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JOSEPH SPRINZAK TO ACT AS PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL, OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Joseph Sprinzak, Speaker of the Knesset, will act as President of the Jewish State from today owing to Dr. Chaim Weizmann's illness and inability to fulfill his Presidential duties, it was officially announced today in the Parliament. Mr. Sprinzak will serve as President until February 7, the announcement said.

A bulletin issued this morning by the physicians attending Dr. Weizmann said the "relative improvement" in his general condition continues. It reported that the President spent another quiet night and ate breakfast with an appetite. President Weizmann had a number of visitors this morning, including Dr. Isadore Shalit, delegate to the first World Zionist Congress which was held in Basle in 1897.

ISRAEL PARLIAMENT URGES STRIKING SEAMEN TO RETURN TO WORK

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament today adopted a resolution calling upon the striking Israeli seamen to cease their month-old strike.

Addressing the Parliament, Premier David Ben Gurion, in his capacity as Acting Minister of Communication, said that the strikers have been "misled by a small group of political saboteurs." He urged the seamen to return to work and assured them that their rights would be safeguarded. "I am ready to receive their delegation and hear their complaints, if any," he said, "but the Government will not allow the fist to rule in our state."

Mr. Ben Gurion made his statement at the conclusion of a stormy debate on the seamen's strike which started in Parliament yesterday. Communications Minister David Pinkas, who left for the United States today, told the house last night that the strikers were attempting to sabotage Israel's merchant navy.

The Communications Minister reported that when the strike began, Israel's merchant marine employed 1,100 seamen, of whom 882 were Israelis and 218 were foreigners. Urging the deputies to condemn the strike and approve the government's policy in this matter, Minister Pinkas said: "I'd like to see any hands raised here in favor of seamen striking in foreign ports." He insisted that the seamen's action was not a strike, but a walk-out.

Clashes Between Striking Seamen and Volunteers Continue

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Clashes continued today in Haifa between striking Israeli seamen and volunteer workers, while in Tel Aviv port laborers declared a one-hour strike to express solidarity with the seamen.

A street demonstration in support of the striking seamen was held here last night, arranged by the pro-Communist Mapam party. Police who attempted to

rest Abraham Shlonsky, well-known Israeli poet, on the charge of "participating and addressing an illegal demonstration," were prevented from doing so by several hundred demonstrators. Unable to detain him on the spot, the police arrested Mr. Shlonsky later at his home.

Israeli Crew Declares Strike on Ship on Reaching New York Port

NEW YORK, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The American-Israeli Line freighter "Yafo" which arrived in New York port on Monday night from Botwood, Newfoundland, was unable to discharge its cargo today because the crew went on strike.

After the ship was tied up last night, the crew held a meeting and put up a sign outside the ship this morning reading "This Ship Is On Strike." Members of the crew refused to lower the gangways or turn on power for the electric winches for discharge of cargo.

The gangs of longshoremen who came to the pier to work the ship were unable to unload the cargo because of the action of the crew. All members of the crew remained aboard the freighter. The office of the American-Israeli Line here indicated that the crew had acted upon instructions from the striking seamen in Israel and could not predict when the cargo would be discharged from the "Yafo." The cargo was picked up by the Israeli freighter at the Newfoundland port.

U.N. AGENCY RECOMMENDS AID PROGRAM FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES

PARIS, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine refugees recommended tonight a three-year \$350,000,000 program to assist "re-integration" of the refugees.

The Agency, in its report to the U.N. General Assembly, sets aside only \$50,000,000 for direct relief for the refugees. It suggests that local governments in the Middle East should each assume the maximum possible administrative responsibility for carrying out the program. It also urges that arrangements be made to transfer the relief administration to these governments not later than July 1, 1952.

ISRAEL DELEGATE AT U.N. STRESSES GERMANY'S FAILURE TO CONDEMN NAZIS

PARIS, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Regret was expressed at the U.N. Political Committee here today over the fact that the representative of Western Germany in his first appearance before the United Nations did not feel it necessary to condemn the Nazi regime and to express sympathy for its victims.

The regret was voiced by the Israeli delegate, Maurice Fischer, speaking at the Political Committee. He expressed the hope that the Committee will take note of this fact. Mr. Fischer is expected to make another statement in the Committee tomorrow.

ISRAEL SUBMITS REPLY TO MOSCOW WARNING ON MIDDLE EAST DEFENSE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Israel's reply to the Soviet note warning the Israel Government against joining any Western-sponsored Middle East defense arrangement was presented two days ago to the Soviet Foreign Office by Israel's Minister in Moscow, it was officially announced here today. The announcement gave no details of the text of the reply.

UNIDENTIFIED PLANES APPEAR OVER ISRAEL; FLY TOWARD GAZA

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- A number of unidentified planes flew over Israel territory in the Negev, it was officially announced here today. The planes were heading in the direction of the Egyptian-held Gaza strip, according to the announcement.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT TO RECEIVE 51 PERCENT OF POTASH COMPANY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11, (JTA) -- Representatives of the Israel Government and of the Palestine Potash Company today told a press conference here that under the terms of the agreement reached between the two with regard to the reorganization of the company, 51 percent of the shares will belong to the Israel Government and 49 percent to private persons. The new company will receive a \$3,500,000 loan, of which \$2,500,000 will come from the American Export-Import Bank. Half of the management will be appointed by the Israel Government.

Headquarters of the potash company will be in Israel. Work at the potash plant, which has been suspended since the outbreak of the Arab-Israel war, will be resumed soon, Fritz Naftali, Israeli Minister without portfolio, told the journalists. He emphasized that the new company will not satisfy itself with the exploitation of the Dead Sea minerals as hitherto, but will also undertake new work. The company will change its name, he said.

MAPAI AND MAPAM CLASH IN AIN HAROD; DIVIDED MANAGEMENT ESTABLISHED

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11, (JTA) -- Clashes took place yesterday between Mapai and Mapam members in the collective settlement of Ain Harod after the members of the Mapam attempted to erect a fence to divide the chicken run in the settlement. One member of the colony was slightly injured.

The settlement, one of the oldest in the country, is now under the management of two separate secretariats. At a meeting of the Agricultural Workers Council which followed the clashes, both sides were urged to submit lists of names of their members in order to arrange just food distribution between the two groups. Meanwhile, an agreement was reached on the proportional distribution between the two groups of eggs and poultry.

HADASSAH TO INAUGURATE NEW COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 11, (JTA) -- Dr. Kalman J. Mann, of Jerusalem, was today named director general of the Hadassah Medical Organization in Israel before 1,500 medical chairmen and metropolitan leaders of Hadassah. He is the fourth Medical Director to hold the post since Hadassah began its medical program in Palestine in 1913.

At the same time, Dr. Mann made the first public announcement of a radically new community health program, which Hadassah will inaugurate in Israel and which will involve drastic revision in the training of Israel's physicians. The program was evolved after a long series of discussions between Dr. Mann and the Medical Advisory Board of the Hebrew University and Hadassah and the National Board of Hadassah.

The training of new physicians in Israel, Dr. Mann said, will stress the social medicine orientation. The curriculum of the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School will be so revised, he said, that the medical student will first have to study community health problems before he is even admitted to the diagnostic and curative phases of his training.

Dr. Mann pointed out that the new program will be "keyed to community health needs rather than to the individual. Emphasis will be on maintenance of health rather than on diagnosis and cure of disease. The new program "was particularly suited to Israel where enforced austerity could conceivably jeopardize health standards," Dr. Mann said.

GERMAN CHANCELLOR READY TO START TALKS WITH JEWS ON REPARATION

LONDON, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, who is here on a visit, replying to newsmen's queries as to whether there had been a change of heart in Germany since Hitler's persecution of the Jews, said that "this persecution was felt to be a very grave moral burden on the Federal German Republic."

West Germany, he continued, would "endeavor in the future, to the best of its ability, to repair the damage that has been done to Jewry and to recognize this as a duty binding on her, and also as an ethical obligation."

The West German leader stated that negotiations on the problem of reparations for Jews had been held up by the fact that various Jewish organizations dealing with the matter had not yet been in agreement. "Now that they have come together, and are in contact with the Israel Government, negotiations can begin," he added. He expressed the hope that the negotiations would conclude successfully.

U.N. SEEKS COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF NAZI "MEDICAL" EXPERIMENTS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The United Nations has forwarded to the Bonn Government the case history of 74 victims of Nazi "medical" experiments on concentration camp inmates, Secretary General Trygve Lie's office here announced today. In acknowledging receipt of the 74 cases, the Bonn Government informed the U.N. that the claims had been sent to the Ministry of Finance, "which will take steps at the earliest convenience to effect compensation."

The Israel Government has already informed the U.N. Secretary-General that it is collecting data from a number of victims now living in Israel. Also, the Netherlands National Trading Bureau has stated that it is forwarding data on 143 other victims now residing in Holland.

JEWISH LAWYERS IN GERMANY TO HOLD TWO-DAY CONFERENCE IN BERLIN

DUSSELDORF, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- A conference of Jewish lawyers living in West Germany and lawyers working in Germany in behalf of Jewish organizations has been called for December 15-16 in West Berlin.

Among the leading personalities who will speak at the conference are Dr. T. Dehler, Federal Minister of Justice; Dr. H. Almelunxen, Minister of Justice of North Rhine-Westphalia; and authorities on reparations problems. Dr. H. G. Van Dam, secretary-general of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, will address the parley on world Jewish reparations aims. Some 250 delegates are expected to attend the conference.

GERMAN LEADER OF "PEACE WITH ISRAEL" MOVEMENT CHARGED WITH NAZISM

HAMBURG, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Eric Leuth, Bonn Government information officer and leader in the German "peace with Israel" movement, has been accused by his former military commander, Olaf Mumm, of having edited a Nazi military paper during the war and with having delivered wartime lectures imbued with the Nazi spirit. A civil hearing of the charges will be started next month. Leuth denied the charges and said he would produce witnesses to prove that the allegations are unfounded.

ITALY PROMULGATES LAW SECURING RE-EMPLOYMENT OF DEPORTED JEWS

ROME, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The Italian Government has just promulgated a law providing for the re-employment of deported Italian Jews and other victims of the Fascist regime.

The law provides that a private employer must re-hire such a victim of Fascism and cannot dismiss that employee for a period of one year after the re-hiring date.

MIAMI RABBIS TURN DOWN OFFER OF VETERANS TO GUARD SYNAGOGUES

MIAMI, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Rabbis and other Jewish leaders in Miami Beach today rejected the offer of the Jewish War Veterans to maintain a 24-hour guard around synagogues in order to prevent further acts of terrorism.

About 50 Jewish veterans were deputized yesterday by the local police authorities, at their own request, and set up an around-the-clock guard at the West Miami synagogue. They declared their readiness to patrol all houses of worship, not only Jewish. They were given the power to make arrests, but had no permission to carry weapons.

Today, the rabbis of Miami Beach said that they do not want the Jewish veterans to patrol synagogues. "We affirm our complete faith in the determination and willingness of properly constituted authorities, augmented by the F. B. I., to protect synagogues and all houses of worship from dynamiting," the rabbis said in a statement. A similar stand was taken also by the local office of the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith.

PRODUCERS OF "DESERT FOX" AGREE NOT TO SHOW THE FILM IN GERMANY

NEW YORK, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee announced today that producers of "The Desert Fox" have now entirely agreed not to show the film in Germany for "some time to come." The information came to the Committee from Zachariah Schuster, director of its European office in Paris, who learned of the agreement from high American and German officials in Germany.

Mr. Schuster reported that all these officials felt strongly that exhibition in Germany at this time of a film which glorifies a Nazi general was not propitious. Recently the State Department decided that while it disapproved of exhibiting the "Desert Fox" in Germany, it could not prevent the showing of this film.

FEDERAL AGENCIES CHECKED ON NON-DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The Fair Employment Board of the U. S. Civil Service Commission has ordered every Federal agency to report on what it is doing to give minority groups fair treatment in training programs and promotion opportunities.

This survey marks the first intra-governmental check-up since July, 1949. Agencies were also asked to report on efforts to achieve non-discriminatory practices in the recruiting, rating, and appointment of new employers.

BURTON BERRY NAMED ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NEAR EAST

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The State Department today announced the designation of Burton Y. Berry as Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs. In his foreign service career, Berry was at one time stationed in Egypt.

Dr. Haim J. Zadok, Deputy Attorney General of Israel, arrived in Washington today for meetings with leaders of the government and the American labor movement. He is scheduled to meet with Chief Justice Fred Vinson, of the Supreme Court; Federal Security Administrator Oscar R. Ewing; Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin; Attorney General J. Howard McGrath, and others.

WORLD MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN JEWS AND ARABS, GEN. KENNEDY SAYS

MONTREAL, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The Western world has the "frightening" choice between Jews and Arabs in the settling of the Palestine question, Major-General Howard Kennedy, former director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, told local members of the Military Engineers' Association.

The choice, he declared, lay between alienating the friendship of the Arabs with their control of more than half of the world's known oil resources along with the sympathy of the 300,000,000 Moslems of the world or continuing to foster the new state of Israel. Gen. Kennedy said it was a waste of time trying to satisfy and support both sides. It was impossible to view the problem without considering the 865,000 Arab refugees camped on the borders of Israel, he added.

REMAINS OF JEWISH HEROES WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO ISRAEL

VIENNA, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The remains of two Jewish heroes who were captured and executed by the Nazis during World War II while on a secret Allied mission in Czechoslovakia will be transferred to Israel, it was learned here today.

The two, Cheviva Reik and Raphael Reisa, were parachuted into Czechoslovakia in 1944 on a mission to hearten Slovak Jews and organize resistance to the Nazis. They were captured and executed. Their remains now lie in the British cemetery at Prague.

Their graves came under the protection of the Israeli authorities this week when the Israeli Minister, in the presence of the British military attache, the rabbinate, prominent Czech Jews and members of the Israeli colony in Prague, affixed the Star of David to their tombstones. The Czechoslovak authorities and the British Legation have agreed to the transfer of the bodies to Israel.

THREE JEWISH AUTHORS WIN 1951 LITERARY PRIZES IN MEXICO

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The 1951 "Zvi Kessel prizes" for the best books in Yiddish and Hebrew published during the year were announced here today. The winners are I. I. Trunk of New York, author of a Yiddish novel "Simcha Plachte" based on a Jewish legend; Simshon Meltzer of Tel Aviv, author of a Hebrew volume, "Poems and Ballads," and Joseph Rogel of Montreal, author of "Aushwitz," a book of Yiddish poems reflecting the life of Jews in the Nazi annihilation camp of Oswiecim where he was one of the inmates. The prizes carry \$200 each.

THREE JEWS ELECTED TO TORONTO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

TORONTO, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Three Jews have been elected to the Toronto City Council, it was reported today. They are Allan Grossman, Phillip Givens and Howard Phillips. Nathan Phillips, father of one of the new Councilmen, who had been a member of the City Council for the last 28 years, was defeated in his first attempt to win the mayoralty election.