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ISRAEL KNESSET RESUMES SESSIONS IN JERUSALEM; SHARETT TO REPORT TO CABINET TODAY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Israel Knesset, after a year of meetings in Tel Aviv, resumed its sessions here today in preparation for a general debate on foreign policy, especially in connection with the Jerusalem issue.

Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett, who arrived at Lydda Airport today after participating in the United Nations meetings at Lake Success, will report to the Israel Cabinet tomorrow on the U.N. deliberations on the Jerusalem issue. Mr. Sharett will report on Wednesday to the foreign affairs committee of the Knesset.

Leaders of the coalition indicated, meanwhile, that it was useless to launch a discussion of foreign policy until next week. On the other hand, leaders of the Herut and General Zionist parties hinted that they might press for an immediate discussion on foreign policy and on Jerusalem, while separate motions of censure have also been prepared by the Herut and General Zionist delegates. (According to one report, Herut leader Menachem Beigin was quoted as announcing he would formally demand the resignation of Mr. Sharett.)

The General Zionists have also drafted a resolution calling on the Knesset to adopt article one of the proposed Israel constitution, proclaiming Jerusalem the capital of the Jewish state. The General Zionists contend that the transfer of government offices from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem would be strengthened by such an act.

The financial and foreign affairs committees of the Knesset started work early this morning. A subcommittee started debate regarding technical arrangements for accommodating the Knesset in Jerusalem since present facilities are inadequate. It is estimated that construction of a permanent parliament building would take at least two years.

PROGRESS REPORTED IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND TRANSJORDAN

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Negotiations leading toward permanent peace relations between Israel and Transjordan have advanced substantially, reliable circles reported today. These informants added that the negotiations thus far had touched upon all issues pending between the two nations, including transit facilities, a subject of prime importance to both parties.

A week ago, it was stated, a high official of the British Foreign Office conferred with a prominent Transjordan authority when certain questions outstanding between Israel and Transjordan, which had remained stumbling-blocks to a permanent settlement of differences, were resolved.

Reports from other sources stated that a draft containing the points already agreed to by the two parties is now being elaborated. This is reported to provide settlement of such major issues as control of Mount Scopus and the Wailing Wall, now in Arab hands, the potash works north of the Dead Sea, rectification of the so-called "triangle borders," disposition of the Bethlehem road, and free access for Transjordan to the Mediterranean.

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HEAVY RAINS FLOOD IMMIGRANT CAMPS IN ISRAEL; CHILDREN CONTRACT PNEUMONIA; AID URGED

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Fifteen thousand immigrants living in tents in reception camps along the coast near Nathanya are facing unbearable conditions owing to the heavy rains flooding the entire area around the camps, it was disclosed today. The camp grounds have been turned into deep mud, tents are leaking badly and the dampness is penetrating everywhere.

Mothers and fathers can be seen carrying their infants in their arms, trying to keep them dry while they themselves are knee-deep in mud and water inside the tents. The camp inmates are absolutely helpless and many children have contracted pneumonia. The situation, according to well-informed quarters, calls not only for immediate aid, but for an all-out rescue operation.

Some 2,000 children living in the coast centers are being removed to Nathanya and the surrounding area where they will remain temporarily with regular residents. A report from Jaffa said that four sisters in one family were killed when the torrential downpour collapsed a house in which they resided.

Meanwhile, reports from the Negev say that many settlements in the southern desert have been isolated as a result of the rains. Emergency planes laden with food and medicines have been rushed to critical points. The reports said that many tourists visiting the Negev have been cut off and are now unable to return to Jerusalem or Tel Aviv.

Search parties, for settlers reported to be missing, were sent out in Army cars and civilian trucks, but were compelled to return because the small valleys had been transformed into swift and deep streams and were impassable. A Mapai youth group which was touring the Negev was stranded yesterday 20 kilometers south of Beersheba when their truck broke down. The only hotel in Beersheba is crowded with settlers unable to return to their homes. Spare beds have been set up in the school and other public buildings there.

ONE-THIRD OF ISRAEL POPULATION TO LIVE ON FARMS IN NEXT DECADE, ESKOL PREDICTS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Israel today is passing through an agrarian revolution and "in the next decade we shall pin to the soil at least a third of the population," Levi Eshkol, head of the Jewish Agency's agricultural department, declared today. He said that 150 agricultural settlements would be founded in the current Jewish year, at a cost of 28 million pounds (\$78,400,000). Of this sum, the government would contribute 6,000,000 pounds, he said, and the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Fund would provide the rest.

Daniel Frisch, president of the Zionist Organization of America, and Fred Monosson, Boston Zionist leader, landed at Lydda airport this morning. They were greeted by General Zionist leaders in Israel.

800 POLISH JEWS ARRIVE IN HAIFA; ISRAEL'S MINISTER RETURNS TO TEL AVIV FOR TALKS

HAIFA, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- About 800 Jewish immigrants from Poland landed here yesterday. It was reported that Polish authorities permitted them to take only restricted quantities of personal belongings. Israel Barzilai, Israel Minister to Poland, arrived here today for consultations on problems arising out of the emigration from Poland of Israel-bound Jews.

WEIZMANN COMMUTES DEATH SENTENCES OF TWO ARAB MURDERERS TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Israel President Chaim Weizmann today commuted the capital sentences imposed on two Arabs, recently convicted of murder, to life imprisonment.

Shulamith Engelsberg, 21, was killed last night by Arab marauders who attacked Beri (Asluj) in the Negev. The attackers were reported to have been infiltrators.

A private car bound for Nirim was blown up on an Arab-mined Negev road. All passengers were wounded and one settler, from Neveh Yair, was killed. A Beersheba police car traveling to a meeting with Arab Legion officers also struck a mine and four police officers were slightly injured.

INDIA'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORMAL RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL EXPECTED AFTER NEW YEAR

CALCUTTA, India, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Formal recognition of Israel by India is expected to be announced shortly after the end of the New Year recess of the Indian Parliament, it is believed here in informed quarters. These circles base their opinion on Premier Jawaharlal Nehru's recent statement to the Parliament at New Delhi that recognition of the Jewish state cannot long be delayed.

Meanwhile, sentiment in support of recognition received strong backing from Prof. Moulana Lal Choudhury Shastri, famous Sanskrit and Arabic scholar of Calcutta University. Writing in the leading Bengal journal, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, he declared that Israel is the "Western sentinel of Asia." The professor, who formerly taught at Cairo University and studied Islamic culture in Egypt, stated in the article that "India has more in common with Israel than with any other race of Asia." He voiced regret that Israel was not invited to the recent Asian conference in New Delhi and denied the validity of the argument put forward to justify Indian delay of recognition, namely, that the move would antagonize the Arab countries and Pakistan.

(Haim Yasset, director-general of the social division of the Israel Ministry of Welfare, left for India from Tel Aviv during the week-end to represent the Jewish state at the All-Indian Congress for Social Welfare, opening in New Delhi today. He was invited to represent Israel as an observer.)

500 PHYSICIANS ARRIVED IN ISRAEL SINCE STATE WAS PROCLAIMED. JEWISH AGENCY REPORTS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- More than 500 physicians entered Israel since the Jewish state was proclaimed, the Jewish Agency revealed here. Although a number of the immigrant physicians are still living in reception camps, most of them have been resettled either by the Agency or privately.

The Jewish Agency said it has expended to date 40,000 pounds for initial equipment for the physicians while approximately 10,000 pounds were loaned to the doctor-immigrants to help pay their rentals. In cooperation with the Histadrut, the Agency has spent 15,000 pounds for housing construction for the newly-arrived physicians.

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN DENIES REPORT THAT ISRAEL'S MINISTER TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA RESIGNED

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- A government spokesman denied today that Israel's Minister to Czechoslovakia, Ehud Arieel, has resigned. A report to this effect was carried last week by a foreign news agency.

J.D.C. DIRECTOR IN AUSTRIA DISPUTES HUNGARY'S CHARGES AGAINST ISRAEL JACOBSON

VIENNA, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Harold Trobe, Joint Distribution Committee director for Austria, this week-end branded Hungarian charges of "suspicion of espionage" made against Israel Jacobson, J.D.C. director since 1947 in Hungary, as "utterly fantastic and completely baseless." Mr. Trobe was one of the last persons to see Mr. Jacobson before his arrest Dec. 15 by the Hungarian political police at the Austrian border as he was heading for Budapest.

"I cannot understand," Mr. Trobe said, "why the Hungarians would permit Jacobson to remain in their country for two years and then permit him to leave and suddenly decide to arrest him on his return from a three-months leave. I am certain that Jacobson stuck closely to the line of duty in directing J.D.C. relief work in Hungary."

Mr. Trobe spiked reports circulating here that the Hungarians had closed the J.D.C. office in Budapest and arrested Arnold Berkowitz, another American and Mr. Jacobson's assistant. "According to my knowledge," he said, "the Budapest office is still functioning, directed by Berkowitz."

[A dispatch from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent in Budapest confirms that the Hungarian office of the J.D.C. is continuing its operations unmolested.]

U.S. HIGH COMMISSIONER DISMISSES POSSIBILITIES OF REBIRTH OF NAZISM IN GERMANY

FRANKFURT, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The conviction that Nazism will never rise in Germany again was voiced here this week-end by American High Commissioner John J. McCloy, in an annual report on American occupation administration in Germany. Admitting that there had been a number of disturbing incidents involving neo-Nazism that "would need action," the Commissioner said that he "felt most hopeful" of a liberal spirit among the German people.

"I have always felt that the Jewish question was a touchstone of Germany's capacity to develop into a liberal state," he continued. "There have been some instances, it is true, which have been most debasing. But to me the most important thing has been the strong reaction to most of these incidents in the press and the statements of President Theodor Heuss and Chancellor Karl Adenauer."

[Lt. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes, American commander in Austria and U.S. representative on the Allied Council in Vienna, late last week denied charges by the Soviet Union that neo-Nazism is rife in Austria. He declared: "I carefully examined the charges made at our last meeting and find them totally unsubstantiated by fact. This, together with the false and ridiculous accusations that war criminals and Nazis have been protected in the American zone of Austria, leads me to conclude that this entire campaign has been manufactured for other purposes."]

WORLD SOCIALIST CONFERENCE URGES GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TO FIGHT ANTI-SEMITISM

PARIS, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- A committee of the International Socialist Conference meeting here today called on the Social Democratic Party of Germany to take steps against anti-Semitism in that country. A member of the German Socialist Party delegation to the conference stated his party was doing everything possible to fight anti-Semitism in Germany and was in constant touch with Jewish communities there.

POPE PIUS APPEALS TO JEWS TO FIGHT ATHEISM; RABBI CRITICIZES PONTIFF'S MESSAGE

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Issue with the Christmas message of Pope Pius XII was taken here during the week-end by Rabbi Louis I. Newman, a leading Reform rabbi, in a sermon to his congregation. The Pontiff's message, calling for a fight on atheism, was also addressed to those "who adore Christ -- not excluding those who sincerely but vainly await His coming -- to join the common battle."

Vatican sources were reported as viewing this reference as a "conciliatory gesture" toward Jews at a time when the Vatican and Israel are at odds over the safeguarding of the Holy Places in Jerusalem. Indicating that a "large number" of Jews would take issue with this interpretation, Rabbi Newman declared:

"The supposed reference to the Jewish people in the Pope's Christmas message is unfortunately worded, and if it were not for an explanation given by Vatican circles and headlined by some of the press it would have passed unnoticed. If the reference to those 'who sincerely but vainly await' the coming of a Christ or Messiah is intended to apply to adherents of the Jewish faith, it is a regrettable approach.

"If, moreover, the item was included as 'a conciliatory gesture' relating to the Vatican's role in the effort to internationalize Jerusalem, it also will find no response either in Israel or among Jews throughout the world. The Israelis on the spot will decide the fate of the New Jerusalem and Jews in all lands will remain faithful to their family religion."

JEWS FILE BRIEF WITH F.C.C. IN INQUIRY ON ANTI-JEWISH RADIO BROADCASTS

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress and the Jewish Community Councils of Cleveland, Detroit and Los Angeles announced this week-end the filing of a joint brief with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington upholding its jurisdiction to investigate charges that a radio station owner had ordered the slanting of news broadcasts against Jews. G.A. Richards, owner of stations WJAR, WJR and KMPC, located in Cleveland, Detroit and Los Angeles, had previously filed a motion with the Commission challenging its authority to investigate such charges.

In connection with Richards' applications for renewal of his station licenses and for Commission approval of the transfer of his stock to trustees, the Commission had ordered a public hearing on allegations that Richards distorted news programs to stir up hatred against Jews and to advance his own political causes.

Claiming infringement of his right of free speech, Richards asked the Commission to strike from its hearing order all issues relating to his past program policies. "The free communication of ideas," declares the brief of the Jewish organizations, "is subverted when radio is monopolized by those who seek by the slanting of news and the broadcasting of fraudulent news reports to stir up racial and religious hatreds." The brief contends that the Federal Communications Commission has power to investigate the program policy, program service and qualifications of an applicant in order to apply the standard of public interest, convenience and necessity which must be satisfied before a radio license is issued or renewed.

FRANKFURT SYNAGOGUE DESTROYED BY NAZIS BEING REBUILT; WILL ACCOMMODATE 1,400 PERSONS

FRANKFURT, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Rebuilding is in progress of Frankfurt's West End synagogue, built in 1913 and destroyed by the Nazis in 1938. With seating accommodations for 1,400 persons, the synagogue when completed will be one of the largest in Western Europe. It is expected to be ready in the summer of 1950.

U.S. ZIONIST GROUPS' MESSAGES SUPPORTING ISRAEL STAND ON JERUSALEM SENT TO BEN GURION

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The American Zionist Council revealed during the week-end that it had transmitted to Premier David Ben Gurion of Israel several hundred wires and messages received during the past two weeks from Zionist groups throughout the United States. These messages, the Council disclosed, express an overwhelming support of Israel's recent action on Jerusalem and pledged a renewed campaign in the U.S. to seek the revision of the U.N. internationalization plan.

PRESS IN CATHOLIC COUNTRIES CRITICAL OF U.N. PLAN TO INTERNATIONALIZE JERUSALEM

LAKE SUCCESS, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- An official survey compiled by the United Nations Secretariat on world-wide editorial opinion with regard to the U.N. decision to place Jerusalem under international trusteeship revealed during the week-end that a majority of the press in Catholic countries is critical of this decision and skeptical of chances for its implementation.

338 JEWS LEAVE RUMANIA FOR ISRAEL; ALL HAVE CLOSE RELATIVES RESIDING IN JEWISH STATE

BUCHAREST, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Rumanian ship Transylvania left the Black Sea port of Constanza this week-end with 338 immigrants on board.

All are close relatives of Rumanian Jews already in Israel. The small number of those departing is taken here to mean that the issuing of passports in this category is slowing down.

TRANSPORT OF 600 ISRAEL-BOUND JEWS IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE POLAND TODAY BY RAIL

WARSAW, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- A third special train carrying Polish Jews bound for Israel is scheduled to leave here tomorrow with about 600 passengers, it was reported today.

730 EUROPEAN JEWS SAILED FROM ITALY FOR ISRAEL DURING FIRST HALF OF DECEMBER

ROME, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- A total of 730 Jewish displaced persons from Austria, Bulgaria, Poland, Germany and Czechoslovakia sailed for Israel from Italy in the first half of December, Jewish Agency officials reported here.

"THE DAY" MARKS 35TH ANNIVERSARY; GETS MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM TOP LEADERS

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The 35th anniversary of the Yiddish-language daily, The Day, was celebrated here yesterday with publication of a special issue containing messages of felicitation from leaders in Jewish life as well as from prominent government officials, including Governor Thomas Dewey of New York and a number of U.S. Senators.

ARGENTINE JEWS PRESENT BUILDING TO MINISTER TSUR; WILL SERVE AS ISRAEL LEGATION

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- At a formal ceremony here this week-end a building which will serve as the Israel legation was presented to Yacov Tsur, Israel Minister to Argentina, by Argentine Jewry.

Elias Teubal, who made the formal presentation, said that the building's doors would always be open to all Israelis and Argentines. He spoke highly of Argentina's efforts in behalf of the Jewish state. Mr. Tsur thanked the Argentine Jews in the name of Israel President Chaim Weizmann and expressed the hope that good relations would always exist between Israel and Argentina.

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