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## U.S. AND ISRAEL DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST DEFENSE ORGANIZATION

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Israel's participation in a Middle East defense organization is being discussed with the Israel Government, Secretary of State Dean Acheson indicated at his press conference today.

Asked what steps would follow Egypt's rejection of Middle East command proposals, Mr. Acheson said that discussions are being held with other Middle Eastern governments and he specified that these governments included Israel.

The Secretary was asked if he was optimistic over chances of the Arabs making peace with Israel so that Arabs and Jews might co-operate in the defense of the region. An Arab-Israel peace agreement would be a great bulwark to peace and security, he replied. He gave the impression that he wished such a peace arrangement would be made.

Mr. Acheson said he regretted Egypt's rejection of Middle East command proposals extended four days ago by the U.S., France, Turkey and the United Kingdom. "It is the hope of the United States Government," Mr. Acheson said, "that Egypt will carefully reconsider the course of action on which it has embarked and will recognize that its own interest will be served by joining the other nations of the free world in assuring the defense of the Middle East against the common danger." He added that "for its part the United States Government considers the action of the Egyptian Government (on the Suez Canal and Sudan) to be without validity."

## Britain Will Not Approach Israel on Middle East Defense

LONDON, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- While the United States Government is considering an approach to Israel to join in a Middle East defense project, no such approach will be made, either immediately or in the near future, by Britain, it was indicated here today in authoritative British circles.

The Foreign Office here still entertains the hope that Egypt may change its mind and agree to participate in a Middle East defense plan. But even if Egypt remains adamant, Britain is not likely to approach Israel for a long time with any suggestion for participation in a Middle East defense organization. The British view is that Jordan and Iraq, where British troops and planes are based, are considerably more important than Israel.

It was pointed out here today that France wants Syria to be included in a Middle East defense arrangement, and that the United States wants Saudi Arabia to be included in such a project. None of these Arab countries would agree to the inclusion

of Israel, it is believed here. Contrary to the present sentiment in Washington with regard to the inclusion of Israel in a defense plan, the feeling here is that as little as possible must be done to alienate the Arabs.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learns from reliable sources that the projected Middle East defense plan envisaged the inclusion of all Arab states and the conclusion of a secret agreement between the western powers and Israel for the immediate participation of the Jewish state when an emergency situation develops in the area. In return, Israel could expect definite military aid and some economic aid.

This plan, it was indicated here today, has now been shelved indefinitely because of the flare-up in Egypt. No decision will be taken on what the next step should be until the foreshadowed meeting in Washington between the western military commanders and American military leaders takes place, it is believed.

#### ISRAEL PREMIER REPORTS TO CABINET ON MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet today heard a report by Premier David Ben Gurion on Middle East developments stemming from Egypt's decision to oust the British from the Suez Canal area. The Premier indicated how current developments may affect the Jewish state.

Premier Ben Gurion--in his capacity as Acting Foreign Minister during the absence of Moshe Sharett who is in the United States--also reported to the Cabinet on the talks in Paris initiated by the U.N. Palestine Conciliation Committee with a view to concluding an Arab-Israeli peace. In addition, he reviewed the general political situation.

(In Paris today, the Israeli delegation to the U.N. "peace" conference released the text of a letter it had sent to the Palestine Conciliation Commission protesting the Arab states' refusal to give any other guarantee of co-operation except that they would not use armed force against Israel. This, the Israel note declared, violates the U.N. Charter, the Security Council decision on the Suez Canal which recognized economic boycott measures as hostilities, and the armistice agreements which ban hostilities in a general sense rather than just the use of armed force.)

#### Arab-Israel Peace Must Precede Defense Pact, Ben Gurion Says

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Prior conclusion of an Arab-Israeli peace pact is essential to Israel's joining a Middle Eastern regional defense organization in which Egypt would be one of the founders of such an organization, it was indicated by Premier David Ben Gurion when he conferred with American Ambassador Monnet B. Davis this week.

It was learned here today by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Premier Ben Gurion pointed out to the American Ambassador in Tel Aviv that Arab-Israel peace is necessary because, under the present circumstances, Israel could not risk sharing her military secrets with Egypt in a regional defense arrangement.

Another point that was stressed by the Israel Premier when he was informed by the U.S. Ambassador of the western powers' invitation to Egypt to join a Middle Eastern defense project, was that if Egypt were to receive a heavy supply of additional arms, Israel would then be forced to seek for her own defense an equal supply of munitions.

The State Department has been informed that in the Israel view, Egypt led the Arab states in making war against the Jewish state and therefore should be charged with the responsibility for leading the way toward a peace settlement. Israel is skeptical about the tripartite peace guarantee issued by the United Kingdom, France, and the U.S. because these powers failed to act when Syria violated Israel's territory several months ago.

## ISRAEL CABINET DECIDES TO ORDER ARMY TO REPLACE RAIL STRIKERS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- The Israeli Cabinet today decided that if negotiations between the Ministry of Communications and the striking railroad engineers collapse the army will be ordered to take over the national rail system.

The Cabinet heard Premier David Ben Gurion--acting in the capacity of Defense Minister--report that the army had already begun to move foodstuffs and prefabricated houses needed in the immigrant work villages. The material has been piling up in the port of Haifa since Sunday when the walk-out began.

A total of 110 army trucks was dispatched to the port area of Haifa last night to transport the food and housing materials and it is planned to have the army hire additional trucks from private companies. Minister of Communications David Pinchas interrupted his holiday to attend the negotiations with the railroad engineers.

The Cabinet appointed a committee consisting of four Ministers to study the general supply situation in the country and submit a report in about two weeks. The committee consists of Minister of Trade and Industry Dov Joseph, Minister of Finance Eliezer Kaplan, Minister of Communications David Pinkas and Minister of Economic Co-ordination Peretz Naphtali.

## LEVEL OF LAKE HULEH DROPS; WATER DIVERTED TO JORDAN RIVER

TEL AVIV, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- The level of Lake Huleh has dropped about 20 percent since the recent opening of a sluice gate across a channel from the lake to the Jordan River.

The operation was undertaken two weeks ago when an earthen bulwark across a new channel in the Jordan River was blasted away and the old channel was drained. The immediate reason for the opening was the necessity of obtaining enough water in the new channel to permit movement of floating equipment used on the Huleh drainage project. In addition, another dam across the southern end of the lake is to be closed soon to permit dredges to deepen the river bed at various points.

Meanwhile, the tremendous changes wrought by the loss of an estimated 5,000,000 cubic meters of water have caused concern among the communities and land owners on the lake front and along the northern portions of the Jordan River, whose deepening has necessitated the action. In some instances navigation of larger river craft has been halted, while in other areas settlements have been unable to obtain water because their piping systems no longer extend below the lake's water level. The authorities have begun to work on projects for restoring the situation to normal.

## NATIONAL CONVENTION OF JEWS IN CHILE ADDRESSED BY DR. GOLDMANN

SANTIAGO DE CHILE, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, co-chairman of the Jewish Agency, was the guest of honor here tonight at a banquet at the Hotel Crillon tendered by the Chilean Jewish community. Dr. Goldmann addressed leaders of all sections of the community Monday in support of the United Jewish Campaign in Chile and yesterday opened the sixth national convention of the Jews of Chile with an address at the Municipal Theatre.

JEWISH AGENCY WILL REOPEN HEBREW SCHOOLS IN ETHIOPIA

TEL AVIV, 17. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency's cultural department and the Hebrew World Union are planning to reopen Hebrew schools in Abyssinia for Falasha Jewish children, it was reported here today. The schools for the Ethiopian Jews were closed when Italy occupied the country.

It is estimated here that the Falasha Jews number some 60,000, but British statistics indicate that the figure may be closer to 100,000. It is understood that illness has decimated Abyssinia's Jews and that missionary institutions have made further inroads on the Jewish population by converting thousands of Jews to different Christian churches.

EBAN LAUDED IN SATURDAY EVENING POST AS EXCELLENT DIPLOMAT

NEW YORK, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Abba S. Eban, "is fast winning a reputation as an expert at diplomatic repartee," the current issue of the Saturday Evening Post says in an article describing the activities of Mr. Eban in Washington and at the United Nations.

Emphasizing that Ambassador Eban is only 36 years old, the article, titled "That Witty Young Man from Israel," tells the story of his meteoric career in the Zionist cause. It stresses the role which he plays as Israel's principal contact with Jewish communities in the United States.

Written by Henry F. and Katharine Pringle, the article says that Mr. Eban understands "very well the reasons for the vacillations of the United States in its Palestine policy," adding:

"He knows that no Israeli issue is ever considered except in relation to the Arab world. His unceasing task is to make sure that Israel's viewpoint gets across and has strong backing. In this he finds encouragement in what he has called 'a reservoir of support in the United States.' Eban has been gratified, on his trips around the country, to learn that his reservoir is not limited to large cities nor to Jewish groups."

CUBAN PRESIDENT RECEIVES ISRAELI DIPLOMAT; PROMISES CO-OPERATION

HAVANA, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- President Carlos Prío Socarras of Cuba today received Dr. Moshe Toff, member of Israel's delegation at the United Nations. It is understood that the President told the Israeli diplomat that Cuba will fully co-operate with Israel in various problems concerning the Jewish state. Toff was also received here by Foreign Minister Aureliano Sanchez Arango.

ORT ESTABLISHES NEW VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- The American Ort Federation today announced that a new vocation training center will be established in Nathanya by the Israeli ORT. The municipal authorities in Nathanya have allocated 100,000 Israeli pounds (\$280,000) out of the city's development budget for the building of the school, the announcement said.

BOMBAY-LYDDA AIR LIFT FOR IMMIGRANTS WILL BE RE-ESTABLISHED

BOMBAY, India, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- It is expected that the Bombay-Lyddá air lift for immigrants will be re-established before the end of the year, it was learned today. The operation was suspended because of a shortage of aviation gas in India. Several hundred Jews have been awaiting transportation to Israel for many months.

U.S. GROUP ASKS MOSCOW CHIEF RABBI FOR INFORMATION ON JEWS IN USSR

NEW YORK, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Solomon Shleifer of Moscow was requested by an American rabbinical organization to supply concrete information on various aspects of Jewish life in the Soviet Union, it was announced here today. The organization--Associated Legislative Rabbinate of America--also appealed to Soviet Ambassador Alexander Paniushkin in Washington to facilitate the reply by the Moscow rabbi.

The spiritual leader of Soviet Jewry was asked by the American Orthodox group to report the number of Jews living in the U.S.S.R., and the Jewish population of such major cities as Moscow, Kiev, Minsk, Odessa, Riga, Lemberg, and Kharkov. In addition, the Moscow Chief Rabbi was requested to furnish information on the number of Jews who attended daily services, holiday and High Holy Day services in the various cities. Also requested were reports on the number of rabbis in the Soviet Union, the number of synagogues functioning in the various major cities and the number of prayer books and Scrolls in the various cities.

The Associated Legislative Rabbinate also asked the Moscow Chief Rabbi for his opinion on whether the Soviet authorities would permit the acceptance by him, or by the various Jewish communities or any other authorities of shipments of prayer and sacred books and religious articles as a gift of the Jews of America.

ATTEMPT TO BOMB MIAMI SYNAGOGUE FAILS; SUSPECTS QUESTIONED

MIAMI, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- The Miami bomb squad has arrested and questioned four persons in connection with an unsuccessful attempt to bomb Temple Israel here last week.

Several sticks of dynamite were found by four boys who doused them with water and then called police. The authorities believe that the dynamite failed to explode because of a faulty fuse. At the same time, a Ku Klux Klan sign was found scrawled on the synagogue wall.

Earlier, a sign in German was found on Tiforeth Israel Center threatening Jews and Negroes with the fate of the Jews in Germany. After that, several anonymous telephone calls threatening to blast the center were received by its officers. Last June a bomb wrecked the partially completed center and delayed its completion by many weeks.

PROPOSAL ON GERMAN PROPERTY CLAIMS IN U.S. OPPOSED BY LEHMAN

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Sen. Herbert H. Lehman last night asked the Senate for the defeat of an amendment to the German peace resolution which would allow Germans to reopen claims in the United States in connection with property seized under the war-time Enemy Property Act.

Sen. Lehman asked the Senate to pass the peace resolution, which would help restore Germany to independence, but to defeat the "shameful rider" which was added by Sen. Alexander Wiley of Wisconsin.

"I hope the Senate will be given an opportunity affirmatively to strike this rider from the resolution and thus permit the Halbach-I.G. Farben case to be considered by the Judiciary Committee as a private bill, which it properly is," Sen. Lehman said. Opponents of the rider have contended it is designed primarily to benefit Ernest K. Halbach, former American representative of the I.G. Farben industrial empire of Germany.