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U.N. CONCILIATION COMMISSION OPTIMISTIC ON DIRECT ISRAEL-JORDAN PEACE TALKS

GENEVA, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Marked optimism with regard to the possibilities of peace between Israel and Jordan was noticeable here today among members of the U.N. Conciliation Commission as a result of detailed reports on the peace talks between the two countries which reached the Commission this morning.

The Arab delegation here met today to hear a report from the representatives of Jordan who arrived from Amman. Both the U.N. Conciliation Commission and the U.N. Trusteeship Council, which are now meeting in Geneva, are prepared to hold up further discussions here on peace and on the future of Jerusalem until the outcome of the peace talks between Israel and Jordan is definitely known.

Roger Garreau, president of the U.N. Trusteeship Council, indicated today that as soon as he feels certain Israel will accept an invitation to participate in the Council's deliberations on Jerusalem, he will insist that such an invitation be sent to Tel Aviv. In the meantime, he will hold private talks with Aubrey Eban, Israel's representative at the United Nations who is expected to arrive here during the week.

(Mr. Eban met today with President Weizmann in Rehovot, Israel. Following the meeting, he announced that he will proceed shortly to Geneva to be in contact with the U.N. Trusteeship Council. In the afternoon, Mr. Eban and Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett reported for over two hours to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Knesset on United Nations activities concerning Israel and on the attitude of the Israel Government toward the Garreau plan.)

Egypt Does Not Object to Jordan-Israel Peace; U.S. Concerned Over Garreau Plan

A further significant development here was a statement today that Egypt would raise no objection if Jordan concludes peace with Israel. This statement was made to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent by Abdel Moneim Mustapha Bey, head of the Egyptian delegation to the Conciliation Commission.

Declaring that he himself had no authority from Cairo to negotiate on behalf of Egypt for a peace treaty with Israel, the Egyptian diplomat said that he considered that the present situation between Israel and Egypt requires no alteration. The first two clauses of the armistice agreement, he pointed out, constitute in effect a non-aggression pact between Israel and Egypt. "Egypt is prepared to abide by that," he said. "It is too soon to speak of resumption of normal diplomatic and commercial relations between the two countries."

Meanwhile, it was learned here today that the modified plan for the internationalization of Jerusalem proposed by Mr. Garreau has not enjoyed a popular welcome in the Council. While Catholic and Arab opposition to Mr. Garreau's modifications arise from alleged departures of the Garreau plan from the strict letter of internationalization, Britain and the United States are concerned with the practical difficulties of operating the Garreau scheme.

ISRAEL AND JORDAN MEET IN "NO-MAN'S LAND" TO DISCUSS COMMON ACTION AGAINST EPIDEMICS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Israel and Jordan medical representatives met today in no-man's land and discussed common action against epidemics of malaria, smallpox and other diseases affecting both countries.

Simultaneously, other Israel and Jordan representatives met to discuss the deportation of deserters of the Arab Legion who crossed into Israel territory last month. The Jordan military authorities have offered a full pardon to the deserters who, however, refuse to return and say that they prefer to remain in Israel.

U.N. OFFICER DENIES ISRAEL-ARAB ARMISTICE PACTS WILL EXPIRE AT END OF ONE YEAR

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Hamilton Fisher, United Nations press officer, denied at a press conference here reports that the armistice agreements between Israel and the neighboring Arab countries will be invalidated at the end of one year after the pacts were signed. "The armistice agreements can be superseded only by peace treaties," he said.

Mr. Fisher revealed that the U.N. Palestine Conciliation Commission approached both Israel and the Arab states several times to initiate direct peace talks.

POLICE DISPERSE HUNDREDS OF ISRAEL COMMUNISTS DEMONSTRATING AGAINST JEWISH AGENCY

TEL AVIV, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Hundreds of Israel Communists demonstrated here last night in an attempt to raid the offices of the Jewish Agency in protest against the alleged exclusion of Communists from the new settlements. The demonstrators were dispersed by the police.

Eight Communists who were arrested during the week-end after clashing with police units were released on bail yesterday. A report appearing in the official organ of the Jewish Democratic Committee of Rumania, "Unirea," was ridiculed today by all Tel Avivians. The report, completely unfounded, said that Tewfik Tubi, Arab Communist leader and member of the Knesset, was among those arrested over the week-end. Tubi attended yesterday's regular session of the Israel parliament.

ISRAEL MANUFACTURERS GROUP SAYS GOVERNMENT DISCRIMINATES AGAINST PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- A resolution blaming the Israel Government for "discrimination against private enterprise" and urging closer cooperation between the government and the manufacturers of this country was adopted here today at the annual meeting of the Israel Manufacturers Association.

The meeting also urged the government to establish a "more accurate" price control. It adopted a decision to create a mutual aid fund against eventual strikes. Simultaneously it rejected the establishment of proficiency committees as advocated by the Histadrut, declaring it unnecessary for workers to interfere in the management of factories.

Approximately 900 foreign investors have sought information regarding the potential investment in Israel enterprises of millions of pounds, it was reported at the meeting. One hundred and fifty investors have expressed interest in investing 50,000 pounds each, the meeting heard. In 1949 a total of 600 new industrial enterprises were founded, the Association was told.

"ISRAEL'S GATES OPEN FOR EVERY JEW," JEWISH AGENCY RESOLVES; SETS \$120,000,000 BUDGET

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- A resolution declaring that "Israel's gates are open for every Jew wishing, able or compelled to seek his home in the Jewish state" was adopted here early this morning at the closing session of the Jewish Agency executive plenary meeting.

The resolution made it clear, however, that immigrants with their own means who will not go to immigration camps on arrival in Israel are not included in the immigration budget of the Jewish Agency. A general budget of about \$120,000,000 was adopted at the closing session for the activities of the Agency. Of this sum, approximately \$48,000,000 will be spent on immigration and the absorption of immigrants in Israel. A similar sum will be spent on agricultural projects.

BEN GURION CONFERS WITH MAPAM LEADERS ON WIDENING CABINET; MAPAM REPORTED OPTIMISTIC

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- The negotiations to widen the coalition government by bringing into the Cabinet representatives of the Mapam, left-wing group of the Socialist Party, reached a practical stage today when Premier David Ben Gurion met personally with leaders of the Mapam.

The meeting lasted two hours during which the conditions for the Mapam's entry into the Cabinet were discussed. The Mapam leaders emerged from the meeting in a satisfied mood. "The matter will now come before our central committee for final decision," they told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

ISRAEL AMBASSADOR CONFERS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE; ARMING OF ARABS BELIEVED DISCUSSED

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Eliahu Elath conferred with Secretary of State Dean Acheson for 35 minutes today and, although the nature of the talk was not disclosed, diplomatic sources said the question of Britain's supplying arms to the Arab states was discussed. The Israel Government is reportedly displeased at the views expressed by Mr. Acheson and the State Department, which countenance the shipment of munitions by Great Britain to the Arab states.

When he emerged from Mr. Acheson's office, the Ambassador said only that he discussed "current topics concerning Israel." Asked if the arms question was among the topics, Mr. Elath said he would prefer not to add anything else about the nature of the talk. The Israel Ambassador requested the audience with the Secretary of State.

GENERAL STRIKE IN HAIFA OIL REFINERIES EXPECTED TO BE PROCLAIMED TODAY; TALKS CONTINUE

HAIFA, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- A general strike in the Haifa oil refineries will be proclaimed tomorrow if talks between the plants' management and representatives of the Haifa Labor Council are unsuccessful. One meeting, which was also attended by Dr. A. Scheinblum, of the Ministry of Labor, took place last night, without any results.

GREEK GOVERNMENT INFORMS ISRAEL TWO PLANES IMPOUNDED ON RHODES HAVE BEEN RELEASED

ATHENS, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- The Greek Government today notified Israel that two Israel Spitfires which have been held by the Athens authorities for nearly two years on the island of Rhodes, after they made forced landings, have been released and may now be taken over by the Tel Aviv authorities. Release of the aircraft follows a number of requests made by Israel to the Greek Government for freeing the planes.

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RUMANIANS SENTENCED TO JAIL TERMS FOR DETROITING AND MISTREATING JEWS DURING WAR

BUCHAREST, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Alfred Herman, a Rumanian resident of Austrian descent, has been sentenced to ten years imprisonment and loss of civil rights following his conviction on charges of having denounced three Jews to the Gestapo in the town of Souleni during the war. All the Jews were subsequently murdered.

Lt. Constantin C. Georgian, wartime commander of a Jewish slave detachment, was sentenced to five years in jail and loss of civil rights for ten years for subjecting some 400 Jews under his command to "inhuman treatment" by starving and beating them.

JEWISH ADVISOR IN AUSTRIA ASKS CONTINUED AID BY U.S. JEWRY FOR AUSTRIAN JEWS

VIENNA, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Continued aid by American Jews is needed for Austrian Jewry, Chaplain Herman Dicker, newly-appointed advisor on Jewish affairs to Lt. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes, U.S. commander in Austria, declared here today at a press interview.

Capt. Dicker added that the U.S. Army has been very cooperative in assisting Jewish refugees in this country. He also praised Gen. Keyes for his consideration for the religious needs of military and civilian personnel.

6,000 STATELESS JEWS MAY GAIN ARGENTINE CITIZENSHIP UNDER NEW REGULATION

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Thousands of Jewish immigrants who originally came from Germany may become Argentine citizens as a result of a new ruling just issued which will permit German nationals to become citizens of this country. Although the German Jews considered themselves as stateless, the government considered them German nationals during and after the war.

It was estimated today that some 6,000 German Jews now residing in this country will seek to take advantage of the new regulation. Dr. Hardy Swarsensky, leader of the German Jewish community here, stated that he would ask the DAA, central representative body of Argentine Jews, to begin negotiations with the government for the naturalization of the 6,000 Jews.

21,265 JEWS LEFT GERMANY FOR UNITED STATES UNDER DP LAW TILL END OF LAST YEAR

FRANKFURT, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- A total of 21,265 displaced Jews left Germany for the United States under the current DP law up to December 15, 1949, it was reported here today on the basis of data compiled by the Joint Distribution Committee office in Frankfurt. There are still more than 35,000 displaced Jews living today in Western Germany, according to a census taken by the International Refugee Organization.

2,000 DISPLACED JEWS RECEIVED 1,000,000 MARKS INDEMNITY PRIOR TO LEAVING GERMANY

NEW YORK, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Some 2,000 Jewish displaced persons who emigrated from Germany during 1949 under the auspices of HIAS received about 1,000,000 West German marks in indemnity payments for personal and financial indignities and damages suffered under the Nazi regime, Isaac L. Asofsky, executive director of the HIAS, announced here today.

Mr. Asofsky said that present indemnification laws of the U.S. zone of Germany permit persons regardless of their present whereabouts, but who resided in camps in this zone on Jan. 1, 1947, to seek indemnification from the German Government because of persecution resulting in damage to life and limb, health, liberty, possessions, property or economic advancement.

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JUDGE ROTHENBERG SAYS TALK OF JEWISH NATIONAL FUND LIQUIDATION IS "IRRESPONSIBLE"

ASBURY PARK, N.J., Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Any talk of a present liquidation of the Jewish National Fund was branded today as "irresponsible" by Judge Morris Rothenberg, chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, speaking before the convention of the Jewish National Workers Alliance being held here.

The argument that the Jewish National Fund has no further reason for existence because Israel is now in possession of the land, is fallacious because the former owners must be ultimately paid for it, said Judge Rothenberg. Meanwhile, he stated, the funds raised are being used for immediate pressing needs in Israel.

The prospect of full socialism in Israel in the foreseeable future was discounted by Chaim Greenberg, leading representative of Labor Zionism, who addressed the convention. "The state of Israel has reached the million mark," he said. "We have two more million yet to acquire." The speaker foresaw the economic system of Israel for a very long time to come taking a pattern marked by the co-existence of cooperative and private enterprise. Mr. Greenberg also warned against any theocratic state being set up in Israel.

B'NAI B'RITH CONVENTION IN ISRAEL INAUGURATES NEW LODGE; NAMES IT FOR HENRY MONSKY

TEL AVIV, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- The 27th lodge of B'nai B'rith in Israel was inaugurated today at the annual convention of the organization here, which opened last night. Dr. Oscar Fraenkel, chairman of the B'nai B'rith District Grand Lodge, reported that prefabricated houses and medical supplies are being sent to the Jewish state by the North American and South American branches of the Jewish service organization.

The new lodge of B'nai B'rith will be named for Henry Monsky, late president of the organization in the United States. Since the establishment of the new state, a total of \$4,000,000 in goods was sent to Israel by B'nai B'rith, the convention was told. Greetings were received by the delegates from Premier David Ben Gurion.

U.S. JEWS HOLD KEY TO JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL, MORGENTHAU SAYS; APPEALS FOR FUNDS

NEW YORK, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, who has just returned from an extensive visit to Israel where he conferred with President Chaim Weizmann, Premier David Ben Gurion and other top leaders, declared today that the Jews of Israel were strongly opposed to any reduction in immigration and that the "ultimate decision on any immigration quotas would be made by the Jews of America." Mr. Morgenthau said that "money and only money will decide this question."

Addressing more than 11,000 U.J.A. campaign leaders and volunteers assembled at special meetings in 105 cities throughout the United States, the U.J.A. leader, speaking by means of one of the most extensive telephone hookups ever arranged, declared that Israel has made "unbelievable progress" since his visit there 15 months ago. "It is impossible for Israel to carry the burden of receiving and caring for all who escaped the fate of the martyred six million Jews of Europe without adequate help from us," he declared.

Mr. Morgenthau called on American Jewish communities to: 1. Accept the quotas assigned to each community for the needs of the U.J.A.; 2. Forward all available funds to the U.J.A., and "borrow the largest sum you have ever asked of your local bank for transmission to the U.J.A."; 3. Confer with representatives of the U.J.A. on setting up a "pre-campaign budgeting program."

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL OF NEW YORK LAUNCHES ITS 1950 DRIVE; RAISED \$40,000,000 IN 1949

NEW YORK, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- The necessity for a more successful U.J.A. campaign in 1950 than in any previous year was emphasized today by Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, addressing a meeting at the Hotel Astor which marked the launching of this year's drive of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York. The meeting was also addressed by Monroe Goldwater, president of the U.J.A. of Greater New York.

The objective of the 1950 campaign of the U.J.A. of Greater New York is to help raise the minimum of \$272,455,800 required by the national United Jewish Appeal to carry out its world-wide relief, resettlement and rehabilitation programs. New Yorkers contributed \$162,000,000 to the New York United Jewish Appeal in four campaigns since 1946, more than \$40,000,000 of which was raised in 1949.

JEWISH WELFARE BOARD TAKES OVER PART OF U.S.O. ACTIVITIES; WILL REVISE ITS BUDGET

NEW YORK, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- The National Jewish Welfare Board will continue its traditional program for Jewish personnel in the peacetime armed forces and veterans' hospitals, following the deactivation of the U.S.O. as of today, it was announced here by Frank L. Weil, president of the J.W.B.

Mr. Weil emphasized that despite the fact suspension of operations by the U.S.O., of which the Jewish Welfare Board has been an operating agency, means the loss to the J.W.B. of any further U.S.O. funds, the J.W.B. will continue to meet in full the responsibility for service to the Jews in the armed forces. At the same time, Mr. Weil pointed out that the 1950 budget of \$1,474,485, which the J.W.B. adopted last October, will require immediate reconsideration in the light of the unanticipated financial burden which the organization must meet because of the suspension of the U.S.O.

RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA PARLEY BEARS FLEA FOR FIGHT ON ASSIMILATION IN U.S.

BOSTON, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- Rabbi Israel Tabak, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, now holding a two-day conference here, declared today that the primary task facing the American Rabbinate today is "to fight assimilation and its threat to our existence." Rabbi Tabak also urged formation of a "unified authority for religious questions to be set up in Israel as a step in bringing about organization in religious Jewish life."

The Rabbinical Council, whose conference concludes tonight, announced that to "help tackle the problems which hinder the perpetuation of Jewish life today, the Council is devising a program of action." Teams of rabbis will visit communities in an effort to help direct the thinking and action pertaining to organized Jewish religious life, the announcement said. Speakers at today's sessions included Rabbi Oscar Fasman, of Chicago, and Dr. Trude Weiss-Rosmarin, editor and lecturer.

SECOND U.S. SHIP TO BE TRANSFERRED TO ISRAEL FLAG; WILL BE RENAMED "HENRIETTA SZOLD"

BALTIMORE, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- The Dizengoff Shipping Company of Israel today acquired a second American ship, the 9,500-ton Montgomery City, which will be transferred to the Israel flag about the middle of February. The ship will be renamed Henrietta Szold, in honor of the late founder of Ehadassah.

ARGENTINE JEWISH GROUP DECIDES TO CONSTRUCT CULTURAL CENTER IN NEGEV SETTLEMENT

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 31. (JTA) -- A resolution to build a cultural center in the Negev settlement Mifalim--the first all-Argentine Kibbutz in the Negev--was adopted at a meeting of the executive board of the Ashkenazi Kehillah, an organization comprising 40,000 Jewish families in this country.

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