

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND VATICAN BEGIN TODAY; IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS EXPECTED

LONDON, July 19. (JTA) -- Negotiations between the Vatican and the Israeli Government will begin tomorrow when Monsignor Thomas MacMahon, of New York, head of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine appointed last month, arrives in the Jewish section of Jerusalem from the Old City, Reuters reported here today.

The report quoted Israeli sources as stating that last-minute instructions were brought from Vatican City to Jerusalem on Saturday by Father Terence Knehn, an American priest. The nature of the instructions was not revealed.

The report also credited Israeli sources with stating that the scope of the negotiations would largely depend on the powers delegated to Monsignor MacMahon. These would be either to reach an over-all agreement on the problems of the Holy Places, or else to limit the talks to secondary problems of damages claimed by churches and monasteries for alleged destruction of property.

The negotiations are expected to improve relations between the Vatican and the Israeli Government, the report said, adding that work on repairs of damaged Catholic institutions has already been started by Jewish authorities in Jerusalem.

(Israeli Premier David Ben Gurion was quoted in a Tel Aviv report as stating: "There is no imaginable conflict between us and the Catholic church. If we are responsible for damage, we will make it good. The last thing we would like is to hurt the Christian church.")

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT LEADERS DISCUSS STRATEGY ON JERUSALEM ISSUE FOR U.N. ACTION

JERUSALEM, July 19. (JTA) -- Israeli Government leaders, including Premier David Ben Gurion, Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett and U.N. delegate Aubrey S. Eban, have been holding urgent meetings on the status of Jerusalem, it was learned here today.

It was emphasized that the Jerusalem issue has assumed a special urgency because the U.N. Conciliation Commission is preparing to give Jerusalem priority in its considerations and also because the question is scheduled to arise at the next U.N. General Assembly session in September. As matters now stand, it is expected that two proposals--internationalization or partitioning of the city--have about equal chances of acceptance by the U.N.

The much-touted scheme for Transjordan to take over the Arab parts of the city, including the Old City, seems to be losing ground, according to some quarters. The reason for this development is believed to be the opposition of the other Arab states to Transjordan's growth in size, territory and population.

Meanwhile, opposition to King Abdullah's taking over the Arab parts of Palestine is growing among certain parts of the Arab population, particularly in the Ramallah region. Some influential Palestine Arab groups are inclined to start direct negotiations with the Israeli Government on the subject of the establishment of an independent Arab state as envisaged in the original U.N. decision. These groups are asking that a part of the Arab refugees be accepted by Israel and that the remainder be resettled in the independent Arab state.

ISRAELI-SYRIAN ARMISTICE TO BE SIGNED TODAY; MIXED COMMISSION WILL BE ESTABLISHED

TEL AVIV, July 19. (JTA) -- The Israeli-Syrian armistice agreement will be signed by both parties at 10 A.M. New York time tomorrow, it was officially announced here today.

The pact does not completely settle all problems at issue between the two states, Al Hamishmar, organ of the left-wing Hashomer Hatzair, declared today. Quoting military sources, the publication says that the pact provides for an armistice commission which will deal with problems left unsettled in the agreement.

The mixed commission will begin functioning this week, and will consider the problem of exchanging prisoners and arranging permanent communications between various Israeli-held points along the front lines.

ISRAEL OCCUPIES SECONDARY PLACE AMONG ISSUES AT BRITISH PARLEY ON MIDDLE EAST

LONDON, July 19. (JTA) -- Preliminary discussions prior to British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin's conference on the Middle East, which opens here Thursday, reveal that top priority is being given on the conference agenda to the question of Britain's future Arab alignments rather than to the policy on Israel.

The conference, the first gathering of all British mission chiefs in the Middle East since 1945, will review Britain's position in the Middle East, its policies and procedures. It had been generally believed that the problems posed by Israel's emergence as a Middle East state would be the major issue.

The main surprise in the conference preliminaries has been that Israel does not by any means rank as high in the talks as advance comment had indicated. The real problem which the Foreign Office must urgently face is its Arab orientation--whether to side with the Hashemite group (King Abdullah of Transjordan and Iraq) or abandon them in favor of the Egyptian-Syrian alliance.

MAJOR PROBLEMS FACING U.N.-SPONSORED PEACE TALKS AT LAUSANNE SAID TO BE UNCHANGED

LONDON, July 19. (JTA) -- The main problems confronting the United Nations Conciliation Commission on Palestine, which yesterday resumed peace talks with Israeli and Arab delegations at Lausanne after a two-week recess, remain unchanged, the Manchester Guardian said today in an editorial.

Commenting on the renewal of these peace efforts, the newspaper said the Arabs still remain unwilling to discuss territorial settlement before disposing of the Arab refugee question while the Israelis are willing to make territorial concessions only as part of a general peace settlement. The editorial, however, stresses the importance of the Israeli offer to reunite broken Arab families by permitting Arab refugees from Israel to rejoin their families there. This would affect 12,000 families.

More important, the newspaper adds, is the fact that the Commission's technical committee is now in the Middle East investigating alternatives to the repatriation of the refugees. Although the results of this survey will not be ready in time to determine the trend of the Lausanne talks, it states, "the fact that the investigation is going on concurrently may help to thaw the hitherto frozen attitudes of the negotiators."

(The New York Herald-Tribune today reported from Tel Aviv that Israeli Premier David Ben-Gurion favors the appointment of a single United Nations conciliator responsible to no one nation as the best solution for the deadlock in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations at Lausanne.)

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT SENDS NOTE TO ROMANIA; ASKS "FREEDOM OF EMIGRATION" FOR JEWS

TEL AVIV, July 19. (JTA) -- The Israeli Government has sent a note to the Rumanian Government on the subject of the freedom of Rumanian Jews to leave that country for Israel, Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett revealed last night in a written statement to the Knesset.

The Foreign Minister's statement, which was made in reply to a question from a deputy, also disclosed that the Rumanian Government has not yet replied to the note. He added that the Israeli Minister to Bucharest has been instructed to open negotiations on the same subject. Mr. Sharett also declared that the desires of Rumanian Jews to proceed to Israel does not conflict with the interests of the Rumanian Republic.

JEWISH DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE IN ROMANIA URGES CONTINUED FIGHT AGAINST ZIONISM

BUCHAREST, July 19. (JTA) -- A new appeal to members of the government-supported Jewish Democratic Committee of Rumania to "continue the fight against Zionist nationalism with increasing vigor," has been published in the current issue of Unirea, organ of the Committee.

The periodical says that important successes have been achieved in "liberating the Jewish workers from the ideological influence of Zionist nationalism, their deadly enemy." Unirea also listed the various activities of the Committee in behalf of getting employment for economically displaced Jews and declared that this program was an important factor in the fight against Zionism. Special attention in the anti-Zionist campaign must be given to "misled youth who joined kibbutzim."

KNESSET DEPUTIES WALK OUT OF SESSION AFTER COMMUNIST MEMBER HARANGUES GOVERNMENT

TEL AVIV, July 19. (JTA) -- A majority of the Knesset's members stormed out of the Israeli parliament's hall last night following a verbal clash between the Speaker, Joseph Sprinzak, and Shmuel Mikunis, Communist deputy who just returned here after completing a tour of East European capitals.

In his first address to the Knesset following his return here, Mr. Mikunis attacked the Israeli Government and press, charging that they are "sold to Wall Street." The Communist deputy defended himself against charges that he urged curtailing the emigration of Jews from Eastern Europe. The Knesset's Speaker repeatedly called Mr. Mikunis to order during his tirade, but when the latter refused to heed his instructions, Mr. Sprinzak left the meeting hall, followed by a majority of the deputies.

WEIZMANN ARRIVES IN GENEVA FOR EYE TREATMENTS; IS WELCOMED BY SWISS JEWISH LEADERS

GENEVA, July 19. (JTA) -- President and Mrs. Chaim Weizmann arrived here today from Israel. He was accompanied by his adjutant and his secretary. The Israeli chief of state was met at the airport by Andre Dominice, Swiss chief of protocol, as well as by members of the Israeli delegation to the Lausanne peace talks and Swiss Jewish leaders.

President Weizmann, who will undergo eye treatments, will be under the care of leading ophthalmologists in this country and will later vacation at Lake Lucerne. During his stay at the Hotel des Bergues here, Israeli and Swiss flags will be flown from the hotel's masts.

ISRAELI MINISTER TO BRITAIN PAYS FORMAL CALL ON BEVIN; CONVERSATION LASTS HALF-HOUR

LONDON, July 19. (JTA) -- Dr. Mordecai Eliash, Israeli Minister to Britain, today paid a formal call on British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin. The diplomats conferred for a half-hour.

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EX-NAZI LEADERS TRY TO CLEAR ENVOY TO VICHY OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEATH OF JEWS

PARIS, July 19. (JTA) -- The former Nazi military governor of Paris and his German chief of the Paris gendarmerie during the occupation yesterday testified in behalf of Otto Abetz, former Nazi envoy to the Vichy Government, who is now being tried by a French court here on charges of complicity in the deportation of 40,000 French Jews to their death in Nazi camps in Poland. The Nazi is also charged with responsibility for the assassination of former French Minister of Interior Georges Mandel, a Jew, by Vichy troops.

Meanwhile, the trial of 39 former officials of the Vichy Commissariat for Jewish Affairs, which opened last week, continued yesterday with the beginning of direct testimony. Further testimony is scheduled for today's session.

S.S. General Karl Albrecht Oberg, who during his reign over Paris earned the appellation, "The Butcher of Paris," sought to clear Abetz of all responsibility. The General has already been sentenced to death by a British military court for war crimes.

The former Nazi police chief in Paris, Col. Helmuth Knochen, supported his ex-chief's defense of Abetz. During the course of Col. Knochen's testimony, the defendant broke in to remark that a statement related by the witness about threats to execute people had been made "jokingly." Abetz was immediately reproved by the presiding trial judge, who said: "Jokes about shooting people may become dangerous."

Col. Knochen also revealed that all orders dealing with anti-Jewish actions came directly from Berlin and that the Nazi authorities had sent a Capt. Dancker to Paris to eliminate Jews from the French government service. Col. Knochen also spoke of bombings of synagogues, during which some German soldiers were killed, but disclaimed personal knowledge of these acts when he was accused of having organized them.

FIVE NAZIS, POLISH COLLABORATORS SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR MURDERING JEWS DURING WAR

WARSAW, July 19. (JTA) -- Five Nazis and Polish collaborators who murdered Jews or were responsible for their killing were this week sentenced to death in various Polish courts. In addition, nine others received various prison terms for killing, torturing or mistreating Jews.

Among the condemned were Johann Rauch, former chief of the Janov death camp, near Lvov; Jechi Gaidyn, a Polish policeman serving the Nazis who murdered a Pole who helped Jews escape the Gestapo; and three members of a Polish fascist bandit gang which preyed on Jews during the Nazi occupation. The bandits were named Chmielewsky Pouchala and Krcuvim.

DANISH APPELLATE COURT COMMUTES DEATH SENTENCE OF NAZI GAULEITER WHO DEPORTED JEWS

COPENHAGEN, July 19. (JTA) -- A Danish court of appeals yesterday commuted a death sentence imposed on Dr. Werner Best, Nazi gauleiter of Denmark during the German occupation. It reduced the sentence to five years imprisonment.

Dr. Best was responsible for the deportation of thousands of Danish Jews to Nazi concentration camps where many of them died later. The former Reich High Commissioner for Denmark from 1942 to the fall of the Nazi empire, was sentenced to death last October.

PERON LEGALIZED STATUS OF 30,000 JEWS WHO ENTERED ARGENTINA ILLEGALLY, LEADER SAYS

NEW YORK, July 19. (JTA) -- The status of more than 30,000 Jews who entered Argentina illegally will now be legalized under a special decree issued by President Juan Peron granting amnesty to illegal immigrants, it was revealed here today by Marmel Scheinsohn, president of the pro-Peron Jewish group, Organizacion Israelita Argentina, in a radio broadcast in which he greeted the Jews of America on behalf of Argentine Jewry.

Mr. Scheinsohn, who is now visiting the United States on a government mission, said his organization solicited and obtained from President Peron inclusion of a clause in the recently-amended Argentine constitution declaring that the country does not recognize racial differences.

The Argentine Jewish leader said in his broadcast that "from Washington to Truman and from San Martin to Peron, the United States and Argentina have been democratic cases where Jews and Jewishness have always been worthy of the greatest respect."

HOUSING FOR 4,500 IN ISRAEL PROVIDED BY LOAN FUND; U.S. GROUP ADMINISTRATES PROGRAM

NEW YORK, July 19. (JTA) -- Housing accommodations have been provided for some 4,500 immigrants absorbed in Israeli collective agricultural settlements through a special revolving fund for building loans, it was announced today by Julius Simon, president of the Palestine Economic Corporation, co-sponsor of the fund with the Jewish Agency.

Mr. Simon issued the report, compiled as of June 30, in advance of his departure Friday for Israel to confer with officials there on the corporation's expansion program, including an \$800,000 appropriation covering housing and several industrial projects.

The revolving fund, now totalling \$450,000, was established in 1935 to help collective settlements build apartments for the immigrants they accepted for work on their farms. By the end of last month, according to Mr. Simon's report, 133 collective settlements in all parts of Israel had obtained housing loans, the amounts depending on the number of immigrants absorbed by each group. The fund is administered by the Central Bank for Cooperative Institutions in Palestine, Ltd., a subsidiary of the P.E.C.

The projected \$800,000 housing and industrial program, Mr. Simon said, will be undertaken on land owned by the Palestine Housing Corporation in the Haifa Bay region. It is part of an area totalling about 1,300 acres that the BaySide Land Corporation, a P.E.C. subsidiary, has been developing there for 20 years in accordance with a master plan. It erects apartment houses, develops residential and industrial communities and constructs factory buildings in which space is rented for small businesses.

GENOA JEWISH STUDENTS TO STUDY CONDITIONS IN ISRAEL; JEWISH AGENCY SPONSORS PROJECT

GENOA, July 19. (JTA) -- A group of Jewish students from this city will leave shortly for Israel to study conditions in the Jewish state. The trip was arranged jointly by the Jewish community here and the Jewish Agency. It is hoped that upon their return here, the students will help to accelerate activities in behalf of the new state. While in Israel they will be given an intensive course in Hebrew and related subjects.

ISRAELI OFFICIAL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS' ATTITUDE AT U.N. ASSEMBLY

BUENOS AIRES, July 19. (JTA) -- Moises Toff, director of the Latin American division of the Israeli Foreign Ministry and member of the Jewish state's delegation to the United Nations, stated here he is optimistic about the attitude which most Latin American nations will adopt towards Israel should the Palestine case come before the U.N. General Assembly session in September.

Touching on the Argentine-Israeli commercial talks which are now being held here, Mr. Toff said that chances for a Tel Aviv-Buenos Aires trade accord are "reasonably good," adding that Argentina understands it will be to her advantage to have a Middle-East market. He voiced the hope that the Argentine representatives at the trade talks will take a "broad point of view" in the negotiations.

FOUNDATION STONE FOR \$200,000 YESHIVA LAID IN PETACH TIKVAH; WILL HOUSE 150 STUDENTS

PETACH TIKVAH, July 19. (JTA) -- A foundation stone was laid here today for erection of a Yeshiva to accommodate 150 newly-arrived immigrant students. The structure will include a dormitory in addition to classrooms and will cost an estimated \$200,000. Chief Rabbi Isaac Halevi Herzog and Ben Zion Uziel, as well as a group of U.S., Canadian and South African rabbis, participated in the foundation-laying ceremony.

ELECTRICAL UNION TURNS OVER RADIO EQUIPMENT TO HISTADRUT FOR USE OF ISRAELI SCHOOL

NEW YORK, July 19. (JTA) -- The United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers' Union, Local 430, today turned over radio and electrical equipment to the American Trade Union Council for the use of a Histaadrut radio and technical school in Israel. Mordecai Barlas, associate director of the Council, accepted the gift, which will be shipped immediately to Tel Aviv.

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY TO BUILD LECTURE HALL NAMED FOR LATE CHICAGO PHILANTHROPIST

WALTHAM, Mass., July 19. (JTA) -- The Nathan Seifer Memorial Lecture Hall at Brandeis University will be constructed this summer with funds made available by the family of the late Chicago philanthropist, it was announced today by George Alpert, chairman of the University's board of trustees. The Hall will be ready for the 1949-50 academic season, opening in September.

SO. AFRICAN ZIONISTS LAUNCH DRIVE TO ACQUAINT COMMUNITY WITH SITUATION IN ISRAEL

JOHANNESBURG, So. Africa, July 19. (JTA) -- The South African Zionist Federation today launched a nation-wide information drive to acquaint the Jewish community in the Union with "the latest aspects of the situation in Israel." A mass meeting addressed by Bernard Caring, chairman of the Federation, was held at Coronation Hall here last night as the first stage in the campaign.

SO. AFRICAN PRESS LAUDS JEWISH FOOTBALL HERO WHO SCORED ALL POINTS IN TOP CONTEST

JOHANNESBURG, So. Africa, July 19. (JTA) -- All newspapers in South Africa today published highly laudatory articles on Aaron "Okey" Geffin, who, in a top football contest between South Africa and New Zealand, scored all the points rung up by the Union's team. Geffin is the second Jewish member of the South African team, the other being Cyril Moss. During the war he fought at Tobruk and was a POW in German camps for four years.