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## ISRAEL CABINET HOLDS URGENT MEETING; PEACE WITH TRANSJORDAN REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion today convoked an extraordinary meeting of the Israel Cabinet at which questions concerning security and foreign affairs were voted upon. The meeting was of such importance that all Cabinet members cancelled scheduled appearances at various parliamentary committees in order to attend it.

No details of the session were made public. However, it is believed that one of the major questions discussed was the conditions for a permanent peace with King Abdullah of Transjordan.

Informed political quarters maintain that peace negotiations between Israel and Transjordan recently entered "a serious phase." It is indicated that Transjordan has consented to transfer to Israel the Jewish quarter of the Old City and to guarantee free access to the Wailing Wall, which is located near the quarter. Transjordan is also reported to have agreed to open up the Latrun Road.

The evening papers today report that the British Minister to Israel, Alexander Knox Helm, yesterday called on Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett and proposed British assistance in the conclusion of a non-aggression pact between Israel and Transjordan. Informed circles close to the British legation termed the report "completely unfounded."

## Israel-Transjordan Peace Talks Reported Held at Abdullah's Palace

GENEVA, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Direct peace talks between Israel and Transjordan are taking place at King Abdullah's winter palace, near the Dead Sea, because the Arab monarch insists upon personal supervision of his delegation, it was learned here today.

It is reported that the main obstacle to speedy conclusion of a peace pact is the finding of a formula which would eliminate in advance expected opposition among many Palestine Arabs who have become Transjordan citizens. As far as the Transjordan picture is concerned, the meeting of Israel and Arab delegations at the Trusteeship Council and the Conciliation Commission sessions will have no effect.

The high hopes entertained here for direct peace negotiations in Geneva between Israel and the Arab states other than Transjordan have collapsed. The Egyptian delegation is not authorized to participate in any direct talks, and the Egyptian chief delegate, Abdel Moneim Bey, insists that it is too early for peace talks. The Syrian and Lebanese representatives here appear to be wholly out of touch with Damascus and Beirut and do not appear to have the authority to agree to anything at all.

## KNESSET BODY APPROVES \$1,000,000 FOR TRANSFER OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES TO JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The cost of transferring the offices of the Israel Government, including the Parliament, from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem will be \$1,027,600, it was revealed today when the Knesset's financial committee approved the necessary budget for the removal of offices.

ISRAEL PARLIAMENT ORDERS INQUIRY INTO CAUSES OF COMMUNIST-LED ARAB DEMONSTRATION

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament last night voted to inquire into the circumstances of the recent demonstration of unemployed Arabs in Nazareth and the causes of the incident, following charges of police brutality by a Communist deputy and charges of Communist sedition by a Mapai leader.

The issue arose in the Knesset when Tewfik Toubi, an Arab Communist, accused "Ben Gurion's Government" of shooting unemployed workers demanding bread and work. Two Arabs were wounded when police opened fire during the Communist-led demonstration eight days ago. Toubi declared that "only in fascist states or states heading for fascism do police fire on workers." He demanded a Parliamentary investigation of the behavior of the police and "punishment of the guilty policemen."

Toubi was followed by Minister for Police Behor Shitreet who gave his version of the clash. He said that 60 demonstrators attacked four policemen, forcing the latter to fire into the air twice. The bullets ricocheted on a nearby wall and struck two persons not involved in the affair, the Minister said. During his recital the Communist deputies interrupted with frequent and loud objections.

Pinhas Lubianiker, secretary-general of the Histadrut and a leader of the Mapai Party, asked that the inquiry committee also investigate the activities of the Communists whom he accused of inciting the workers and "besmirching Israel's name before the world." The Communists and Mapam deputies opposed Lubianiker's request, but the Knesset voted the joint inquiry.

For the first time in the history of the Israel Government, the Mapai Party found itself in a minority position when the Parliament voted for an inquiry into the education situation in the immigrant camps. The deputies of the Orthodox parties, who are at odds with the Mapai over religious education in the camps, sided with the opposition. The Mapam, with whom the Religious Bloc voted, accused the Orthodox forces of "shameless instigation" of clashes in the camps.

ISRAEL PARLIAMENTARY BODY DISCUSSES DEAD SEA CONCESSION; PLAN FOR PIPELINE ANNOUNCED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The Parliamentary Finance Committee today continued its discussion on the future of the Palestine Potash Company, whose Dead Sea mineral concession was originally granted by the Mandatory regime and has not yet been reaffirmed by the Israel Government.

The committee also touched on the situation of the British-owned Consolidated Oil Refineries at Haifa which have been closed almost continuously since the proclamation of the Jewish state and the Arab boycott on pipeline oil shipments to the Israel port. Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan asked the committee to postpone consideration of action on the refineries pending receipt of a still incomplete report by a group of experts.

The report, which is expected within the next few weeks, deals with a plan for construction, by Israel, of an oil pipeline from the Aqaba port of Eilat, at the head of the Red Sea, to Haifa. The pipeline would run entirely through Israel territory, it was announced here last night.

The announcement said that the pipeline could be built in several months at a relatively low cost, and would be economical to run. However, it added that Israel preferred to await the results of renewed British efforts to induce Iraq to reopen the Kirkuk-Haifa pipeline.

ISRAEL SUPPLIES ARMS TO BEDOUINS LIVING IN NEGEV FOR DEFENSE AGAINST JORDAN RAIDERS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The Israel Government has distributed rifles to adult Bedouins residing in Israel-Jordan frontier areas of the Negev, it was disclosed here today. The Bedouins living in Israel territory have repeatedly been attacked by Bedouins living in Jordan. Two Israel Bedouins were recently killed in a foray carried out by Jordan Bedouin tribesmen.

From Tel Aviv it was reported today that during the past week Arab marauders operating in the suburban area of Tel Aviv raided three Jewish villages a total of four times. The suburbs raided were the Salameh, Hess and Tel Mond villages.

The Druze minority in Israel, which cloaks its religion with secrecy, is for the first time to have official representation in communal religious affairs before the Israel Government. At Acre, some 15,000 Druzes this week elected a representative six-member council comprising sheikhs and mukhtars--the religion's first official body since the establishment of Israel.

The Druzes were originally a Syrian people inhabiting the slopes of Lebanon. Their religion is a combination of Mohammedism, Judaism and Christianity. Sometimes mistreated by the Arab in the past, they fought with Israel in the Palestine war.

ETHIOPIAN OFFICIAL PROTESTS ISRAEL DECISION TO BAR IMMIGRATION OF FALASHA JEWS

PARIS, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- A formal protest against the decision of the Israel Government to bar the entry of Falasha (Ethiopian) Jews was filed today with the Middle East Department of the Israel legation here by Dr. S. Taamrat, cultural attache of the Ethiopian legation in Paris, who is himself a Falasha.

Dr. Taamrat asserted that the Falashas "live in strict accordance with the precepts of the Mosaic law, and are absolutely free of contagious diseases, which are widespread among other sections of the Ethiopian population." (Israel decided to bar the immigration of Falasha Jews after a medical mission sent to Abyssinia reported that the Jews in that country suffer from an inherited and infectious disease.)

ISRAEL CONSUL ASKS GREECE TO PERMIT DETAINED JEWS TO DEPART FOR JEWISH STATE

ATHENS, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The Israel consul here today made what were described as "friendly representations" to Greek authorities for the release of 27 Greek Jews to Israel. The Jews have been "imprisoned, exiled or interned" in the Makronisos "reformatory camp" for Communists. It is expected that the consul's request will be granted on condition that the 27 Jews never return to this country.

775 JEWS SAIL FROM RUMANIA FOR ISRAEL; EMIGRATION IN FEBRUARY WAS NEARLY 2,000

BUCHAREST, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- A total of 775 Jewish immigrants sailed for Israel today aboard the S.S. Transylvania. The number of Jews who left Rumania for the Jewish state during the month of February totalled 1,894.

MENINGITIS OUTBREAK IN ISRAEL TRAINING SCHOOL NOW UNDER CONTROL; QUARANTINE REMAINS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The outbreak of meningitis at the Mikveh Israel Agricultural Training School is now under control, health authorities announced here today. The institution--which houses 900 youths--has been quarantined for two weeks.

GREEK GOVERNMENT OFFERS COMPROMISE ON "ELECTORAL GHETTO"; JEWS REJECT NEW PLAN

ATHENS, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Following strong pressure by the Jewish community, the Greek Government has offered to permit Salonika Jews to vote in three polling places instead of the two to which they have been restricted since 1946, an authoritative source today said.

The entire Jewish community of the country has protested the "electoral ghetto" established by the government for Salonika Jews who have no secrecy of ballot because the two polling places to which they report are exclusively for the use of Jews.

The Jewish community of Salonika has rejected the latest "compromise" offer, insisting that a secret ballot will only exist for Jews when they may go to any one of six polls which are also used for non-Jewish voters. Representations to this effect have been made to the government, in behalf of the Jews, by Salonika representatives of the Liberal Party.

TITO LAUDS J.D.C. WORK IN YUGOSLAVIA; DECORATES U.S. JEWISH RELIEF OFFICIAL

NEW YORK, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee was lauded yesterday by Premier Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia for the successful conclusion of its rehabilitation program in that country and for aiding in the emigration of Yugoslav Jews wishing to go to Israel, the New York Times reported today from Belgrade.

Marshal Tito told Frederick C. White, J.D.C. director for Yugoslavia, in his villa on Dedinje Hill that it was only just and proper that special efforts were made to aid Yugoslavia's Jews. The Premier stated he felt the Jews had a right to emigrate to a country for which they had longed for over 2,000 years. Following his visit with Tito, Mr. White was decorated with the Order of the Yugoslav Banner, third degree.

Mr. White, who will leave Belgrade for Israel this week-end after spending more than four years in this country during which time the J.D.C. expended some \$3,500,000 for the relief and rehabilitation of the decimated Jewish community, had high praise for the "generous cooperation and sympathy received from Yugoslav authorities." Some 500 Jews are expected to leave for Israel March 10, it was revealed, leaving some 5,000 Jews in this country who wish to remain. Two hundred Yugoslav Jewish physicians who wish to leave for the Jewish state have not been allowed to do so until additional graduates of medical schools are available to take over their duties.

CHRISTIAN-JEWISH SOCIETIES DECIDE TO FORM COORDINATING BODY FOR WEST GERMANY

MUNICH, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Local Christian-Jewish societies in various cities of West Germany have decided to form a coordinating body for the entire area now occupied by Britain, France and the United States in order to strengthen their activities, it was learned here today.

The Evangelical Church of Germany has opened a five-day conference at Kassel to "clarify the Christian attitude toward anti-Semitism." Bishop Otto Dibelius, chairman of the Church Council, asked the conference for continuation of Christian efforts in behalf of religious peace in Germany.

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DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ISRAEL FINANCE MINISTRY CONFERS WITH TOP WASHINGTON OFFICIALS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- David Horowitz, director-general of the Israel Finance Ministry, participated in financial and economic talks here today with high-ranking American officials.

In the company of Israel Ambassador Eliahu Elath, Mr. Horowitz called at the State Department late this afternoon to see Acting Assistant Secretary of State Raymond Hare. Earlier today, he met with President Herbert Gaston of the Export-Import Bank and with Eugene Black, president of the World Bank. Mr. Horowitz said he has "full confidence" that Israel's economic problem will be successfully solved.

COSTA RICAN EMBASSY SAYS JEWISH IMMIGRANTS "TAKE ADVANTAGE" OF COUNTRY'S HOSPITALITY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- A spokesman for the Costa Rican embassy here today refuted charges by the World Jewish Congress that there was an anti-Jewish campaign in progress in Costa Rica, explaining that there have been "certain particular issues" in which Jews have allegedly "taken advantage of the hospitality" extended them.

Asserting that there is no religious discrimination in Costa Rica, the spokesman said that Jews were granted hospitality and entered the country as "agricultural people." However, after they entered the country they switched to "commercial practices and the situation has been getting worse and worse" in the last ten years. "All this trouble is caused by an excess in commerce," he added.

SENATE STARTS DEBATE ON DP BILL; MCCARRAN DEMANDS CURB ON ADMISSION OF REFUGEES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Sen. Pat McCarran charged in the Senate today that the Displaced Persons Commission tolerated fraud in the operation of the DP Act of 1948. The chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee made these charges as the Upper House began debating a bill aimed at liberalizing the admissions policy of the United States in reference to displaced persons and refugees.

He again insisted that the present Act does not discriminate against Jews or Catholics and insisted that the cut-off date of December 22, 1945--to which Jewish leaders object--should be retained. He asked the Senate to "tighten up" the system of admitting DP's.

Sen. Harley M. Kilgore, speaking on behalf of 18 Senators sponsoring a substitute measure for the DP Bill reported out of committee by the Senate Judiciary, disagreed with Sen. McCarran. He said that the present Act is "flagrantly discriminatory," adding: "The conscience of America is ashamed of our present niggardly, restrictive, and unfair DP law."

Stating that the American spirit of fair play demanded action, Sen. Kilgore said that the leaders of religious, business, agricultural, and labor groups, agreed on the urgency of liberalization of DP legislation.

ISRAEL SHIP LAUNCHED AT SWEDISH PORT; GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ATTEND CEREMONY

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The Swedish-built Israel fruit freighter "Ethrog" was launched here at a special ceremony. Among the many guests were prominent figures in Sweden's government and industry as well as leaders of the Swedish Jewish community.

U.S. STIMULATING REARMAMENT COMPETITION IN MIDDLE EAST, ISRAEL LEADER CHARGES

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The charge that the United States is "throwing the entire Middle East into a rearmament competition" by selling arms to Egypt was made here today by Eliezer Liebenstein, member of the Israel Parliament and one of the leaders of the Mapai party, in an address before the Institute on Israel and the Middle East sponsored by The Dropsie College.

Declaring that "Israel will regard every acquisition of arms by Egypt as a threat to itself," Mr. Liebenstein said: "The United States, by supporting the sale of arms to Egypt, has taken upon itself a grave responsibility. Unless it can influence Egypt to make an early peace with Israel it is throwing the entire East in a rearmament competition, instead of helping to create an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual help."

"There can be no common security in the Middle East and no sensible planned defense of the Arab region as long as there is no peace settlement between Egypt and Israel," Mr. Liebenstein continued. "Unless and until peace is concluded Israel will regard every acquisition of arms by Egypt as a threat to itself, and will be compelled to rearm, diverting funds from constructive to military purposes."

There is a basis for the settlement of the Israel-Egyptian controversy through the restoration of previous frontiers, as they existed under the British Mandate and indeed throughout history," he asserted, adding that the "Middle Eastern policy of Israel, that of friendship, is part of its general Asiatic orientation."

SEN. LERMAN CALLS FOR UNITED NATIONS INVESTIGATION OF MIDDLE EAST ARMS SITUATION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Cessation of all arms shipments by Britain to the Middle East and a United Nations investigation of the entire arms situation in that part of the world were demanded here last night on the floor of the Senate by Sen. Herbert H. Lehman, of New York.

Noting that during the "past few months, Egypt has steadily increased her air power to include modern jet fighters and heavy bombers in considerable number," the former New York Governor declared: "The armed forces of Iraq, Syria and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have undergone less substantial but still significant transformations into better-equipped and efficiently trained groups. The equipment involved in this rearmament program has come almost exclusively from Britain through the arms-assistance treaties which the United Kingdom has with Egypt, Iraq and Jordan."

Mr. Lehman said that while Britain, which always supported the Arabs against Israel, arms the Arab nations which are Israel's neighbors, these nations are becoming more and more inflammatory in their press comment about Israel. The weight of present evidence, he added, indicates preparations for a new assault on Israel. "Let us warn those who would break the peace in the Middle East, as we continue to warn those who would break the peace in Europe," Mr. Lehman asserted.

EMANUEL TUVIN, FOUNDER OF ZEBULON SEAFARING SOCIETY, KILLED IN ISRAEL AUTO CRASH

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Emanuel Tuvim, 53, founder of the Zebulun Seafaring Society, was killed today when a truck in which he was riding collided with a car. The Society has as its aim the promotion of a nautical culture among Jews.

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