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ISRAEL DELIVERS REPLY TO SWEDEN ON BERNADOTTE'S ASSASSINATION; ADMITS POLICE FAILURE

STOCKHOLM, June 19. (JTA) -- The Israel Government today delivered its reply to recent Swedish criticism of the investigation into the assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte, late U.N. Palestine mediator, who met his death in Jerusalem in the fall of 1948. The reply was delivered here today to the Swedish Foreign Ministry by Dr. Walter Eytan, director-general of the Israel Foreign Ministry.

In its reply the Israel Government accepts the conclusions reached by a special Israel committee appointed to study the charges made in a Swedish memorandum delivered to the new state last March. This committee established that from a technical police viewpoint the Swedish chief prosecutor was correct in establishing the following gaps and omissions during the police inquiry conducted by Israel in connection with the U.N. mediator's assassination:

1. Failure to take steps for apprehension of the criminals; 2. Failure to immediately cordon off the scene of the crime; 3. Delay in carrying out a thorough examination on the scene of the crime; 4. Failure to examine the leading vehicle of Count Bernadotte's convoy and delayed examination of Bernadotte's own vehicle; 5. Failure to collect evidence from the four members of Bernadotte's party; 6. Failure to examine the weapons of Stern Group bases in Jerusalem and ineffectual examination of cartridge cases found on the scene; 7. Inability to apprehend the jeep used by the assailants and failure to attempt its identification with that of vehicles taken from members of the Stern Group; 8. Failure to conduct an "identification parade" of suspects.

Explaining the shortcomings of the dual investigation conducted by the Israel Army and Police in Jerusalem immediately after the assassination, the Israel reply says that these shortcomings were due to lack of proper central government control owing to various chaotic factors created by the war in Jerusalem at that time.

"Ultimately the responsibility for what happened and for the organizational deficiency which has since come to light is the government's," the memorandum says. It emphasizes that the Israel Government "will bear its responsibility before history." At the same time the document stresses that the Jerusalem police force at that period was "in a particularly poor and inchoate shape and had hardly adapted itself to the new conditions created by Israel's independence."

The reply points out that the Israel Government hopes that "this unhappy incident which marred the history of the state of Israel and cast a shadow over relations between Sweden and Israel will now be brought to a close." The Jewish people, the memorandum says, has every cause to be grateful to the people of Sweden, especially to Count Bernadotte for their ceaseless activities during World War II on behalf of the victims of Nazi persecution.

"Israel, too, recalls with gratitude Bernadotte's sincere efforts for restoring peace to the Holy Land," the memorandum continues. "The differences of opinion which might have existed over the best means to achieve this will not lose him his honored place in history. The good work he did during his lifetime is his lasting memorial," the reply concluded.

EGYPTIAN CABINET DECIDES TO PERMIT PASSAGE OF OIL TANKERS TO ISRAEL THROUGH SUEZ CANAL

LONDON, June 19. (JTA) -- Reports reaching here today from Egypt said that the Egyptian Cabinet decided at a secret meeting last night to permit oil tankers en route to Israel to pass through the Suez Canal.

Details of the purported decision were not available here, but one informed source expressed the belief that unrefined oil en route to the Haifa refineries would be allowed through the Suez Canal on condition that the refined product would be re-shipped and not used in the Jewish state. A Cairo dispatch to Reuters quoted Egyptian Foreign Minister Salah el Din Bey as stating that the decision was taken to "make sure that no unrefined petrol goes to Israel."

Meanwhile, David Horowitz, director-general of Israel Finance Ministry, who is here conducting negotiations with the British Government on oil problems, left today for Paris for several days. The negotiations will be resumed on Friday upon his return to London.

Israel sources here firmly refuse to make any comment on progress of the talks between Britain and Israel on oil, which obviously involve economic and political questions of the greatest delicacy. "We are not going to jeopardize these important talks by premature statements," one Israel source said today.

Neither British nor Israel circles here would comment today on a report in the Daily Graphic that British arms may be supplied to Israel as a result of secret consultations now said to be in progress between Washington and London on the recent Three-Power statement of policy on arms for the Near East.

ISRAEL-FRANCE FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION FORMED; ISRAEL ORDERS KOSHER MEAT FROM FRANCE

TEL AVIV, June 19. (JTA) -- An Israel-France Friendship Association was formed here last night under the chairmanship of Dr. N. Bar-Zakai, president of the Tel Aviv district court. B. Radius, French charge d'affaires, welcomed formation of the new group.

The Israel Government today placed an order for 1,200 tons of kosher meat in France. It has also placed orders in Brazil and Uruguay.

JEWISH AGENCY ATTEMPTS TO DISTRIBUTE NEWLY-ARRIVED IMMIGRANTS IN LESS CONGESTED AREAS

JERUSALEM, June 19. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency is making every effort to distribute newly-arrived immigrants in all parts of Israel, particularly in less congested areas, Eliahu Dobkin, Agency immigration chief, told a press conference here today.

Mr. Dobkin said that of 45,000 housing units scheduled to be built by April, 1951, some 22,000 will be located in rural areas, most of them in entirely new settlements. A program envisaging the settlement of 15,000 persons in 75 existing agricultural colonies was announced earlier by the Agency's settlement department.

Two new "regional towns" in the north of Israel and two in the south are under-going development, according to an announcement today by the Government Planning Division.

Safad is being developed as a summer resort and Tiberias will become an all-year-round health resort. Affula is being developed into a new residential area for the Emek Valley. In the south, Beersheba is becoming the regional center of the Negev.

OVERT ANTI-SEMITISM DECREASING IN BRITAIN; DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT IS ON RISE

LONDON, June 19. (JTA) -- While overt anti-Semitism in Britain is receding, a statistical study prepared by the Trades Advisory Council revealed today an increase in employment discrimination.

The survey was made public at the annual meeting of the Council here, marking the tenth anniversary of establishment of this body which is combatting anti-Semitic sentiment by "educating Jewish business men and industrialists to maintain the highest standards of business morale."

The Council approved a resolution expressing satisfaction with the establishment of Israel and with Britain's extension of de jure recognition to the new state. The Council also urged its members to do their utmost for the promotion of Anglo-Israel commercial relations and welcomed the proclamation of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights as well as the U.N. Convention outlawing genocide, which it urged the British Government to ratify.

The Council further appealed to British Jews to refrain from trading with Germany in view of "Germany's history of aggression and the bestiality of the Hitler regime and the present disquieting trends of anti-Semitism in Western Germany." Principal speakers at today's session were Alex Nathan, national chairman of the Council, and Dr. Abraham Cohen, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, who paid tribute to the Council's activities as "one of the most important aspects of communal defense."

George Tomlinson, Minister of Education, presented an award to Mr. Nathan. The award consists of a trust fund established by 8,000 members of the Trades Advisory Council. The fund, bearing the name of Mr. Nathan, will be used for an annual prize to any person resident in Britain distinguishing himself in furthering the aims of the Council.

PLAN APPROVED FOR CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

LONDON, June 19. (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews, at its plenary session last night, approved a plan for convocation of a conference of representatives of Jewish communities of the British Commonwealth. Representatives of the Jews of India will also attend the parley which is scheduled to open in London on July 16.

A resolution expressing the hope that Britain will now grant facilities to Israel to buy arms for legitimate self-defense was adopted by the Board. Another resolution expressed disappointment over the fact that the U.N. Human Rights Commission rejected a request that individuals have the right to submit petitions against their governments in cases involving human rights violations.

MEXICO PROMISES TO RELAX VISA RESTRICTIONS FOR JEWS NATURALIZED IN LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO CITY, June 19. (JTA) -- A delegation of the Jewish Central Committee was assured by the Minister of Interior, Adolfo Ruiz Cortines, that the government will relax the immigration law under which Jews from certain Latin American countries--even when they are naturalized citizens of those countries--find it difficult to secure a tourist or visitor visa to Mexico.

The delegation brought to the attention of the Minister the fact that numerous Jewish industrialists in Argentina, Brazil, Cuba and other countries are prevented from visiting Mexico on business because they are refused Mexican visas. The delegation emphasized the detrimental effect which such a state of affairs has on the development of Mexican commerce.

COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT ASSURES THAT EQUAL RIGHTS OF JEWS WILL BE SAFEGUARDED

NEW YORK, June 19. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress made public today assurances received from the Costa Rican Government that equal rights for Jews in that country will be safeguarded. The assurances were expressed in a letter to the W.J.C. from Costa Rican Ambassador to the U.S., Marion Echandi.

The World Jewish Congress had expressed alarm over proposals introduced in the Costa Rican Parliament aiming at the "complete elimination of some Jewish merchants from the economic life of the country." The Congress had pointed out that supporters of these measures had not "refrained from publicly attacking Jewish merchants and from emphasizing the fact that the bills were directed only against this group."

JEWS ATTEMPT TO AVERT DEPORTATION OF 108 DP'S FROM U.S. TO GERMANY

NEW YORK, June 19. (JTA) -- An attempt to prevent the deportation of 108 displaced Jews to Germany and Austria--their native countries--and send them instead to Italy where they would become eligible to reenter the United States as displaced persons under the DP law signed last week by President Truman, was made today by interested Jewish organizations.

The Jewish refugees, who arrived in this country from Shanghai last month and were held at Ellis Island pending the passage of the new DP bill in Congress, are scheduled to leave on Wednesday for Germany and Austria, where their status as displaced persons would cease since they were born in these countries. The order for their deportation was issued by the Department of Justice in view of the fact that the DP's do not hold any immigration visas and were passing through the United States from Shanghai.

In Washington it was emphasized today that the refugees are not being repatriated but are being sent to Germany and Austria "for temporary resettlement." Under the temporary resettlement many of the refugees will be eligible to enter the United States as displaced persons, Washington officials said.

CONVENTION OF RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY HEARS REPORT ON DISCRIMINATION IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, June 19. (JTA) -- Conservative rabbis in Israel are not only being denied the rights and privileges which they enjoy in all other free countries, but the power of the state of Israel is used to bring pressure upon Conservative religious organizations in the United States, the 50th convention of the Rabbinical Assembly of America was told today.

Reporting on alleged discrimination against Conservative rabbis in Israel, Rabbi David Aronson of Minneapolis told the convention in his presidential address that only Orthodox rabbis are recognized in Israel. He cited a number of cases showing that Israel recognizes only the divorces granted in the United States by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis and not by Conservative rabbis.

On the other hand, the president of the Rabbinical Assembly praised the Israel rabbinate, especially the Sephardic rabbis, for agreeing to the ban on child marriages and to the restriction of polygamy practices which prevail among Jews from Moslem countries. He also urged the convention to consider the latest proposal made by Israel to the U.N. Trusteeship Council with regard to Jerusalem as "politically realistic and morally just."

AMERICAN AND ISRAEL TAX OFFICIALS TO MEET IN WASHINGTON ON DOUBLE TAXATION ISSUE

WASHINGTON, June 19. (JTA) -- The State Department announced today that American and Israel tax officials are planning to meet here July 10 for technical discussions of possibilities for improving tax relations between the two countries.

The officials will determine whether a basis exists for convention for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and taxes on estates of deceased persons. If a basis for convention is found, drafts of the proposed terms will be prepared by the participants and submitted to their respective governments for consideration with a view to signing.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL TO MOBILIZE U.S. TECHNICIANS TO SERVE IN ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, June 19. (JTA) -- The National Committee for Labor Israel will mobilize technicians willing to take their skills to Israel, it was announced here today by Isaac Hamlin, general secretary of the Committee. A conference will be held to promote this project with representatives of the Committee, C.I.O. and A.F.L. participating.

A resolution to organize American technicians for Israel was adopted last night at a national conference of the American Trade Union Council of the National Committee for Labor Israel. About 600 delegates attended the conference. The program would bring to Israel skilled industrial workers, doctors, nurses, maritime, railway and aviation experts, construction engineers, metal workers and specialists in similar fields.

Federal Security Administrator Oscar R. Ewing announced at the conference that an American expert on industrial efficiency will be sent to Israel by the U.S. Government to advise on the improvements of methods of production. Mr. Ewing also revealed that a mission of American educators, headed by U.S. Commissioner of Education Earl J. McGrath will leave for Israel this summer to make a survey.

The conference adopted a resolution commending the Histadrut for withdrawing from the Communist-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions.

ISRAEL OFFICIAL APPEALS TO JEWS IN PERU TO SEND "YOUNG PIONEERS" TO JEWISH STATE

LIMA, Peru, June 19. (JTA) -- An appeal to Jews on the South American continent to send "young and healthy pioneers" to Israel was voiced by Dr. Abraham Drapkin, head of the Latin-American Department of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who arrived here to address a number of public meetings. This is the first time that an official of the Israel Government has visited Peru.

Dr. Drapkin was received by the Peruvian Foreign Minister, Contra-Almirante Ernesto Rodriguez. Addressing a meeting of the Jewish community here, the Israel official described the economic difficulties which the Jewish state is undergoing due to the enormous disparity between its imports and exports. The situation, he said, can be partly remedied by increasing national production in agriculture as well as in industry.

FIRST DIRECT FLIGHT FROM ISRAEL TO U.S. IS LAUNCHED; WEEKLY RUNS TO BE MAINTAINED

TEL AVIV, June 19. (JTA) -- The first direct flight from Israel to the U.S. began here last night when an El Al plane left Lydda airport for New York. Weekly flights between the two nations will be maintained until a regular schedule is set up. The El Al craft will fly to New York via Rome, Lisbon, the Azores, Newfoundland and New York. The planes used will be DC-4's.

