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ISRAEL-TRANSJORDAN NON-AGGRESSION PACT TALKS CONTINUE; ARAB CABINET CRISIS UNSOLVED

JERUSALEM, March 5. (JTA) -- Further negotiations were held this week-end by Israel and Transjordan representatives seeking to conclude a non-aggression pact, it was learned here today. A meeting of the Israel-Transjordan mixed armistice commission scheduled to be held tomorrow is now expected to be called off pending parleys on the higher level.

It was learned authoritatively that official Israel quarters welcome the inability of Zamir Rafai Pasha, Transjordan Premier-designate, to form a new government. Although Rafai Pasha was the chief negotiator for Transjordan in the joint talks, the Israelis feel that he has put many unnecessary obstacles in the path of peace and that he has been less yielding than King Abdullah, himself. It is reported here that the King is moving to reinstate ex-Premier Tewfik Abdul Huda.

Rafai Pasha's designation to form a new cabinet came last Friday, following announcement of Huda's resignation for "reasons of health." At that time, the Transjordan Cabinet crisis was interpreted as a sign that Abdullah was clearing the way for early conclusion of a non-aggression pact.

In Tel Aviv today, an official Foreign Ministry spokesman denied press reports from Damascus that Israel and Transjordan have already signed a pact.

Meanwhile, Davar, the labor daily, stated that reports to the effect that a peace treaty will soon be concluded are "premature." Pointing out that the talks have been going on for a long time, the newspaper added that the negotiations for a permanent peace are not yet at a stage where specific results can be forecast.

The Israel Government, Davar said, requested a partial settlement of at least the important questions on which the two countries are in conflict. However, it seems that some political groups in Transjordan are strongly opposed to any kind of settlement, the paper reported. It added that the Israel Government has made it clear that it is not interested in accepting any text of an agreement which lacks clarity and which includes clauses open to several interpretations.

A total of 1,227 Arab refugees from Palestine returned to Israel between July, 1949, and February of this year, it was announced today. Their return was arranged within the framework of the plan for reuniting Arab families in Israel proposed by the Jewish state.

BRITAIN WOULD SELL ARMS TO ISRAEL IF CONFLICT WITH ARAB STATES WERE RESOLVED

LONDON, March 5. (JTA) -- Britain would consider selling arms to Israel if the Jewish state and its neighbors settled their outstanding points of conflict, it was stated here today in authoritative quarters.

The same quarters stated that there is no danger of an immediate resumption of hostilities as a result of British arms shipments to the Arabs. Stressing Britain's role in facilitating the Israel-Transjordan negotiations, they said that a peace settlement must include a solution of the Jerusalem problem, exact delineation of joint boundaries and a solution of the Arab refugee problem.

ISRAEL AND LEBANON TO BEGIN DEMARCATION OF JOINT FRONTIER WITHIN SEVERAL WEEKS

TEL AVIV, March 5. (JTA) -- The Israel-Lebanese mixed armistice commission at a meeting this week-end on the border between the two countries decided to begin demarcation of their joint frontier between the two countries on March 21.

The Israel-Syrian mixed armistice commission this week-end discussed for six hours the arrest by Syrian authorities of three Israel officials of the Ministry of Agriculture. The arrested officials are fishery inspectors. They were apprehended by Syrian soldiers on the northern shores of Lake Tiberias February 16. A United Nations observer appointed to investigate the incident reported that he has not yet come to any decision in the matter. The discussions were adjourned until Wednesday.

IRAQ LOWER HOUSE PASSES BILL PERMITTING JEWS TO RENOUNCE CITIZENSHIP, LEAVE COUNTRY

LONDON, March 5. (JTA) - The Iraq Chamber of Deputies has passed an emergency bill permitting Iraqi Jews to renounce their citizenship and leave the country, the Times of London reported from Baghdad this week-end. The report adds that passage of the measure by the Senate is considered certain.

The bill is said to result from the large-scale smuggling of Jews out of the country to Israel. The report also states that it is understood that the Iraq Government intends, at the earliest opportunity, to restore the Jews to full citizenship rights. These rights were abrogated during the Arab war against Israel.

MAJOR PART OF AMERICAN \$100,000,000 LOAN ALREADY RELEASED, ISRAEL ANNOUNCES

TEL AVIV, March 5. (JTA) -- A total of \$93,350,000 of the \$100,000,000 American loan to Israel has already been cleared by the United States, it was announced here today by the Israel Government's Central Department of Statistics. During the months of January and February, 1950, a total of \$23,000,000 worth of American goods purchased under the terms of the Export-Import Bank's loan arrived in Israel.

(In London it was reported this week-end that following repeated representations, the British Treasury has released 40,000 pounds (\$112,000) of frozen Israel sterling assets. The funds will be used for the purchase of books, periodicals and copyrights. It was announced that the International Wheat Council last night increased its 1950 allotment of wheat to Israel from 120,000 tons to 140,000 tons. The action was based on the fact that Israel's population continues to increase and that the old allotment was computed on population figures of some months ago.)

The statistical bureau also announced that 362,450 immigrants arrived in Israel between the establishment of the state on May 14, 1948 and the end of February, 1950. It was also reported that total immigration during 1948 was 118,993; 239,331 during 1949; and 21,299 in the first two months of 1950.

The Bedouin population of the Negev in Israel is approximately 15,000, according to the results of a census conducted by Israel officials and made public this week-end. Identity cards bearing the Bedouins' photographs will be issued to the nomads soon.

STRIKE OF COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS IN ISRAEL ENDS AFTER SEVEN WEEKS

TEL AVIV, March 5. (JTA) -- A strike of Cable and Wireless Company employees here, which began Jan. 15, ended today after an agreement was concluded between the workers and the company providing for the payment of compensation to all employees who do not join the government postal service.

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EIGHT JEWS INJURED BY GERMAN POLICE IN HANOVER DURING SEARCH FOR SMUGGLED GOODS

LUEBECK, Germany, March 5. (JTA) -- Eight Jewish DP's were injured this week-end in a clash with German police in Hanover, in the British zone. The local authorities are investigating the incident.

The incident developed during a search of a DP hostel in that city by German customs officials looking for smuggled goods. The customs officials were proceeding in courteous fashion when a large force of police, summoned by unknown persons, swept into the hostel. Within a matter of minutes a clash developed, with the DP's as the victims. The customs search turned up absolutely no trace of smuggled goods.

EIGHT FRENCHMEN SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR DEPORTATION OF JEWS DURING VICHY REGIME

LYONS, France, March 5. (JTA) -- Eight Frenchmen were sentenced to death by a military court here this week-end on a variety of charges connected with the arrest and deportation of French Jews to extermination camps in Eastern Europe during the Vichy regime.

The defendants collaborated with the Gestapo while they served officials of the Vichy Government. A ninth defendant was sentenced to twenty years hard labor, while two others received fifteen-year sentences and one a five-year term.

GREEK GOVERNMENT WIPES OUT "ELECTORAL GHETTO" IN SALONIKA FOLLOWING JEWISH PROTESTS

ATHENS, March 5. (JTA) -- Following strong pressure by Jewish leaders in this country, the Greek Government abolished the "electoral ghetto" which until now has restricted Jews in Salonika to two special polling places where only Jews voted. The national elections are being held today.

Under the latest government action the 600 Jewish voters of Salonika will be permitted to enter any one of four polling places which will also be used by non-Jews. Jewish protests against the law--and threats to boycott the national elections--were based on the fact that the "electoral ghetto" robbed them of a secret ballot.

BRITISH AND GERMAN JEWISH LEADERS CONFER ON HEIRLESS PROPERTY DISPOSITION

LONDON, March 5. (JTA) -- Norbert Wollheim, chairman of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Western Germany, today returned to Germany with a seven-man delegation of German Jewish leaders after concluding conferences with British Jewish leaders, representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency.

It is understood here that an agreement has been reached among the conferees on the general principles to govern a trust corporation to be established in the British zone to administer heirless Jewish property.

Earlier, Mr. Wollheim declared at a press conference that the reemergence of Nazism is a threat not only to the German Jews and to the democratic forces in Germany, but to the entire democratic world. He also told the news parley, held under the auspices of the World Jewish Congress, that legislation was needed in the British zone of Germany to protect minority groups.

He said there was no legal measure at present to prevent incitement to racial hatred and noted that a German court recently ruled that it does not consider it an insult to describe those who fought the Hitler regime in Germany as "Quislings." Mr. Wollheim added that a right-wing deputy named Richter has even gone so far as to urge the death sentence for German subjects who fought Hitler in the ranks of the Allied armies.

HIAS 65TH ANNUAL MEETING ASKS SENATE TO LIBERALIZE DP LAW; ADOPTS \$4,230,000 BUDGET

NEW YORK, March 5. (JTA) -- Resolutions calling on the Senate to enact DP immigration legislation to liberalize the present act and appealing to the U.S. Government to pool unused quota numbers for redistribution to would-be immigrants were adopted here today at the HIAS 65th annual meeting.

The conference, attended by Jewish religious, fraternal and labor leaders adopted a budget of \$4,230,000 for the organization's activities in 1950. Other resolutions endorsed the proposed expansion of HIAS activities in Israel as well as the body's present program in the Jewish state, and expressed thanks to the International Refugee Organization, Displaced Persons Commission, American military authorities in Europe, State Department and Immigration and Naturalization Service for their assistance to the resettlement program of HIAS.

Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York, addressing the meeting, revealed that in the summer of 1948, when the Celler Bill to liberalize existing DP legislation was introduced, "I personally labored earnestly to try to procure the passage of the amendments." He added that the Kilgore-Ferguson Bill, designed to alleviate the injustices in the Senate Judiciary Committee's bill, "is a desirable bill." The Governor charged that the December 22, 1945, out-of-date of the present DP Act is "discriminatory."

Congressman Emanuel Celler attacked the proposed Senate amendments to his bill as having taken "this bill and under the guise of liberalizing it, has perverted it to the use of German expellees." The amended measure, he charged, "is cleverly written to leave the impression that it accepts the principles of an increase in the admission of displaced persons in this country, but nothing is further from the truth."

Samuel Telsey, head of the organization, in his presidential address revealed that HIAS has recently expanded its activities in Israel including the reception and sheltering of some 20,000 Polish Jews whom the Warsaw Government is permitting to go to Israel. He added that HIAS expects to spend about \$500,000 in Israel this year.

Rabbi Moses Cyrus Weiler, president of the Jewish Reform Movement of South Africa, urged the HIAS to call a world conference, preferably in Europe, "which would enable representative Jews from all parts of the world to draft a planned economy" for the future work of the group, and elect "a world executive of HIAS." Rabbi Weiler added "one of the problems that is uppermost in the minds of South African Jewry is that of Jewish homelessness throughout the world." Other speakers included Israel Asofsky, executive director of HIAS, and Lewis Meikrug, its overseas director.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF U.S. ASK REVIEW OF AMERICAN POLICY IN GERMANY

DETROIT, March 5. (JTA) -- A review of U.S. policy in Germany to determine whether original American objectives are being carried out was urged here today by the national executive committee of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

The J.W.V.'s national commander, Jackson J. Holtz, pointed to the recent merger of two ultranationalist German political parties, advocacy by West German officials of a military force for "internal security purposes," and efforts by former Nazi newspaper editors and publishers to put pro-democratic American-licensed newspapers out of business as "evidence that Germany is retracing the alarming pattern of her behavior after World War I." The veterans announced they would renew protests to U.S. High Commissioner John J. McCloy over delays in carrying out sentences imposed on 16 leading Nazi criminals.

MRS. ROOSEVELT, SEN. TAFT TO SERVE AS HONORARY CHAIRMEN OF U.J.A. CHRISTIAN GROUP

WASHINGTON, March 5. (JTA) -- Formation of a National Christian Committee of the United Jewish Appeal with Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Senator Robert A. Taft as honorary chairmen and W. Averell Harriman, Sumner Welles, Jesse Jones and Eric Johnston serving as associate chairmen, was announced today by Rep. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., national chairman of the Christian Committee.

Among those associated in the work of the Christian Committee of the United Jewish Appeal will be Winthrop W. Aldrich, chairman of the Board of the Chase National Bank; Gen. Lucius D. Clay, former Commander of U.S. Armed Forces in Germany; Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan; Secretary of Interior Oscar Chapman; Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin; and Marshall Field, business leader and newspaper publisher. An initial Committee of One Hundred, comprising prominent government, business, labor and civic leaders, has been organized to rally the support of Americans of all faiths behind the immigration, settlement and rehabilitation programs of the U.J.A., Rep. Roosevelt said.

PERON ANNOUNCES ISRAEL-ARGENTINE COMMERCIAL TREATY WILL BE SIGNED NEXT WEEK

BUENOS AIRES, March 5. (JTA) -- Two thousand persons this week-end heard President Juan Peron announce that a commercial treaty between Israel and Argentina will be signed next week. The announcement was made at a celebration marking the third anniversary of the establishment of the Organizacion Israelita Argentina, pro-Peronist Jewish group.

President Peron also suggested that in return for the planting of a forest in honor of Grau San Martin, Argentine national hero, in Israel by the O.I.A., a forest ought to be planted in Argentina in honor of President Chaim Weizmann of Israel. The funds for this project, he said, could be collected from among the Argentine people.

The President was cheered when he stated: "I love the Jewish citizens as all other Argentines and I hope that the coming treaty will be the first stage toward further agreements between the two peoples." His wife, Eva, received a similar ovation when she announced that there is no discrimination shown in the application of social welfare programs which she administers.

O.I.A. leaders, who addressed the audience, said that no other statesman had found "such friendly words for the Jews." Jacobo Feuerman of the local HIAS organization lauded Peron for his return--after two decades--to the traditional Argentine policy of free immigration. Among the guests were Israel Minister Jacob Tsur, the local chief of police and many government and Jewish community leaders.

PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA SAYS JEWS NEED NOT FEAR REVOCATION OF THEIR NATURALIZATION

NEW YORK, March 5. (JTA) -- President Otilio Ulate of Costa Rica has discounted the rumors that Jews who acquired Costa Rican citizenship after 1940 will have their citizenship revoked, it was reported here today by Dr. Henry Shoskes, special representative of the HIAS, following his return to this country.

Dr. Shoskes said he conferred with President Ulate and was assured by him that "no person who legally acquired citizenship should have any fears about his status." The President also said he will try to convince local newspapers to refrain from anti-Jewish propaganda.

12,000 JEWISH REFUGEES FROM EUROPE AND MOSLEM LANDS REACHED U.S., ISRAEL IN FEBRUARY

NEW YORK, March 5. (JTA) -- More than 12,000 Jewish refugees from Europe and Moslem lands reached permanent havens in Israel, the United States and other countries during the month of February with the aid of the Joint Distribution Committee, it was announced today by Moses A. Leavitt, J.D.C. executive vice-chairman.

One-third of this total consisted of men, women and children who were aided to leave Eastern European countries under the J.D.C.'s emergency "now or never" emigration program, Mr. Leavitt noted. Under this program, the J.D.C. is making an intensive effort to aid as many people as possible to leave before expiration of deadlines such as set by Poland, which has announced that it will permit no Jews to emigrate after August, 1950.

JEWISH GROUPS CONFER ON JOINT APPROACH TO U.N. OVER ORPHANS IN NON-JEWISH HOMES

LONDON, March 5. (JTA) -- The question of formulating a joint approach to the United Nations Human Rights Commission on the situation of Jewish war orphans living in non-Jewish homes was discussed by representatives of Jewish organizations here, including the World Jewish Congress, Agudas Israel, the World Union for Progressive Judaism and the Board of Deputies of British Jews. The U.N. Commission will meet at the end of this month.

The meeting decided to summon a special meeting of legal advisers of the Jewish organizations to work out details of the plan. It is understood that the Jewish organizations plan to demand: Firstly, that all Jewish orphans be returned to the Jewish community; secondly, that all governments demand of individuals and organizations that they register the names and original religious faiths of the children for whom they are now caring.

NEW YORK MAYOR PROCLAIMS "MIZRACHI WOMEN'S WEEK" AS GROUP OPENS EMERGENCY PARLEY

NEW YORK, March 5. (JTA) -- The week of March 5-10 has been proclaimed "Mizrachi Women's Week" by New York Mayor William O'Dwyer in honor of an Eastern Seaboard Emergency Conference of the Mizrahi Women which opened here today.

The parley was called to consider emergency action in behalf of thousands of Jewish refugee children of Orthodox background. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, is scheduled to be the principal speaker at the conference.

ALBERTO GERCHUNOFF, OUTSTANDING ARGENTINE EDITOR, DIES; WAS ACTIVE IN JEWISH AFFAIRS

BUENOS AIRES, March 5. (JTA) -- Alberto Gerchunoff, one of the most outstanding journalists in Argentina, died here at the age of 66. Born in Russia, he was brought by his parents to Argentina and was raised in a Jewish settlement in Entre Rios Province where his family engaged in agricultural work.

An editor of La Nacion, one of the most influential Argentine newspapers, Mr. Gerchunoff took an interest in the work of the Jewish Agency, the DAIA, the Young Men's Hebrew Association, and other Jewish organizations in Buenos Aires. The Argentine Press Association officially observed his burial day with the issuance of a formal proclamation citing his contributions to Argentina journalism. He was buried in the local Jewish cemetery.