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LAST MINUTE NEWS

TAILORS AND SHOEMAKERS JOIN ISRAEL STOREKEEPERS IN STRIKE AGAINST NEW RATIONING LAW

JERUSALEM, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- About 1,000 shoemakers and tailors in Israel closed their shops today in protest against the new rationing law affecting shoes and clothing. Their action was described as an act of solidarity with the proprietors of clothing and shoe stores who have kept their establishments shut down since proclamation of the new rationing law. (See earlier story on Page 2.)

There is no possibility for further negotiations with the government "until the authorities realize the necessity for modifying basically the rationing system," a spokesman for the Tel Aviv Merchants Association delegation said following a meeting of the delegation with Premier David Ben Gurion here. He indicated that the meeting brought no satisfactory results.

The spokesman emphasized that "even far-reaching changes in the present rationing policy would not satisfy the minimum requirements of trade." He urged the appointment of a parliamentary committee empowered to draft--in conjunction with trade representatives--a new and "more satisfactory" rationing law. "Failing adequate government assurances for a modified rationing system, the merchants will be unable to reopen their shops and the business strike will continue," he declared.

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ISRAEL CABINET, JEWISH AGENCY HOLD TWO-DAY MEETING ON INCREASE OF FUNDS FROM U.S. JEWRY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- Plans to increase the mobilization of funds in the United States for activities in Israel were discussed here at a joint meeting of the Israel Cabinet and the Jewish Agency executive which lasted two days, it was announced today. The meeting concluded last night.

No decision was made public, but a brief official communique was issued today by the government reading: "A joint meeting of the Cabinet and several members of the Jewish Agency executive--with the participation of a delegation from the United States and the management of the United Jewish Appeal--discussed ways and means to increase the mobilization of funds in the United States for immigration, colonization and development of Israel. Aubrey Eban, Israel Ambassador to Washington, and Meyer Weisgal of New York, participated in the meeting."

The American participants in the two-day deliberations included Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency; Baruch Zuckerman and Mrs. Rose Halprin, in their capacity as members of the American section of the Agency executive; Henry Montor, director of the United Jewish Appeal, and Dr. Joseph Schwartz, European director of the Joint Distribution Committee.

It is understood that the discussions centered around the urgent need to keep the doors of Israel open for new immigrants and the problem of their absorption. About 90,000 immigrants are expected to arrive here before the end of the year. The meeting has apparently not reached any conclusive decisions since certain plans which were presented at the parley require separate discussion by the Israel Cabinet and by the Jewish Agency before their final adoption.

ISRAEL PREPARES APPEAL TO MOSCOW TO PERMIT EMIGRATION OF JEWS FROM SOVIET UNION

JERUSALEM, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- Israel will address a formal appeal to the Soviet Government to permit the emigration of Jews from the U.S.S.R. to the Jewish state, it was announced here today in parliament. The text of the appeal is being prepared by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Knesset.

In making this announcement, Zalman Aharonowitz, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, said that the appeal will be known as a "Let My People Go" plea. He made the announcement following a motion introduced by Hillel Kook, Herut deputy, asking that parliament open a discussion on the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union and appeal to Moscow to permit the emigration of those Soviet Jews who might wish to go to Israel.

Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett opposed the holding of any such discussion. There were also stormy scenes in the Knesset when Dr. Moshe Sneh, leader of the Mapam--the pro-Soviet wing of the Israel Federation of Labor--introduced a motion requesting that Israel "give reply to the lies" concerning the U.N. call for assistance in the Korean conflict.

Dr. Sneh also demanded that parliament engage in a discussion of various problems facing the forthcoming session of the U.N. General Assembly in September,

especially the question of admitting Spain to the United Nations and the problem concerning the status of Jerusalem. The parliament decided that these problems should be discussed by its Foreign Affairs Committee.

Although the Israel Foreign Ministry remains officially in Tel Aviv, various foreign diplomats have recently begun to contact the Ministry through its Jerusalem headquarters, it was revealed here today. Foreign Minister Sharett yesterday received at his Jerusalem office the Netherlands Minister to Israel, A. Nederbracht, and the Iranian diplomatic envoy to the new state, M. Safrini.

ISRAEL MERCHANTS THREATEN TO KEEP STORES CLOSED FOR MONTH; PROTEST NEW RATIONING

JERUSALEM, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion today received a delegation from the Tel Aviv Merchants Association and heard their complaints against the new law rationing shoes and clothing in Israel. Also present during the meeting were Minister of Supply Dr. Dov Joseph, Minister of Finance Eliezer Kaplan and Minister of Justice Pinhas Rosen.

The merchants, whose shoe and clothing stores have been closed for several days following proclamation of the law, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency after their conversation with the Israel Premier, that they would keep their stores closed for another month to force reconsideration of the edict, which stipulates that Israelis may buy no more than one pair of shoes and one suit annually. Other storekeepers not directly involved in the dispute may close their shops soon in sympathy with the striking shopkeepers.

U.S. PROVIDES \$2,000,000 WORTH OF BUTTER AND CHEESE FOR RELIEF FEEDING IN ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- Butter and cheese valued at more than \$2,000,000 have been provided to Hadassah by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for relief feeding in Israel, it was learned here today.

A total of 2,200,000 pounds of butter, valued at 60 cents per pound, and 2,200,000 pounds of American cheddar cheese, valued at 40 cents per pound, will be shipped this month. The food will be used for relief feeding in refugee camps, hospitals, Youth Aliyah institutions and immigrant reception camps.

A shipment of 4,000,000 pounds of skimmed milk and 400,000 pounds of powdered eggs was made last May with the cooperation of the U.S. Government.

WORLD CONGRESS OF JEWISH STUDENTS OPENS IN JERUSALEM; 250,000 STUDENTS REPRESENTED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- Approximately 250,000 Jewish students from all parts of the world, including the United States and Israel, are represented at the 10th world congress of the World Federation of Jewish Students which opened here today.

The five-day session of the organization hopes to establish wider contacts among Jewish students the world over and to transfer the central headquarters of the Federation from Paris to Jerusalem. Speakers at the opening session included Zalman Shazar, Israel Minister for Education, and Berl Locker, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive here. Premier David Ben Gurion sent a message of greetings to the parley.

FRENCH COURT SENTENCES GERMAN TO HARD LABOR FOR LOOTING JEWISH ART COLLECTIONS

PARIS, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- Four of six Germans charged with looting Jewish properties for the Nazis during the occupation of France were sentenced to hard labor and imprisonment by a Paris military court today, two of them in absentia. The two men condemned in absentia were Robert Schlotz and Walter Hoffer who received ten years at hard labor.

George Ebert was sent to prison for one year and Arthur Frannsteil received a three-year suspended sentence. Dr. Bruno Lohse was found not guilty. The sixth man, Gerhart Utika, having objected to certain documents in evidence against him, will be tried separately. All were alleged to belong to the "Alfred Rosenberg Group" charged with requisitioning property from the Rothschilds and other Jewish families.

Otto Abetz, Hitler's Ambassador to France, was chief witness today at the trial. He testified that the loot amassed by the trained pillagers included 11,000 paintings, 583 statues and tapestries, 2,477 pieces of antique furniture, 5,825 pieces of china and 4,174 cases of other art treasures.

Works of art stolen from 203 private French Jewish collections and 550 volumes taken from Jewish libraries--including those of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, the Federation of Jewish Societies of France and the Rabbinical Seminar's Lipschitz Library--were removed to Germany by the special Nazi pillaging units, it was stated in the indictment.

Indictment Cites Hitler's Order to Seize Art from Jews

The indictment said that between March, 1941, and July, 1944, a total of 29 convoys of 137 trucks laden with precious goods--including 4,174 crates of art works--were removed from France by the unit and sent to Germany. The systematic looting began, the indictment continued, immediately after the German Army entered France. The order to seize works of art belonging to Jews was given by Hitler on June 30, 1940, it was disclosed. The order, however, said that this was "not confiscation, but the taking of objects into custody pending peace negotiations."

The indictment revealed that eight units directed the pillage. Each dealt with a special field: prehistoric finds, fine arts, anthropology, science, music, ideology, higher learning and special services. One of the defendants--a Herr Schultze--who is being tried in absentia, said at a preliminary interrogation that the mansions and country houses of the Rothschild family, located on the River Loire, had been selected for particularly thorough looting.

The Germans, it was charged, also seized works of art stored in Bordeaux warehouses for shipment to the United States. The program of pillage lasted for two years and the stolen works of art were stored in one hall of the Louvre before being shipped to Germany where many were expropriated and others were sold in Germany and Switzerland.

At the trial, all of the defendants admitted that they had belonged to the Nazi Party prior to the rise of Hitler. One of the accused, George Ebert, claimed he is a descendant of Jacques Rene Hebert, a well-known figure in the French revolution.

The court decided to try Gerhardt Utika separately after the defense attorneys had contested the relevance of certain documents introduced by the prosecution. Utika had testified that the Vichyite Commissariat for Jewish Affairs, operating through the French Foreign Ministry, had asked the Nazi Government that the

Jewish-owned art treasures be allowed to remain in France. The defendant said that Alfred Rosenberg, Nazi theoretician who dealt with problems of race and nationality in Nazi-occupied territories, objected to the French request.

The prosecution then read a note signed by Utika in reply to the French request. The note, which Utika and Rosenberg drafted, reads: "The war was unleashed and is being carried on by international Jewry which always has shown itself hostile to the German people. There can be no truce with the Jews. These confiscations are very poor indemnification for the German Reich." Utika told the court that he had merely signed the note because "somebody of equal rank had to reply to the French note, which was signed by the Embassy counsellor."

ABOUT 1,900 JEWS STILL REMAIN IN SHANGHAI; SEVERAL HUNDRED LIVE IN HARBIN

NEW YORK, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- Approximately 1,900 Jews still remain in Shanghai according to a report received by the HIAS here today from its Shanghai office. Of this number, 770 are European refugees who made their way to Shanghai in their flight from Nazi persecution and the remainder are old Jewish residents, of Russian or former Russian nationality.

The report stated that of the 1,000 Jewish residents in Harbin, Manchuria, over 300 have left for Israel. Several hundred Jews still live in Tientsin, China. The HIAS Shanghai office still functions in aid of Jews resident in the Far East, and reports that it has been in communication with the Jewish colony in Harbin since contact of that city with the outside world was reestablished a few months ago.

U.S. JEWS, CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS JOIN IN DENUNCIATION OF RED AGGRESSION IN KOREA

NEW YORK, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- The Synagogue Council of America joined with the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America and the National Catholic Welfare Conference last night in a statement strongly denouncing Communist aggression in Korea as the "greatest menace to world peace."

The joint statement by the three major faiths in the United States--the first such joint declaration on an international issue since the end of World War II--termed as "spurious" and deceptive the "Stockholm Appeal" for peace circulated by Communist and pro-Communist groups.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND DESIGNATED AS PURCHASER OF ARAB AND GERMAN LAND IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund has been designated by a special act of the Israel parliament as the principal body authorized to purchase land holdings of the Arabs who fled the country during the recent Arab-Jewish hostilities, as well as the property belonging to enemy Germans, according to a cable received today from Jerusalem by the J.N.F. office in New York.

Under the new law, the Jewish National Fund will be enabled to acquire title to tracts of land constituting the bulk of the country's entire area, including entire towns and villages. Not more than 100,000 dunams of urban property may, according to the provisions of the bill, be sold to private buyers. The action of the parliament puts an end to the current talk about Israel's plans to seize the Arab land without due compensation.

According to the advices from Jerusalem, the sums which the J.N.F. pays for the Arab-held land will be deposited with the Israel Treasury to be applied, at some later stage in the negotiations with the Arabs, to a compensation fund agreed upon by Israel and the Arab states.

SOUTH AMERICAN GENERAL ZIONIST CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK IS POSTPONED

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- The South American General Zionist conference, which was scheduled to open here on Aug. 7, has been postponed until the end of September, it was announced here today.

NORTH AFRICAN REVISIONISTS DEMAND TRANSFER OF JABOTINSKY'S REMAINS FROM U.S. TO ISRAEL

TUNIS, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- The provisional North African bureau of the Hatzohar Zionist Revisionist Union today urged the Israel Government to transfer to Israel the remains of the late Vladimir Jabotinsky, founder of the Revisionist movement who is buried in the United States. Revisionists in North Africa are collecting signatures for a mass petition to the Israel Government to "fulfill the last testament" of Jabotinsky.

(Signatures for a similar petition are being collected in England by the provisional executive of the European Zionists-Revisionists. In New York, Dr. Joseph Schechtman, president of the Zionists-Revisionists of America, issued a statement declaring that the executive of the Jewish Agency, at its plenary session in Jerusalem last January, accepted his motion--supported by Meir Grossman--to approach the Israel Government with a request to transfer the remains of Mr. Jabotinsky and his wife to Israel. "It is hardly advisable and dignified to launch at the present stage a mass petition to this effect, thus prematurely converting a matter of national concern into a controversial issue," Dr. Schechtman said in his statement.)

AMERICAN MOGEN DOVID PRESENTS ISRAEL WITH TWO MODERN MOBILE BLOOD-BANKS

NEW YORK, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- Two modern and completely equipped mobile blood-banks were presented here today by leaders of the American Red Mogen David in a ceremony at the Hotel Astor to representatives of Israel's Red Magen David. These units will be shipped to Israel next week and will make important contributions to the creation there of an adequate supply of blood-bank equipment.

The blood-bank units are actually mobile laboratories for the collection of blood and possess their own power generators, water tanks and refrigeration facilities for the storage of 200 pints of blood daily. They are also equipped with two beds for simultaneous blood-taking and are completely equipped with blood-testing paraphernalia.

RABBI ELAZER MUSKIN, CHICAGO ORTHODOX LEADER, DIES IN NEW YORK; WAS 61

NEW YORK, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- Rabbi Elazer Reuven Muskin, 61, spiritual leader of the Beth Hamedrosh Hagadol Congregation in Chicago for 30 years and vice-president of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, died here last night in Beth Israel Hospital. He had been visiting relatives in New York.

Rabbi Muskin also was a founder and vice-president of the Hebrew Theological College of Chicago and a former president of the Mizrahi Organization of Chicago. He was born in Lithuania and educated in the Slobodka Yeshiva. After his ordination, he came to the United States.