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## LAST MINUTE NEWS

### STATE DEPT. ISSUES STATEMENT ON SITUATION OF IRAQI JEWS; U.S. POLICY NOT INDICATED

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- The State Department late today issued a statement on the Iraqi persecution of Jews based on a report received from the American Embassy in Baghdad. A copy of the report was given Israel Ambassador Eliahu Elath when he called at the Department today and conferred with Raymond J. Hare, a member of the Department's Near Eastern Division.

The State Department statement, which gave no indication of the American Government's intentions vis-a-vis Iraq, declared:

"During the past few years tensions arising out of the Palestine controversy have occasionally resulted in agitation against members of minority groups in Near East countries.

"This government has followed the situation closely and has constantly urged moderation in treatment of minorities of whatever faith in the Near East, and has expressed the hope that such treatment would be compatible with the objectives of the United Nations in the field of human rights and fundamental freedom.

"The Department has received information that a certain number of Iraqi subjects of the Jewish faith have recently been arrested. However, the number is much smaller than had been mentioned in earlier published reports and individuals taken into custody are understood to be under charges of having violated specific Iraqi law.

"It is further reported that the Iraqi Government has assured leaders of the Jewish community that no Jews will be molested who do not participate in activities prohibited by Iraqi law. The American Embassy in Baghdad discussed these reports with the Iraqi Government in accord with Department policy as indicated."

Diplomatic sources in Washington today said that American reports from Baghdad indicated that Israel stories of anti-Semitic violence in Iraq were exaggerated. It was said that American observers think that the number of Jews in Iraqi concentration camps is closer to the 36 admitted by the Iraqi newspapers than to the 2,000 claimed by the Israelis. Actually, diplomatic sources in Washington believe that the number of Jews in prison in Iraq is between 200 and 300.

Ambassador Elath, in his talk with Mr. Hare, said that the persecutions were "continuing with the same severity." Expressing his government's concern, he pointed out that this is not the first excess of the Iraqis against a minority group. He cited the massacre of Assyrian Christians in Iraq in 1933.

### ISRAEL RABBINATE PROCLAIMS THURSDAY AS DAY OF PRAYER IN BEHALF OF JEWS IN IRAQ

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- The Israel Chief Rabbinate today proclaimed Thursday, Nov. 3, as a day of prayer in behalf of the Jews in Iraq.

ISRAEL TO MARK 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF BALFOUR DECLARATION TODAY; WEIZMANN TO BE HONORED

TEL AVIV, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- The 32nd anniversary of the issuance of the Balfour Declaration will be celebrated throughout Israel tomorrow. At the same time the nation will pay tribute to Israel's scientists and observe the 75th birthday of President Chaim Weizmann--this country's leading scientific figure--by marking the opening of the new physics institute of the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovot.

The celebration in honor of President Weizmann will continue for a week, with hundreds of visitors--including internationally-known scientists--participating in the event. The visiting scientists include Nobel Prize winner Prof. Rozicka, of Switzerland and Prof. Fieser of Harvard University.

75 PERCENT OF OVERSEAS VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVED WITH ISRAEL ARMY TO REMAIN IN NEW STATE

TEL AVIV, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- Seventy-five percent of the foreign volunteers who served with the Israel Army wish to remain in the Jewish state, according to a survey made public here today. The poll was conducted among 387 of the volunteers, who are known as the "Mahal."

According to the survey, 12 percent of those polled expressed a desire to become farmers, 22 percent plan to resume their studies, 17 percent want to go into business, seven percent will seek government employment, while four percent plan to enlist in the police force. Fifty-four percent of the volunteers want to live in or near towns while 17 percent will live in agricultural sectors. The remainder plan to settle in Tel Aviv or Haifa.

GREEK JEWISH PARLEY HEARS LITTLE PROGRESS MADE IN ORGANIZING RESTITUTION FUND

ATHENS, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- There has been little progress in the work of the Jewish Restitution Fund set up to take over responsibility for heirless Jewish property and to use the monies derived from it for the rehabilitation of Greek Jewry, it was reported here last night at a meeting of representatives of 18 Jewish communities. Among other tasks confronting the 48 representatives at the parley is the election of a new administrative council for the Fund.

Of the three major branches of the Fund, two of them--the sections at Janina and Cavalla--have not progressed beyond the preparatory work of setting up their apparatus. At Salonika, the Fund branch has taken over some 1,400 of a total of 2,000 pieces of property owned by Jews murdered by the Nazis. The income from the property already administered has come to about \$5,000 in the last four months, it was reported.

The parley adopted a resolution thanking King Paul and the Greek Government for passage of restitution legislation--passed in 1946 and first implemented by the Cabinet last May. Another resolution thanked the Joint Distribution Committee for its aid to Greek Jewry and asked it to continue its assistance program until the rehabilitation Fund was completely organized to take over this job.

FORMER INMATES OF DACHAU URGE FRENCH PRESIDENT TO PREVENT DESACRATION OF CAMP TOMBS

PARIS, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- French President Vincent Auriol received a delegation from the Association of Former Inmates of Dachau and was urged to ask the French Ministry to do its utmost to prevent any renewal of desecration of tombs on the site of the former death camp.

SUSPENSION OF COMPULSORY RELIGIOUS TEACHING IN HUNGARY AFFECTS INSTRUCTION IN JUDAISM

BUDAPEST, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- The decree abolishing compulsory religious instruction in Hungary's schools has had a marked effect on the teaching of Jewish religious principles, it was indicated here today. Sixty percent of Jewish parents who were polled expressed a desire to have their children continue to receive religious instruction.

At the same time it was disclosed that of some 4,500 Jewish school-age children in Pest, some 2,850 asked to receive religious instruction. A spokesman for the Jewish community said here that at present the Jewish schools have three weekly general religion classes, one singing lesson and one lesson in the Hebrew Bible.

TRANSPORTS OF 20-30 PERSONS EACH LEAVING POLAND DAILY WITH ISRAEL-BOUND JEWS

WARSAW, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- Transports of approximately 20-30 persons each are leaving Poland daily for Israel via the Italian port of Bari, it was reported here today. Some reports reaching here state that Israel-bound Polish Jews may have to wait for transportation in Bari for as long as six weeks.

Because of the heavy increase in the number of applications for Israel visas, the immigration department of the Israel Consulate here recently had to rent additional quarters to handle the volume of work. It was announced today that a special train carrying 400 Polish Jews proceeding to Israel via Italy will leave here early in December.

ZIONISTS WIN TWO-THIRDS OF SEATS IN NETHERLANDS JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- The management of Jewish communal affairs in Holland has been vested in the hands of Zionist leaders for another four years as a result of the election victory of Zionist candidates for seats in the Jewish Community Council. Zionists achieved a two-thirds majority of the seats in the Council against a combined list of non-Zionists.

ZIONISTS JEOPARDIZE STATUS OF U.S. JEWS, DOROTHY THOMPSON TELLS COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- Terming the concept of "national minorities" an alien, Eastern-European import conflicting with fundamental American principles and traditions, Dorothy Thompson tonight accused leading Zionists of jeopardizing the equal civic status of American Jews by "the claim that every Jew in the world is a member of the Jewish People, or Nation." This claim, she told 150 delegates and guests of the fifth annual meeting of the Philadelphia chapter of the American Council for Judaism, had previously been made only by anti-Semites and strongly resembled the Nazi racist philosophy.

Miss Thompson expressed alarm at the way, she said, American Jews are being indoctrinated by Zionist propaganda, "with the idea that they exist in this country--as everywhere outside of Israel--on dubious sufferance and that whatever happened in Germany could happen here any minute." She denied that there was any analogy between the outbreak of Nazism in Germany and the danger in this country. In addition to this fear, the speaker said, "there is another tendency equally dangerous as it affects non-Jews, and that is to equate anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism."

LEADERS OF 30 LARGEST JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN U.S. TO DISCUSS 1950 RESPONSIBILITIES

NEW YORK, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- Presidents and executives of America's 30 largest Jewish communities, seeking to map constructive plans for meeting American Jewry's total responsibilities in 1950, will join with a panel of experts in appraising and clarifying the basic relationship of Jewish needs at a special conference this week-end at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago.

The conference has been called by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and will be a "working session" with full discussion of major problems by all community representatives. The parley will hear a report from Harold Glasser, director of the C.J.F.W.F. Institute on Overseas Studies. Mr. Glasser, who has just returned from a six-week study trip to Israel, will present his findings at the opening session on trends in Israel's economy, the role of official and private agencies and prospects for immigration in 1950.

At another session, on "Community Planning for 1950," the conference participants will analyze the implications of overseas and domestic needs for 1950 community campaigns. In a round table discussion they will appraise fund raising assets and liabilities in 1950 compared with 1949 experience, goals, campaign climate, collections, leadership handling of local capital needs and problems of independent competing drives. They will also explore relationships between communities and national and overseas agencies, and effect of needs and campaign methods on budget procedures. Conclusions and recommendations growing out of the discussions will be made at the third, and closing, session.

Berl Locker, chairman of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, will serve as a consultant to the community leaders on questions regarding Israel. Moses Beckelman, assistant European director of the Joint Distribution Committee, will serve as consultant on the J.D.C. program.

Communities invited to the conference are: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Hartford, Jersey City, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Montreal, New Haven, Newark, New York, Paterson, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Rochester, St. Louis, St. Paul, San Francisco, Toronto and Winnipeg.

Training Bureau for Jewish Communal Service to Hold Annual Meeting

CINCINNATI, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- The third annual meeting of the Training Bureau for Jewish Communal Service will take place here Dec. 8, according to an announcement by George W. Rabinoff, executive director. The meeting will precede the three-day convention of the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds which also will be held here.

DP COMMISSION OFFICIAL DOUBTS ALL IMMIGRANTS AUTHORIZED UNDER LAW WILL ENTER U.S.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Nov. 1. (JTA) -- Edward M. O'Connor, a member of the Federal Displaced Persons Commission, stated here last night that the provision of the present DP immigration act requiring that 30 percent of all displaced persons admitted to this country must be farmers probably will make it impossible to bring in the full number of 205,000 refugee immigrants authorized under the current law. Mr. O'Connor spoke at a 12-state conference of DP resettlement agencies.

OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHES CHAIR OF JURISPRUDENCE AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY

OTTAWA, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- The Ottawa Jewish Community Council today contributed \$5,000 toward the establishment of a chair in jurisprudence at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in the name of Justice I.C. Rand of the Supreme Court of Canada who, as a member of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, played an important role in the founding of Israel.

Professor Adolf Reitenberg, chief speaker at the affair, emphasized the part the Hebrew University could play in sparking the development of Israel and neighboring Arab states. Justice Rand thanked the gathering of 1,500 for the honor paid him and expressed his confidence that the university would become a "beacon of enlightenment and regeneration for the whole of the Middle East."

ROYAL KAPLAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MIDWEST REGION OF UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA

OMAHA, Neb., Nov. 1. (JTA) -- Royal G. Kaplan, of this city, was unanimously elected president of the newly-formed Midwest Region of the United Synagogue of America at the group's meeting here. The new region encompasses 32 congregations in eight states.

Speakers at the parley included Dr. Albert I. Gordon, executive director of the United Synagogue, who warned that the preservation and "continued growth of Conservative Judaism required new thought and new ideas on the part of both laymen and rabbis." Dr. Gordon declared that "we are not preparing our children for the synagogue, nor are we preparing them for Israel, nor are we preparing them for Jewish life."

Asserting that Judaism had already accepted "many new customs in accordance with changed conditions in America," Rabbi Gordon said that the process of change required "sluffing off" of certain customs and ceremonies but warned that "Conservative Judaism would cease to exist if the sluffing off continued on the same vast, chaotic and individualist scale as it has in recent years."

UNITED LUBAVITCHER YESHIVOTH REPORTS ON DECADE OF ACTIVITY IN UNITED STATES

NEW YORK, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- A report on the achievements of the United Lubavitcher Yeshivoth during the past decade since their establishment in this country was made public today by Rabbi S. Gougary, chairman of the executive committee. An annual dinner marking the completion of ten years of activity by the Lubavitcher Yeshivoth in the U.S. will be held here Feb. 5, 1950, it was announced.

The report points out that branches of the Lubavitcher Yeshivoth have been opened in "various cities and towns to make Jewish religious instruction available to all." The establishment of Israel, it was noted, has resulted in expanded activities on the part of the Yeshivoth in the new state, including the purchase of new buildings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

1,000 WEST COAST ZIONIST LEADERS PAY TRIBUTE TO THEODORE STRIMLING AT J.N.F. DINNER

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- More than 1,000 West Coast Zionist leaders representing 200 local Zionist and other organizations gathered here last night to pay tribute to Theodore Strimling, president of the Jewish National Fund Council here, at a J.N.F. dinner tendered in his honor.

The dinner announced the launching of a program to purchase 5,000 dunams of land in the Negev in honor of Mr. Strimling and his wife for "their years of devoted service to Zionist causes." Speakers included Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, Mendel Fisher, executive director of the J.N.F., and Cyrus Leventhal, president of the Southern Pacific Zionist Region.