 pesos and five percent of the third 10,000,000, with a ceiling of 3,000,000 pesos.

The Congress of Workers and Contributors specifically recommended to the Jewish Agency that it allocate three and one-half percent of whatever funds it receives from the campaign to the Jewish educational and pioneering organizations in Argentina, with special attention to the local youth agricultural training program. Another recommendation was that the Agency allocate a specific amount of money to the Jewish Hospital here, which is in financial straits. This recommendation was made after a number of contributors threatened to set up a separate campaign in behalf of the hospital if the United Campaign did not provide for it in this fashion.

Simon Mirelman was elected president of the United Campaign, while Samuel Rabinovich and Maximo Levin were named co-presidents. The new campaign committee includes Zionists and non-Zionists. At a public meeting during the Congress session, Mirelman said that moral sanctions had proved unnecessary last year because all Jews had responded to the appeal.

ORT POSTPONES FIXING ITS 1949 BUDGET; AWAITS RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH J.D.C.

NEW YORK, May 23. (JTA) -- The American CRT Federation, which concluded its two-day national convention last night, announced today that its board of directors postponed fixing a budget for 1949 until a full agreement can be reached on fund allotments with the Joint Distribution Committee. Currently, the CRT receives its funds, exclusive of membership dues, on grant from the J.D.C.

The convention unanimously adopted a new constitution. George Backer, who was reelected president, emphasized in an address that "events have justified our conviction that economic stability and security for the displaced Jews and the refugees could come only with the acquisition of skills and capacity for productive labor."

Alexander Dolowitz, chairman of the CRT finance committee, reported that during the past decade CRT raised approximately \$9,000,000 for rehabilitation in the 23 countries on four continents where it operates. About 94 percent of all funds collected was used for overseas vocational retraining work, while six percent was set aside for administrative expenses. Executive director Edward L. Sard reported that to date every graduate of an CRT training center--without exception--has found a job.

DR. SCHWARTZ HONORED FOR DIRECTING RESCUE AND REHABILITATION OF EUROPEAN JEWS

NEW YORK, May 23. (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, European director of the Joint Distribution Committee, was honored tonight by 150 of his colleagues in the field of social work at a dinner for the benefit of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York. In a testimonial delivered by City Councilman Stanley M. Isaacs, Dr. Schwartz was cited as "the man responsible for the greatest single social service job in all Jewish history."

As overseas head of the J.D.C., Dr. Schwartz directed the spending of more than \$285,000,000 for the emergency rescue, relief, rehabilitation and emigration activities of Jews in 23 European countries and North Africa during the past decade.

In this capacity he is credited with sparking the reconstruction of some 900 Jewish communities throughout Europe since V-E Day, in May, 1945, when it appeared that the rebuilding of Jewish life in Europe would be impossible as a result of the ravages of Nazism and the war. The present mass migration of Jews from Europe to Israel is being carried out under his direction. Approximately 85 percent of the immigrants who came into Israel during the first year of its independence entered under the aegis of the J.D.C.

Abraham Mazer, who contributed \$500,000 to the current U.J.A. drive, was honored at another dinner last night, held at the Jewish Center. Henry Morgenthau Jr., general chairman of the U.J.A., and Israeli Chief Rabbi Dr. Isaac Herzog paid tribute to Mazer for his "extraordinary generosity." Dr. Herzog presented him with a testimonial scroll.

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE DELEGATION IN ISRAEL LAYS CORNERSTONE FOR CULTURAL CENTER

TEL AVIV, May 23. (JTA) -- The cornerstone of a building which will eventually house a cultural center and museum of the Israeli labor movement was laid today here in the presence of Cabinet members, Histadrut leaders and the delegation of the Jewish Labor Committee of New York now visiting Israel. The building will be named for the late American Yiddish poet and labor leader Abraham Liesin. The J.L.C. contributed \$100,000 towards erection of the building.

Chairman of the Israeli Knesset Joseph Sprinzak, speaking at the dedication ceremonies, voiced gratitude to the Jewish Labor Committee. Zalman Shazar, Minister of Education, lauded the "spiritual stature" of Liesin. Jacob Pat, executive secretary of the J.L.C., expressed the hope that the cornerstone will serve as a foundation of unity between the Israeli and the American Jewish labor movements.

David Pinsky, well-known Jewish writer who is now living in Israel, also participated in the ceremonies. He described Liesin as a "cornerstone of Jewish culture in the United States." Labor Minister Golda Myerson presented the trowel used in the ceremonies to the J.L.C. delegation.

CONVENTION OF NATIONAL FEDERATION OF JEWISH MEN'S CLUBS ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

ATLANTIC CITY, May 23. (JTA) -- Barnett Lieberman of Philadelphia was elected president of the National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs at the closing session last night of the organization's 20th annual convention here. He succeeds Stanley Garten, who was elected honorary president. Judge Louis E. Levithal, of Philadelphia, former president of the Zionist Organization, was awarded the Federation's 1949 gold medal award "for distinguished service to the Jewish community."