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"PEACE OFFENSIVE" STARTED IN JORDAN, SYRIA, LEBANON; EGYPT AND ISRAEL OFFICIALS MEET

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Radio stations in Arab countries today launched a "peace offensive" which may lead to the conclusion of permanent peace between Israel and the Arab states.

At the same time it was reported here today that high officials of the Israel Government are now meeting with representatives of Egypt "somewhere on the Israel-Egyptian border," commemorating the first anniversary of the armistice agreement reached between the two countries at Rhodes. Actually this meeting was intended for the purpose of laying down a basis for further negotiations in order to achieve a permanent peace.

Loading in the "peace offensive" started by the Arab broadcasting stations is the Jordan-controlled station at Ramallah. The broadcast clearly states that "there is a desire for peace in Jordan." The broadcasts by the Damascus and Beirut radio stations emphasize that if Egypt will sign a peace treaty with Israel, then Syria and Lebanon will follow.

U.S. May Press Egypt for Early Conclusion of Peace with Israel

LONDON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The prediction that U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson will attempt to press Egypt for an early conclusion of peace with Israel, in order to allay the anxiety now felt by the Israel Government over the shipment of British arms to the Arab states, was made here in the London Times.

The newspaper reports that the Israel Government has handed American Ambassador James G. McDonald a memorandum for transmission to the State Department outlining in detail its reasons for anxiety over British arms shipments to Egypt and other Arab states. The note is said to present a full analysis of the significance of the Arab rearmament program. It was the Israel fear of Egyptian rearmament which was responsible for last week's statement by the Egyptian War Minister that his country is prepared to open peace talks, the Times said.

U.N. DISCUSSIONS ON JERUSALEM WILL BE RESUMED TODAY; CONCILIATION GROUP GOES TO PARIS

GENEVA, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The United Nations Trusteeship Council will tomorrow resume its discussions of the Jerusalem issue since it became known here today that Israel and Jordan have accepted a Council invitation to explain their views on the draft statute for Jerusalem, and on its implementation.

At the same time, it was reported here that the U.N. Conciliation Commission, which is also meeting in Geneva with a view to bringing about an Arab-Jewish peace, will proceed to Paris on Friday for consultations there. The Commission is awaiting more details on informal peace talks that are now going on between Israel and Egypt, as well as between Israel and Jordan. Following their stay in Paris, the members of the Commission will return to Geneva.

BEN GURION ARRIVES IN TIBERIAS FOR THREE-WEEK REST; KAPLAN TO BE ACTING PREMIER

TIBERIAS, Israel, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion arrived here today for a three-week rest. During his absence from Jerusalem, Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan will serve as acting Premier.

Three religious members of the Israel Cabinet have written a letter to the Premier demanding a speedy settlement of the crisis involving the issue of religious education in immigrant reception camps.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS NON-EXISTENT AMONG STATIC POPULATION OF ISRAEL, LABOR MINISTER REPORTS

LONDON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Unemployment does not exist among the permanently housed population of Israel, Mrs. Golda Myerson, Israel's Labor Minister, declared at a press conference here today. She said that 25,000 new immigrants are registered with the employment exchange bureaus.

The settlement program for the new immigrants for the next 18 months was outlined here today by Levi Eshkol, treasurer of the Jewish Agency executive in Jerusalem. He said that 10,000 families will be settled, most of them in the "Jerusalem corridor." He also reported that irrigation plans are now being carried out in stages, with a view to eventually completing the nationwide Lowermilk scheme for conservation of water and development of hydroelectric power.

JERUSALEM'S WATER SUPPLY TO BE TREBLED IN MAY; NEARBY SOURCES OF WATER SOUGHT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Jewish Jerusalem's water supply will be trebled when a new aqueduct is put into operation this May, it was reported here today. When the second and third sections of a new water system are put into use early in 1951 it is anticipated that the city will have an adequate water supply for about 250,000 persons.

It is estimated that the cost of the new water system will be about 1,000,000 pounds (\$2,800,000). Some of the equipment used on the project, one part of which extends as far east as Rehovoth, was obtained with funds from the American \$100,000,000 loan. Meanwhile, the municipality is also exploring the possibility of providing an adequate supply from nearby sources.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT OPENS FOUR MOSLEM COURTS; FACES DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING ARAB JUDGES

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The Israel Ministry of Religion has opened four Moslem courts in the Nazareth area, it was announced here today.

The government is finding it extremely difficult to find kadis--Moslem religious judges--to preside over the courts because most of them fled during the war. The courts have jurisdiction over Moslem family and religious matters.

ISRAEL-BELGIAN TRADE TALKS "PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY," OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT SAYS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Negotiations for the conclusion of a trade agreement between Israel and Belgium are "progressing satisfactorily," it was officially reported here today. The talks follow the trade agreements recently concluded by Israel with Hungary and Holland.

ELEVEN STATES IN WEST GERMANY ESTABLISH OFFICE TO COORDINATE RESTITUTION PROCEDURES

MUNICH, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The eleven states comprising the West German Republic have agreed to establish an office to coordinate all problems concerned with and methods of processing applications for restitution and indemnification for victims of Nazism, it was announced here today.

The office will be located here, and will be headed by Dr. Philip Auerbach, Bavarian Commissioner for Persecutees who is also in charge of the Bavarian restitution office. However, final authority on all restitution matters will remain with each of the eleven states.

Meanwhile, opposition among Germans to the restitution program remains strong and a number of groups have been organized in various provinces, sometimes with the support of powerful public leaders, to oppose restitution. One of the latest developments in this field is the establishment of organizations dedicated to obtaining reimbursements for Germans who purchased property confiscated from Jews and who must now return it. This development has been opposed by spokesmen for the American occupation authorities.

J.D.C. DIRECTOR LEAVES CZECHOSLOVAKIA; FUNDS TO BE DISTRIBUTED BY LOCAL JEWISH GROUPS

PRAGUE, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Henry Levy, director of the Joint Distribution Committee in Czechoslovakia, left here last night for Paris after concluding an agreement with the Czechoslovak National Bank to distribute J.D.C. funds among Czech Jews during the next two or three years.

Mr. Levy was ordered to leave the country January 31, 1950, when the J.D.C. offices here were closed, but he received a special extension to conclude his business with the bank. The funds will be distributed monthly through two local Jewish organizations and will be used to assist Jewish students in Czech universities, the aged and indigent and youth organizations. It will also support medical programs for which the J.D.C. was responsible in the past.

ROMANIAN SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS 20-YEAR SENTENCE IMPOSED ON ANTI-SEMITIC LEGIONNAIRE

BUCHAREST, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The Rumanian Supreme Court today upheld a sentence of 20 years hard labor and loss of civil rights imposed on Ion Bajenaru, a war criminal and a leading member of the anti-Semitic Iron Legion movement in the town of Roman, in Moldavia.

Bajenaru had appealed to the court, denying charges that he maltreated Jews and other anti-fascists in Roman. Several of the defendant's victims died as a result of beatings they received from Bajenaru, the court was told.

U.S. GOVERNMENT TO TURN PELLEY OVER TO NORTH CAROLINA FOR PRISON TERM TODAY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- William Dudley Pelley, anti-Semitic ex-leader of the Silver Shirts of America, will be turned over to North Carolina authorities to serve an additional two to three years following his parole by the Federal Government tomorrow.

It was learned today that North Carolina has issued a detainer for Pelley, asking authorities at the U.S. penitentiary at Terre Haute, Ind., to hold him. Pelley will be imprisoned at hard labor in North Carolina because he violated terms of a suspended sentence imposed for fraudulent stock transactions. North Carolina previously waived its claim against Pelley to give the Federal Government priority to try him on wartime sedition charges.

DR. GOLDMANN REPORTS ON JEWISH AGENCY'S "PAY AS YOU GO" IMMIGRATION POLICY IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- A "pay as you go" policy in the matter of immigration to Israel, envisaging an immigration of 12,000 monthly instead of the 20,000 of last year, but subject to modification at three-month intervals has been decided upon by the Jewish Agency, Dr. Mahan Goldmann declared today on his return from Jerusalem where he attended the three-week session of the Jewish Agency executive.

Dr. Goldmann, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, said that the decision was taken because of the mounting debt incurred in financing the large immigration of the past and was based on calculated income for 1950. In the event of an emergency, however, such as the possible lifting by a country such as Rumania of its ban on immigration to Israel, the limit set would be waived. It would also be waived, he said, if more funds were available from America.

Dr. Goldmann emphasized also that the decision in no way altered the principle of unlimited immigration. Any Jew who can finance his own way will be admitted to Israel, he said. The executive, Dr. Goldmann said, devoted much thought to plans for stimulating the American Chaiutziut movement. In proportion to the population, Jewish immigration from the United States was infinitesimal, he added.

Referring to the complaints concerning the type of education given children in immigrant reception camps, Dr. Goldmann said that this arose from transitional causes. The school system, he said, was based at present on ideological foundations and the great majority of immigrant children who came to Israel were Orthodox. He added that reports of what had occurred had been greatly exaggerated. Both the government and the Jewish Agency subscribe to the "principle that children shall be raised in accordance with the religious precepts of their parents," he declared.

1,600 JEWISH DISPLACED PERSONS LEFT ITALY FOR ISRAEL DURING SECOND HALF OF JANUARY

ROME, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- About 1,600 Jewish displaced persons left Italy for Israel in the second half of January, it was reported here today. Ninety percent of the passengers were of Polish origin while the others came from Bulgaria, Iran, Egypt and Austria.

A new assembly center for refugees en route to Israel via Italy has been established on an island near Venice. All Israel-bound vessels now embark the bulk of their passengers at Venice, while additional pickups are made at Bari.

I.R.O. LISTS ISRAEL AS COUNTRY NEXT TO UNITED STATES IN ADMITTING DP'S FROM EUROPE

GENEVA, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Israel occupies second place--following the United States--in admitting refugees, a report released here today by the International Refugee Organization established.

The report, dealing with the number of refugees who were resettled by the I.R.O. during the last two-and-a-half years, says that leading countries of resettlement were the United States, Israel, Australia, United Kingdom, Canada, France, Argentina and Brazil, in that order. The United States has admitted 150,843 refugees; Israel, 116,366, and Australia, 105,485. The other countries each admitted less than 100,000. All told, the I.R.O. settled 690,145 DP's in new countries in the two-and-a-half-year period.

JWS IN BRITAIN WELCOME DECISION TO REFRAIN FROM DISCUSSIONS ON REVIVAL OF SANHEDRIN

LONDON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- A decision of the steering committee of the Israel national rabbinical conference to refrain from discussing the question of the revival of the Sanhedrin, the ancient Jewish tribunal, was endorsed here today at a meeting of British Orthodox leaders held under the chairmanship of Acting Chief Rabbi Abramsky.

The meeting also discussed the question of religious education in Israel immigrant camps which is now at issue between Orthodox elements and the Israel Government. A resolution was adopted approving of the stand taken by the rabbinical conference in Israel on this issue and expressing the hope that religious instructors will be sent to camps where the immigrants have indicated a desire that their children receive religious education.

Dr. Israel Brodie, Chief Rabbi of the British Empire, will leave shortly on an extensive tour of Kenya, Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa for consultations with rabbinical and lay leaders on various religious problems, it was revealed today. Rabbi Brodie expects to return to London in June.

JOINT PALESTINE APPEAL IN BRITAIN DECIDES TO RAISE 2,000,000 POUNDS THIS YEAR

LONDON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- A decision to raise 2,000,000 pounds in 1950 was unanimously adopted here last night at a conference of the Joint Palestine Appeal, attended by 1,000 delegates and addressed by Israel Labor Minister Golda Myerson. Other speakers included Levi Eshkol, Jewish Agency treasurer; British Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie; and Simon Marks, chairman of the Appeal.

In a stirring address, Mrs. Myerson told the conference that "the keys to Israel now lie in the hands of Jews throughout the world, whose personal responsibility will be whether or not immigrants can be admitted." The Israel Labor Minister emphasized the importance of continued immigration for the security requirements of the Jewish state. "We are anxious for peace, but we must become numerically strong to convince our neighbors that it would not be worthwhile to fight again," she said. "The Negev, she stated, "will really be ours only after it is settled--what we have done up to now is only a presmble."

Mr. Marks, referring to the new currency transfer arrangement concluded between Israel and Britain, said the possibility that 2,250,000 pounds raised for Israel in this country will now be released to Tel Aviv should spur British Jews to "raise not two but three million pounds." Mr. Eshkol reviewed colonization programs in Israel.

BRITISH ATTEND RECEPTION MARKING CONCLUSION OF ANGLO-ISRAEL FINANCIAL TALKS

LONDON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Leading officials of the British Foreign Office and the Treasury last night attended a reception in honor of the British and Israel financial delegations. The affair marked the conclusion of talks on the unfreezing of Israel sterling balances held in London.

The reception took place at the Israel legation. The heads of British oil companies as well as outstanding Jewish and non-Jewish personalities were among the guests, who included Sir Stafford Cripps, Sir Wilfred Eady, Sir James Crombie, Lord Reading, Lord Samuel and others.

AMERICAN FOUNDATION PRESENTS ALUMINUM BUILDINGS TO ISRAEL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL

PORT WASHINGTON, N.Y., Feb. 13. (JTA) -- A gift of four fully furnished and equipped pre-fabricated aluminum buildings valued at over \$200,000 was formally presented here yesterday to the Pardess Hanna Secondary Agricultural School of Israel by the Esco Foundation for Palestine, which was founded ten years ago by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cohen of New York.

Mrs. Rose G. Jacobs, former president of Hadassah, who is chairman of the board of the Esco Foundation, made the presentation at the plant of the Port Washington Metal Co., manufacturer of the buildings which will be shipped to Israel later this month. "The four buildings--two dormitories, a mechanical workshop and a supervisors' house--will provide housing and training facilities for 40 boys brought to Israel by the Hadassah sponsored Youth Aliyah," said Mrs. Jacobs. "They are a part of the 200 youths being trained for agricultural and mechanical work by the Farmers' Federation of Israel at their Pardess Hanna School.

"There is a great need in Israel," Mrs. Jacobs pointed out, "for young men and women thoroughly trained in agricultural and industrial pursuits. This gift made by the Esco Foundation is in line with current efforts to further industrialize Israel; it is, in fact, one of the largest such contributions. The form of the gift was chosen, in consultation with Israel authorities, following a survey on vocational studies made at the Hebrew University on a grant from the Esco Foundation."

ISRAEL LEADER LAUDS ORT WORK IN JEWISH STATE; ADDRESSES ANNUAL PARLEY IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The people of Israel welcome the work of the ORT in their country and the ORT's contributions in training DP's for immigration to the Jewish state, Eliezer Liebenstein, member of the Israel Parliament and leader of the Mafai Party, told the annual conference of the ORT Council of Organizations held here yesterday. About 400 representatives from national Jewish organizations and local groups attended the gathering.

"The rehabilitation of the younger generation of Jews, especially through manual work, is an important phase of the Jewish revival in Israel," Mr. Liebenstein said. "There can be no sound basis for a Jewish state in Israel without a great part of the immigrants turning to agricultural and industrial pursuits." M. Maldwin Fertig was reelected president of the Council which adopted a new constitution.

THIRD WORLD MACCABIAH TO OPEN IN ISRAEL SEPT. 29; ATHLETES FROM 40 COUNTRIES INVITED

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Jewish athletes from all parts of the world have been invited to participate in the third world Maccabiah which will open here Sept. 29, it was announced last night. President Chaim Weizmann will officially open the games.

Jewish communities in over 40 countries are expected to send participants to the Maccabiah, which is sponsored by the World Maccabi Union. To date entries have been received from Eire, Austria, the Netherlands, Tripolitania, Union of South Africa, Tunisia, Uruguay, Argentina, France, Britain, India and Switzerland.

George Flesch, chairman of the Maccabiah executive, disclosed that a preliminary budget of 75,000 pounds has been set for the meet. It is hoped that some 2,000 athletes will compete in 18 field and track events, he said, adding that the Maccabiah will be run along the lines of the Olympic Games. A huge stadium now under construction in Ramat Gan is expected to be completed in August in time for the Maccabiah, Mr. Flesch said.