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## BEN GURION CONTINUES INTER-PARTY PARLEYS; MEETS WITH GENERAL ZIONISTS, RELIGIOUS BLOC

TEL AVIV, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion is continuing his personal efforts to enlarge the government coalition and solve the Cabinet crisis, despite the poor state of his health.

This week-end he held a conference with General Zionist leaders Israel Rokach, the Mayor of Tel Aviv, and with Peretz Bernstein, former Minister of Trade and Industry. At the parley, the General Zionists put forth the demand that a general election be held this year. The Premier replied that negotiations for the General Zionists entering the Cabinet could continue, despite their demand for a general election. After this meeting, Dr. Bernstein and Mayor Rokach met with Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan, who is Acting Premier, and who handles the detailed negotiations in which Mr. Ben Gurion cannot participate because of his health.

The Mapam Party's political committee this week-end decided to convene its 350-man party council within a fortnight to decide on whether to continue negotiations with the Mapai over the question of joining the coalition government. The political committee also decided to submit the question to party branches throughout the country.

This move was interpreted in political circles here as a sign that the coalition talks are not progressing as well as had previously been reported. It is felt that if the talks were proceeding satisfactorily, the left-wing party's committee would have gone from domestic and foreign policy discussions to security questions and plans for a redistribution of portfolios.

The Cabinet crisis continues in Israel despite a meeting Friday between Premier Ben Gurion and Minister of the Interior Moshe Shapiro, representing the Religious Bloc, which has threatened to resign over a dispute involving religious education in the immigrant camps. Further developments, of extreme importance in relation to the coalition government, are expected for the next few weeks.

A national convention of the Fighters Party--formerly the Stern Group--today decided that it will not support the Israel Government in its dealings with the U.N. Trusteeship Council over the internationalization of Jerusalem nor in its negotiations with the Government of Jordan for a peace treaty. The delegates also denounced the Western Powers "who supply arms to the Arab countries in order to compel Israel to relinquish its independence and surrender to their protection."

## UNREST CONTINUES IN YEMENITE IMMIGRANT CAMPS; POLICEMAN INJURED IN LATEST CLASH

TEL AVIV, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Unrest continues in the Yemenite immigrant camps, where the latest in a series of incidents occurred yesterday.

Yesterday's clash occurred in the Beit Lid camp where a fight between two immigrants got out of hand and developed into a general melee between camp residents and guards and officials. One policeman was seriously injured.

U.N. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL RESUMES DISCUSSION OF JERUSALEM INTERNATIONALIZATION TODAY

GENEVA, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- The United Nations Trusteeship Council will resume its discussions on the internationalization of Jerusalem when Israel and Jordan are expected to begin presenting their views on the issue.

Meanwhile, the members of the three-nation U.N. Conciliation Commission for Palestine last night left here for a four-day visit to Paris. According to a schedule announced here today the American, French and Turkish members of the Commission will consult with French Foreign Office officials on Monday, will be guests at a state luncheon on Tuesday and will confer with Foreign Minister Robert Schuman on Wednesday, just prior to their return to this city.

ISRAEL AND ARAB GOVERNMENTS REACH AGREEMENT ON RELEASING FROZEN REFUGEE ACCOUNTS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- The government of Israel and the Arab states have reached an agreement on the release of blocked Arab refugee accounts in Jewish and Arab banks. Under the agreement, arrangements will be made for Arabs on both sides of the border to draw upon blocked accounts. The transfers will be made through neutral trustee.

Israel has blocked bank accounts of Arabs who fled Palestine, while Arabs remaining in Israel were unable to draw on accounts in Arab countries. Under the provisions of the agreement reached today, Israel will release frozen Arab funds up to \$280 per refugee. This will involve about \$14,000,000, it was estimated.

TOP ISRAEL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS CONSIDERING LATEST EGYPTIAN PEACE OFFER

JERUSALEM, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Top Israel Foreign Ministry officials were today reported to be in conference over the details of a new peace offer from Egypt.

The report said that Egypt has renewed its insistence that as a condition of peace Israel must not recognize Jordan rule over any part of Palestine. In return the Egyptians offer to remain neutral in the event of a renewal of hostilities between Israel and Jordan. The Egyptians also offer a trade pact based on the pound sterling under which they would export cotton and sugar in return for Israel medicines and chemicals.

Meanwhile, it was reported that the talks with Jordan are progressing very well. Some observers interpret the Egyptian offer as evidence of a race between the two Arab states to gain an earlier, and more favorable, pact.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT PREPARING LEGISLATION TO PUNISH NAZIS AND COLLABORATORS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- A law providing for the punishment of Nazis and their collaborators is being prepared by the Israel Ministry of Justice, it was announced here today.

The Knesset is scheduled to begin discussion of the bill next week. At present there is no legal method for punishing ex-Nazis or their collaborators who may make their way to Israel, it was pointed out.

HAIFA PORT IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED; AIM TO MAKE IT ONE OF LARGEST ON MEDITERRANEAN

HAIFA, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Communications Minister David Remez this week-end announced the first stage of a plan for the eventual conversion of Haifa into one of the largest ports on the Mediterranean Sea.

The first phase, the Minister declared, will be the construction of a new quay and the addition of grain bins and new facilities for handling passengers and for the loading and unloading of cargo. This stage will cost approximately 2,500,000 pounds (\$7,000,000), he added. The present jetties will be repaired and a new one will be built with a direct connection to the Haifa railroad yards.

Charles Crooks, member of the E.C.A. staff in Paris, has filed a memorandum with the Israel Government advising it on the most efficient and economical manner of using harbor equipment purchased from the United States in the congested port of Haifa. The equipment was purchased with funds from the American \$100,000,000 loan.

The congestion in the port of Haifa is due to the present peak in the loading of the citrus crop for export to Britain and elsewhere, the arrival of a great deal of material purchased in the U.S. under terms of the loan and the recent bad weather which held up all port operations for several days. Citrus loadings are proceeding at the rate of 250,000 cases a week.

ISRAEL CONSIDERING PLAN FOR TOURISTS TO PURCHASE FOOD WITH FOREIGN CURRENCY

TEL AVIV, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- A plan whereby tourists from abroad would pay for their food in their own currency before leaving for Israel is under consideration by the Ministry of Supply, it was reported today. Under the plan tourists would receive special coupons when they arrive here which would enable them to obtain "non-austerity" meals.

A group of American businessmen now in Israel is negotiating for the establishment of a plant here for the manufacture of a sufficient quantity of tires both for local needs and export purposes, it was reported today. A knitting mill, in which American investors are understood to have invested \$250,000, is scheduled to open at Kfar Sabu this week.

One hundred thousand Israel school children will each soon receive 40 grams of milk powder daily through the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, under an agreement reached recently at Lake Success. The milk powder will be used for a daily cup of cocoa for the 100,000 school children.

BRIEFLY ARAB GOVERNMENTS VITAL TO AMERICAN SECURITY, NAVAL CHIEF TELLS HOUSE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, Chief of Naval Operations, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that the ability of Near Eastern states to maintain governments friendly to the U.S. "is of great strategic importance."

"The security of the Middle East is vital to the security of the U.S.," he said. The Admiral testified before the committee as a spokesman for the Defense Department. He asked that legislation to aid the Arab refugees be adopted.

# PROSECUTION TO FILE APPEAL AGAINST HEDLER ACQUITTAL BECAUSE JUDGES WERE EX-NAZIS

MUNICH, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- As the protest against the acquittal of ex-Nazi Wolfgang Hedler on charges of inciting anti-Semitism reached major proportions in Germany this week-end, it was learned that the prosecution plans to appeal the verdict on the grounds that two of the three judges who freed him were themselves one-time members of the Nazi Party.

At the same time, it was learned that denazification proceedings will be begun against Hedler, a suspended rightist deputy in the Bonn Parliament, next Friday. The reason for the denazification proceedings is that Hedler falsified an official questionnaire concerning his Nazi background. On the questionnaire he stated that he had joined the party in 1934, but it has since been learned that he was a Nazi Party stalwart, having signed up in 1932, prior to Hitler's rise to power.

Meanwhile various Jewish communities in West Germany this week-end joined the Berlin community in a protest to West German President Theodor Heuss and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer. The communities pointed out that the verdict "fosters anti-Semitism." Dr. Philip Auerbach, Bavarian Commissioner for Persecutees and head of the provincial office for restitution, attacked the verdict as the "shame of German justice."

In Kiel and Neu Muenster, where the Schleswig-Holstein provincial court which freed Hedler sat, 15,000 workers demonstrated against the court's decision. Transportation, and industry and commerce in both cities were tied up. The labor unions of West Germany are calling a special meeting to consider legislation to protect civic rights which are "not sufficiently protected under the Constitution."

The Federal Minister of Justice, Thomas Dehler will submit a new measure to Parliament outlawing anti-Semitism and attempts to foster it as "treason against internal peace." A spokesman for the Cabinet has announced that it has decided that Hedler's trial was "correctly, objectively and conscientiously" conducted and there is no reason to level reproach against the judges, Reuters reported.

# CANDIDATES FOR BRITISH PARLIAMENT SIGN PLEDGE TO COMBAT RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE

LONDON, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- A pledge to combat racial and religious prejudice and to encourage cordial relations between Christians and Jews was signed this week-end by all 21 candidates running for British Parliament in the East End section of this city. The pledge reads:

"I pledge myself to combat racial and religious prejudice and to encourage cordial relations and mutual respect between Christian and Jew, Protestant and Catholic, atheist and believer, colored and white."

# IRAN WILL EXTEND HOSPITALITY TO JEWISH REFUGEES, WILL NOT DEPORT THEM, EMBASSY SAYS

LONDON, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- The Iranian Embassy in London has assured the Agudat Israel that Iran will extend to Iraqi Jewish refugees full hospitality and will not put into effect deportation orders which have been issued against some of them, it was reported here today at a meeting of the European executive of the Agudah.

The parley also was told that the organization has approached the authorities in West Germany concerning the future relations between the Bonn Government and the Jewish communities and rabbinate in Germany, and that the German officials' reaction has been favorable. H.A. Goodman, political secretary of the Agudah, speaking of the Cabinet crisis in Israel said that "we would deeply regret any break in the government coalition," but "we feel that the whole future of the Yishuv is endangered unless the state of Israel adopts a more positive attitude" toward religious education in the immigrant camps.

ZIONIST LEADER BECOMES FIRST JEW TO BE APPOINTED TO HIGHER COURT IN CANADA

MONTREAL, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Harry Batshaw, a Jewish communal leader in Canada, has been appointed Justice of the Superior Court of Quebec. Justice Batshaw is president of the eastern division of the Zionist Organization of Canada, president of the Canadian Young Judea, and a leading member of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

The appointment marks the first time that a Jew has been named to a higher court in Canada. Mr. Batshaw has, in recent years, been assigned to act for the Ministry of Justice as a special attorney for the Department of National Revenue, the National Harbors Board and the Foreign Exchange Control Board.

ISRAEL NEEDS TRAINED AMERICAN PIONEERS, DR. GOLDMAN TELLS HECHALUTZ CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- More than ever before, Israel today needs more trained American youth to pioneer the Jewish state and to assure fulfillment of the "great Zionist ideal," Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, declared here last night at the concluding session of the three-day conference of the Hechalutz Organization of America. Eight hundred delegates attended the parley.

"American Jews will never, I hope, be driven to Israel by the bloody anti-Semitism which wrecked European Jewry," Dr. Goldmann declared. "Nevertheless an increasing number of American Jewish youths, driven not by intolerance but by a desire to live full Jewish lives and to help build a new civilization, must be encouraged and trained to settle in Israel." Asserting that this task is the primary one for Zionism, Dr. Gold added that it will, in the long run, represent American Jewry's major contribution to Israel's future.

Israel Ambassador Eliahu Elath, greeting the delegates, urged that the maximum assistance and support be given the Hechalutz by all Zionist bodies "to further the growth of the chalutz movement in the United States."

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS IN U.S. AND ISRAEL MARK WORLD JEWISH CHILD'S DAY

NEW YORK, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Jewish organizations in this country, in Israel and elsewhere in the world today marked World Jewish Child's Day, proclaimed by the Youth Aliyah Department of the Jewish Agency.

In Jerusalem a parade of immigrant children and special programs were held to commemorate the day, which is also the anniversary of the death of Henrietta Szold, founder of the Hadassah and widely revered in Israel for her social work in its behalf. In Tel Aviv Mrs. Vera Weizmann and Joseph Sprinzak, Speaker of the Knesset, will participate in a special celebration tonight in the Habimah Theatre.

In Washington, Norwegian Ambassador Wilhelm Morgenstierne was presented this week-end with a citation by Hadassah for Norway's "generous cooperation during the last five years in helping prepare Jewish children for rehabilitation and resettlement in Israel." In New York, Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, proclaiming today New York State Jewish Child's Day, praised Hadassah's activities in behalf of the children. Both the Hadassah membership, and the 50,000 members of the Mizrahi Women of America participated in special programs marking the day.

YEMENITE JEWISH IMMIGRATION WAVE TO ISRAEL CONTINUES, J.D.C. HEAD REPORTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Jews from Yemen continue to flee that country and are arriving in considerable numbers in the Joint Distribution Committee's reception camp at Aden for air transportation to Israel, Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman of the J.D.C., revealed here today.

Mr. Leavitt also revealed that his agency, which had expected the flow of Yemenite Jews to end last month, flew 1,300 of the refugees to Israel in January and expects to transport a similar number this month. Since December, 1948, the J.D.C. has flown some 42,000 Yemenite Jews to Israel at a cost of \$6,600,000 for air transport and relief.

RELIGIOUS BLOC IN U.S. AGAIN APPEALS TO BEN GURION ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ISSUE

NEW YORK, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Leaders of the United Religious Bloc of America this week-end decided to continue their support of the Orthodox Cabinet Ministers in Israel who have created a Cabinet crisis over the issue of religious education in the Israel immigration camps.

At an emergency meeting here it was decided to send a second cable to Israel Premier David Ben Gurion expressing "shock and agitation" at the news that the issue of religious education in the camps had not yet been settled satisfactorily. The message pointed out that the current disagreement could cause a "tragic split in world Jewry and serious damage to mutual efforts in behalf of progress" in Israel.

CIO AND AFL PRESIDENTS HEAD LABOR DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN COMMITTEE OF U.J.A.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- The posts of co-chairmen of the labor division of the National Christian Committee of the 1950 United Jewish Appeal campaign have been accepted by William Green and Philip Murray, presidents respectively of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations, it was announced today by Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., chairman of the Christian Committee. The labor leaders will head a group of trade union officials who will seek to enlist the support of organized labor for the U.J.A.

MT. VERNON JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL GIVES \$1,000 TO HELP MAINTAIN Y.W.C.A.

MT. VERNON, N.Y., Feb. 19. (JTA) -- A check for \$1,000 was presented to the Young Women's Christian Association here today by the Jewish Community Council of Mt. Vernon to help keep the 30-year-old local Y.W.C.A. center from suspending operations.

The contribution was presented to Mrs. Carl Weist, Y.W.C.A. president by former City Judge Jacob A. Bernstein, president of the Jewish Community Council, which coordinates the activities of 30 religious and social Jewish organizations. In making the presentation Judge Bernstein said the Council was "doing this, not as a matter of charity but, as a matter of duty, to support the American way of life."

SHIPPING TRADE BETWEEN MAJOR ITALIAN PORT AND ISRAEL DOUBLES IN ONE YEAR

ROME, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Shipping trade between the port of Trieste and Israel was more than twice as large in the first 10 months of 1949 as for the same period in 1948, according to official statistics released today. A total of 450,000 tons of goods were shipped from Trieste to Israel during the entire year of 1948, while shipments in the first 10 months of last year totalled 950,000 tons.

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