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AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE PRESIDENT MEETS WITH TRUMAN AND DEFENSE SECRETARY ON ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, May 7. (JTA) -- Jacob Blaustein, president of the American Jewish Committee, discussed with President Truman during the week-end a number of questions concerning the Middle East, especially Israel. Because of the nature of the subjects discussed, the contents of the talks were not divulged. Earlier, Mr. Blaustein conferred at length with Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson.

(The Senate approved an appropriation of \$27,450,000 during the week-end for the relief of Palestine Arab displaced persons through the United Nations.)

STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES TWO NAVY SHIPS SOLD TO EGYPTIANS WILL BE RELEASED TODAY

WASHINGTON, May 7. (JTA) -- The State Department announced during the week-end that following a special inspection it has decided to release tomorrow two surplus U.S. Navy frigates sold to an Egyptian company, which have been held under embargo at Baltimore since last Wednesday following reports that the vessels had not been demilitarized.

The announcement said that representatives of the Department, Coast Guard and customs authorities inspected the two vessels and found that "they were demilitarized according to Navy specifications, which the State Department concurred in." The inspectors "found there were no gun turrets, as indicated in a press report," the announcement said, adding that "there were some rusty ammunition bins which were part of the deck."

ISRAEL AND LEBANESE OFFICIALS INSPECT DEMARCATED FRONTIER; EGYPT TO ENLARGE AIR BASES

TEL AVIV, May 7. (JTA) -- Members of the Israel-Lebanese armistice mixed commission met at Metullah today and later went on a tour of inspection of the Israel-Lebanese frontier that has already been demarcated by the commission's sub-committee. Members of the Israel Government survey department accompanied the Jewish and Arab officials.

The Egyptian Government is planning to enlarge its military airfields in the Sinai and Gaza areas, the British-controlled Near East Arabic Radio said today. The broadcast, which was monitored here, reported that two new fields are being constructed in the Sinai area.

A group of 120 Arabs will travel through Israel on May 22 under arrangements concluded today at "Kilometer 95," on the Gaza road, between an Egyptian army colonel and an Israel immigration official.

Syrian representatives on the mixed Israeli-Syrian armistice commission have agreed to return to Israel a fishing boat and equipment seized by the Arabs on Lake Tiberias last February 16.

A recently-conducted government survey revealed today that there are 2,801 physicians in Israel, including 45 women practitioners. A total of 19 non-Jewish doctors are also active.

ISRAEL CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY; PEACE IS OFFERED TO ARABS

JERUSALEM, May 7. (JTA) -- Israel's hand of friendship to the Arab nations was extended this week-end by President Chaim Weizmann in a message issued on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Himself one of the founders of the University, Dr. Weizmann was not able to attend the celebration because of his ill health. However, his message was read by Professor Selig Brodetsky, president of the University, at a ceremony here attended by more than 3,000 people. Expressing the hope that the Hebrew University will soon return to its quarters on Mount Scopus, which is in Arab-held territory, Dr. Weizmann said:

"In the very year when we laid the foundation of the Hebrew University, we also laid the foundation for a house not yet built--for Jewish Arab friendship. The words of mutual reassurance and good-will which I exchanged in 1918 with King Feisal may not have been in vain. Perhaps sooner than the enemies of peace think, the day may come when the two nations will, to their mutual benefit, contribute to the establishment of a belt of flourishing countries, stretching from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean where the people of Israel and those of the Arab countries will cooperate in peace and in harmony."

The Israel President declared he was confident that "beyond the noise of war propaganda and the clamor for revenge in the camp of our neighbors, reason will prevail." From the city of Jerusalem and from Mount Scopus should come forth the message of peace and constructive work for the benefit of the people of Israel and its neighbors," he urged.

Israel Will Not Be Tested By Might of Its Army, Ben Gurion Says

Premier David Ben Gurion, addressing the audience, pointed out that the rebirth of Israel was not, and will not be, confined to the establishment of a governmental machinery for the Jewish people, but will find its supreme and complete fulfillment by revealing its eternal spirit and fulfilling the historic mission in the redemption of humanity.

"Israel," he said, "will concentrate for a long time to come on most of its strength and resources to upbuild its land and maintain security, but Israel will not be tested by the might of its army. The great historic test will be a spiritual test. Even our security will not be on sound foundations unless it is based on moral and spiritual supremacy."

Brig. Yigal Yadin, Israel Chief of Staff who is a graduate of the Hebrew University, said in his address to the audience: "The war is not yet over. Our enemies are still threatening us and Israel must still maintain a firm army. We will not create a professional army, but our fighting people and the Hebrew University can greatly assist the state by educating the youth to be morally and scientifically superior to the enemies." He concluded by expressing the hope that Mount Scopus will soon be returned to Israel.

Other speakers at the ceremony which took place on the Terra Sancta College grounds here included Professor Brodetsky, who was installed as president of the University during the ceremony. Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog, who was among the prominent guests, was not permitted by his physician to speak. The public ceremony was followed by a festive reception attended by more than 6,000 people including U.S. Ambassador James G. McDonald.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND GREECE IS PREDICTED

ATHENS, May 7. (JTA) -- An authoritative source said today that the establishment of normal diplomatic relations between Greece and Israel will follow the settlement of "certain outstanding questions between Greece and the Arab states concerning the status of Greek minorities in those countries." The first move, it was indicated, will be the extension by Greece of de jure recognition to the Jewish state and the immediate appointment of an Ambassador to Tel Aviv.

FARMING METHODS USED IN KING SOLOMON PERIOD DISCOVERED IN NEGEV; ANCIENT WELLS FOUND

JERUSALEM, May 7. (JTA) -- Explorations carried out in the Negev by the Ministry of Agriculture have revealed ancient agricultural methods in Israel's southern desert dating back to the King Solomon period, it was revealed today. The findings include dried-up irrigation networks and deeply-carved rock water wells.

The Ministry plans to recommend detailed plans for the swift conversion of 2,000,000 dunams of Negev land into grazing area and 200,000 dunams into farming regions. Harnessing of natural water resources in the southern Negev is one of the principal aims of the Ministry, it was reported. By the end of 1950 the number of settlements in the Negev should total 65, it was added.

HEBREW WRITERS IN ISRAEL MAKE SHARP ATTACK ON VISITING U.S. YIDDISH POET, H. LEIVICK

TEL AVIV, May 7. (JTA) -- H. Leivick, prominent American Yiddish poet, was sharply attacked here last night at a meeting of the Hebrew P.E.N. Club for his "propaganda in favor of Yiddish in Israel." Speaking against the poet were leading Israel authors and writers, including David Shimonovich and Yacov Cohen.

The Israelis maintained that Hebrew is the only language which can cement "solid connections with the dispersed communities" while Yiddish is "dying a natural death, particularly in the U.S., where the present Jewish generation speaks only English." Speakers pointed out that the visiting poet's grandson does not speak Yiddish.

HEARING SET FOR THURSDAY FOR BETAR YOUTHS WHO FELTED VISITING GERMAN ATHLETES IN N.Y.

NEW YORK, May 7. (JTA) -- Three youths arrested after they identified themselves with the Betar youth organization after they and a dozen other young men and women threw eggs, tomatoes and apples at a visiting German soccer team on the steps of City Hall on Friday will be given a hearing on Thursday, it was reported during the week-end. The demonstration took place as the German athletes, affiliated with the Hamburg Sports Verein, were about to be photographed with Acting Mayor Vincent Impellitteri.

Statements issued by the Union Zionists-Revisionists of America and the Betar executive committee condoned the action of the youths and protested a charge that the demonstrators were Communists. The Betar statement said it was "regrettable that news of the reception (for the Germans) did not leak out earlier, in time to permit a much greater manifestation of dissatisfaction" by the Jews of New York. A spokesman for the visiting Germans, commenting on the incident, said: "We could see that they (the Betar youths) were not Americans."

NEGOTIATIONS COMPLETED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECT ISRAEL-U.S. AIR SERVICE BY EL-AL

TEL AVIV, May 7. (JTA) -- Negotiations have been completed in the United States for the granting of landing rights to El-Al--Israel's national airlines--prior to the launching of a direct Israel-U.S. air service, it was revealed today.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS IN LONDON STAGE SUCCESSFUL MEETING PROTESTING MOSLEYITE RALLY

LONDON, May 7. (JTA) -- A successful meeting protesting Fascist provocation in England was held here today by the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen, not more than 200 yards from the scene of a rally arranged by the followers of Sir Oswald Mosley. The Mosleyite meeting was marked by the phonograph playing of the Nazis' theme song, the Horst Wessel.

Although both the Jewish war veterans and the Mosleyites claimed a similar site for their respective meetings this afternoon, the Mosleyites were awarded the preferred place by the police, who simultaneously ordered the veterans to leave the premises. Some 250 listeners were present when the British Fascist leader arrived to speak, while a crowd of 750 veterans--standing behind a police cordon--succeeded in throwing out Mosley's talk, which were being broadcast over four loudspeakers.

ASSISTANT U.S. COMMISSIONER IN GERMANY WILL REPORT ON DENAZIFICATION TO JEWISH PARLEY

FRANKFURT, May 7. (JTA) -- Benjamin J. Bittenweiser, assistant U.S. High Commissioner for Germany, announced today that he intends to proceed next week to the United States to address a conference of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in Chicago. He will report on denazification in Germany.

The World Jewish Congress today opened a branch office in Frankfurt, headed by Dr. Gerhart Jacoby. Another W.J.C. branch office will soon be opened in Berlin. Dr. Jacoby is a former member of the staff of the W.J.C. in New York.

Otto Berger, former head of a German firm which "Aryanized" Jewish property in German-occupied territory during the Hitler regime, was sentenced to one year at hard labor and to the confiscation of 50 percent of his property. He was charged with appropriating "Aryanized" property for himself and with mistreatment of Jews in Upper Silesia.

THREE JEWS WHO SURVIVED NAZI MASSACRE OF SMALL TOWN TESTIFY AGAINST UKRAINIAN DP

NEW YORK, May 7. (JTA) -- Three Jews, part of a tiny group of 17 who survived a Nazi massacre of 2,000 Jews in the town of Mikulince, this week-end appeared at Ellis Island to testify against a detained immigrant, Ivan Martynowycz, who is charged with having directed the systematic annihilation of the 2,000.

The three Jewish witnesses against Martynowycz, a Ukrainian, are all former DP's who entered this country as immigrants. They are: Marion Helicz and Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Phal. According to the witnesses the former Ukrainian shoemaker ruled Mikulince for six weeks as town judge, chief of police and deputy in charge of Jewish affairs, after the Nazis took over the town. In this capacity he passed death sentences on Jews and led groups of them to the town square where the Nazis mowed them down with machine guns.

The American Jewish Congress, which has traced seven survivors of the massacre who are now in this country and are willing to testify against Martynowycz, asked immigration officials to permit it to send observers to the hearing. The request was denied.

ENLARGED INTEREST IN JEWISH CULTURE IN U.S. REPORTED AT J.W.B.'S NATIONAL CONVENTION

CINCINNATI, May 7. (JTA) -- Jewish community planning for leisure time and informal education projects reached a new level of activity and achievement throughout the country in 1949, with 325 Jewish Community Centers in more than 200 communities serving as the base of operations for that enterprise. The year also witnessed an unprecedented measure of expansion in Center-conducted Jewish cultural projects and recreational services and programs for all age groups.

These developments were reported last night at the opening session of the biennial convention of the National Jewish Welfare Board at the Hotel Netherland Plaza here. The session, presided over by Frank L. Weil, president of the organization, was devoted to a presentation of the annual report. A panel, composed of the chairmen of five J.W.B. divisions, participated with Mr. Weil in the report presentation.

Membership in Jewish Community Centers Is Close to 500,000

Membership in the 325 Jewish Community Centers affiliated with the J.W.B. reached a record of 483,000 in 1949, it was stated by Mrs. Walter E. Heller, of Chicago, chairman of the J.W.B.'s Center Division. More than 11,500,000 persons attended Center activities in the course of the year, Mrs. Heller reported, describing the mass attendance figure as a 27 percent increase since 1947. The Centers employ close to 1,000 professionally trained workers and, in 1949, had an aggregate budget of almost \$11,500,000, she declared.

Unmistakable signs of progress in "the development of a living, every-day kind of Judaism for American Jews" were noted by S.D. Gershovitz, J.W.B. executive director. He called attention to "the enlarging interest in Jewish culture and adult education, in no small measure a reflection of the expanding Jewish substance of Jewish Community Center programs and of the work of the J.W.B.-sponsored cultural councils."

The J.W.B.'s Armed Services Division in 1949 operated in the United States through 146 local committees made up of thousands of volunteers, it was reported by Milton Weill, of New York, chairman of the division. Cultural, recreational, and religious activities for GI's and hospitalized veterans, provided by those committees, attracted an aggregate attendance of 271,494. This program, Mr. Weill said, was in addition to "a world network of J.W.B. service to armed forces personnel. The division's work in 1949 reached into 225 installations--Army, Navy, and Air Force--here and abroad, and was extended as well to 110 V.A. hospitals," he added.

Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof, of Pittsburgh, chairman of the J.W.B.'s Division of Religious Activities, reported that in 1949 twenty-eight full-time Jewish chaplains "and a good-sized auxiliary corps--163 part-time Jewish chaplains" served eight branches of the federal government, presenting programs of a religious, welfare, and morale nature at 520 military installations and hospitals. Overseas, Rabbi Freehof stated, the division in 1949 continued to provide chaplaincy coverage with special emphasis on the Passover celebration and the High Holy Days.

ISRAEL INSTITUTIONS GET 5,000 BOOKS FROM LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND AMERICAN FRIENDS

WASHINGTON, May 7. (JTA) -- About 5,000 volumes have been presented to Israel institutions by the Library of Congress and the "American Friends of the Hebrew University," it was reported here today. The books, representing the largest single shipment, are destined for the Berl Katznelson Institute at Kfar Saba and the Jewish National Library in Jerusalem.

JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE FORESEES 500,000 JEWS ABROAD NEEDING AID THIS YEAR

NEW YORK, May 7. (JTA) -- Although the Joint Distribution Committee ended its relief and assistance activities in seven countries in 1949, the agency aided more than 600,000 Jews overseas last year and estimates that 500,000 in distressed areas still require its help, according to the 1949 J.D.C. Annual Report to be published tomorrow.

The progress achieved in restoring Jews abroad and helping them to emigrate made it possible for the J.D.C. to withdraw voluntarily from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Luxembourg and Yugoslavia. Also during the year the agency terminated programs in Rumania, Poland and Czechoslovakia at the order of those governments.

Entitled "The Year of Deliverance," the report discloses that in 1949 the J.D.C. appropriated \$59,745,000 for a three-fold program of relief, reconstruction and resettlement for Jews in 26 countries in Europe, North Africa and the Orient. Accounts of the agency's work are given by Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman; Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman; and Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, director-general of the J.D.C.'s overseas operations.

Writing on the work which still remains to end Jewish suffering overseas, Dr. Schwartz states that "despite the outstanding progress of 1949, a minimum of 500,000 men, women and children in European and Moslem lands look to the J.D.C. for help--to work, to emigrate, and in thousands of instances just to remain alive." For its 1950 work, the organization has estimated it will require \$44,512,000, most of which must be furnished by the United Jewish Appeal.

MEMORIAL MONTH PROCLAIMED FOR U.S. JEWRY TO HONOR SIX MILLION JEWS KILLED IN EUROPE

NEW YORK, May 7. (JTA) -- The illumination of a perpetual light to burn in the tower of the library building of the Jewish Theological Seminary marked the opening here today of Rabbi Akiba Memorial Month, during which American Jews will commemorate the death of six million Jewish martyrs and the destruction of Jewish cultural institutions in Europe, while they rededicate themselves to the nurturing of Jewish cultural traditions.

Rabbi Akiba was a second century teacher and leader martyred in the persecution instituted by the Roman Emperor, Hadrian. At that time the schools of the Jews were destroyed and there was widespread slaughter of the Jewish people. Senator Herbert H. Lehman, in an appeal to American Jews, urged them to observe May 23 as "Rabbi Akiba Day" in memory of the martyrs of recent history.

Dr. Louis Finkelstein, president of the Jewish Theological Seminary, declared at services held at the Seminary today that the great traditions of Judaism in the western world were the "Lithuanian emphasis on learning, Polish emphasis on piety and German scientific and scholarly study, the chief characteristics of north European Judaism." These, he said, have been truncated, although they ranked among the remarkable developments of the human spirit. "In the proposed study periods we should look not only to the past, but to the future," Dr. Finkelstein urged. "The great traditions of Kovno, Vilna and Lublin have disappeared; but we hope that through us their influence may be felt in America, and become part of the general American culture pattern."