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FLOOD ENDANGERS NEW SETTLEMENTS IN ISRAEL; GOVT. MOBILIZES AID

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Thousands upon thousands of Israeli men, women and youth today labored to repair some of the damage caused by more than a week of torrential rains, howling wind and raging flood in all parts of the country. At the same time, preparations were being hurried to hold back new floods that are expected with the resumption of rains forecast for late today.

Although the rains let up in various parts of the country last night and this morning, flood water still making its way down from the mountains is endangering many settlements which have so far been spared. The government has officially called on all parts of the population not to relax their efforts to aid the disaster victims and to prepare defenses against new trouble.

The Israeli Cabinet's major agenda item today was consideration of the flood situation. Premier David Ben Gurion, following lengthy meetings with government and Jewish Agency officials, yesterday gave the go-ahead signal for the construction of temporary wooden housing for evacuees from immigrant work villages and agricultural settlements. This was in addition to the opening of the schools and other public buildings to receive thousands of men, women and children.

Chanukah Recess Cancelled; Teachers, Students Aid Victims

Praise for the spirit shown by the Israeli people in this emergency situation was voiced by many government and national leaders, including Tel Aviv's Mayor Israel Rokach who pointed out that despite an acute clothing shortage residents of the city responded to a call for warm clothing by donating thousands of blankets, coats, sweaters, shoes and underwear for relief purposes.

With the permission of the Chief Rabbinate thousands of civilian volunteers left their homes on the Sabbath yesterday to help put the Maabarot back into shape. While women's groups organized soup kitchens, men and boys dug and hammered as mud was removed and damaged housing was repaired or new shelters constructed.

Co-operating to the fullest extent were the army, local municipal councils, scouting organizations and women's groups. Notable among the latter were the Working Women's Council, WIZO and the General Zionist women's organization. They were joined by teachers and older students whose Chanukah recess was cancelled so that they could assist. As of yesterday at least 5,000 children had been evacuated from immigrant camps, in addition to many homeless family units, but in the intervening 24 hours additional hundreds of persons have been rescued from

camp and settlements which were no longer habitable. As of yesterday it was known that 29 of the 163 Maabarot had been severely damaged by the storms.

In line with the Premier's orders for emergency relief, the Ministry of Education has been given full power to make all schools available to evacuees, while the Ministry of Trade and Industry has been authorized to issue food rations to the disaster victims. Communications services were also ordered to give top priority to relief needs.

Flood Victims in North Seek Shelter in Hills

Road transport into Tel Aviv was brought to a virtual standstill this week-end by flood waters which submerged highways and washed out bridges. Roads linking Tel Aviv and nearby Petach Tikvah were impassable. Service on the railway line was brought to a halt as flood waters from the hills covered the rail lines. Even telephone communications were disrupted by the storm and most lines linking Tel Aviv with other centers were not functioning.

The Muszara wadi, converted into a raging torrent by flood waters, overflowed and covered the Hatikvah quarter of Tel Aviv. Its inhabitants were evacuated to other sections of the city for temporary shelter. Tel Aviv's buses were taken off their regular runs to be used to evacuate the Hatikvah quarter residents and others. Boats from Tel Aviv port were sent along the coast to pick up stranded families in isolated settlements.

In northern Israel, the settlement of Nahariya, which had been flooded in the first days of the heavy gale which swept the country, was flooded again and its inhabitants were forced to seek shelter in the hills. Planes of the Israeli airforce are making regular sweeps over the country to observe and report conditions. Cargo planes and Piper Cubs are being sent to drop food to isolated settlements.

The Israeli Army, which has taken over relief and rescue operations in the Maabarot, the immigrant work camps, cancelled all leaves in a number of army units and ordered personnel to stand by for emergencies. All firemen, police and first aid reservists have been alerted for rescue operations. The army reported that evacuation of imperilled immigrant camps had been almost completed.

Jews in England Get Appeal to Help Israel's Flood Victims

LONDON, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- An urgent plea for emergency relief for victims of the floods inundating large areas of Israel in the wake of heavy storms was received here today by the Federation of Jewish Relief Societies. The appeal, signed by Dr. J.M. Machover, chairman of the federation, who is now in Israel, and Mrs. Shoshana Persitz, member of the Israeli Parliament, declared:

"We send this urgent appeal to Anglo-Jewry and we are sure that members of the community will respond with their usual immediate generosity to alleviate unspeakable suffering in the immigrant work camps."

HEAD OF U.S. "POINT FOUR" AID PROGRAM DIES IN IRAN PLANE CRASH

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The death of Dr. Henry Bennett, head of the American program of assistance to underdeveloped countries, in a plane crash two miles from Teheran, Iran, last night was announced here today. The head of President Truman's famed "Point Four" program died together with his wife and three assistants.

STRIKE (F ISRAELI SEAMEN MAY BE CALLED OFF TODAY)

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The seamen's strike which has been going on in Israel for more than 40 days is expected to be called off tomorrow as a result of a compromise reached today between the strikers and the Histadrut, Israel's Federation of Labor, against whom the strike was directed.

The Histadrut has agreed to accept the strikers' demand that all seamen who joined the strike be allowed to return to their jobs. On the other hand, the Histadrut has rejected the strikers' demand that those union members who were drafted into the Israeli Army during the strike be released from army service.

EBAN REVIEWS AMERICAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS; REPORTS ON CLAIMS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The relations between Israel and the United States were reviewed here today at a press conference by Abba S. Eban, Israel's Ambassador to Washington, who is now on a short visit in the Jewish State prior to his departure for Paris to head the Israeli delegation at the United Nations General Assembly.

Ambassador Eban said that the Governments of the United States and Israel each has a different approach to the Middle East problems but that there is understanding in Washington for Israel's views and difficulties. The Israel mission in the United States, he stated, has lengthily discussed with American authorities problems connected with the fate of the Middle East. He pointed out that the latest developments in the Middle East have proved to America that American aid to Israel is not a source of tension and resentment against the United States in Arab countries.

Touching upon the question of Israel's claims against Germany, Mr. Eban reported that discussions proved that the Western Powers are not prepared to present Israel's claims for reparations to Germany, although they sympathize with them. Consequently, Mr. Eban added, Israel must decide whether to give up the looted Jewish property to the "killers," or to start direct negotiations.

The Israel Ambassador expressed gratitude to American Jewry with whom, he said, it is important to keep ties. Asked about the American Zionists, Ambassador Eban said the whole of American Jewry now associates itself with the Zionist aims, the absorption of mass immigration in Israel and the economic stabilization of the Jewish state.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED OIL COMPANY TO BEGIN OPERATIONS SOON

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The refining of crude oil by an Israel Government-sponsored fuel corporation will begin early next year, it was officially announced here last night. The corporation, known as the Israel Fuel Corporation, will produce up to 30 percent of Israel's local needs in gasoline, kerosene and Diesel fuel within three years.

The government is subscribing half of the corporation's 650,000-pound capitalization, the announcement said. Other shareholders in the concern include: Anglo-Palestine Bank; Capital Investment Company; Noa Transport Company; Hamashbir Hamerkazi, central supplying institution for the co-operative movement; and Zim Navigation Company. Dr. Gershon Meron, director of the Foreign Ministry's economic department, is resigning to head the company, which will have a managing council of 12 persons.

The announcement also stressed that Israel has been paying out some \$2,500,000 in hard currency monthly to obtain the various fuels needed on the domestic market. It is estimated that \$40,000,000 to \$45,000,000 worth of oil will be needed in 1952. The first crude oil stocks bought by the new corporation, 120,000 tons, have been purchased by the new corporation.

IRAQ DEPRIVES 610 JEWS OF PROPERTY AND CITIZENSHIP; FAILED TO RETURN

LONDON, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- A total of 610 Iraqi Jews who were outside Iraq and failed to return within three months after the publication of a formal government notice to that effect have been officially deprived of their property and citizenship, it was reported here today from Bagdad. The regulation under which the action was taken was first published six months ago in a series of anti-Jewish moves by the Iraqi Government.

AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS GRANTING LOAN TO ISRAEL

VIENNA, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The Austrian Government is considering granting a loan to Israel, according to reports circulating here of an interview granted by Chancellor Leopold Figl to Dr. Immanuel Unger, editor of the Tel Aviv afternoon newspaper, "Yediot Hayom."

High officials of the Chancellery here confirmed these reports, but did not say how much of a loan was under consideration by the Austrian Government. According to these same sources, the loan is expected to display this country's good will towards the Jewish State.

Meanwhile, it was revealed here that a student exchange plan between Israel and Austria is well advanced and it is hoped that between 100 and 120 students from both countries will visit the exchange country in 1952. Israelis would be accommodated in a camp in Salzburg.

FIRST TRANSPORT OF ISRAELI CITRUS PRODUCTS LEAVES FOR RUSSIA

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- A first shipment of 60,000 cases of Israel citrus products will leave for the Russian Black Sea port of Odessa on December 25 in the Israel freighter Rimón, it was announced today. The Soviet Union has contracted for the purchase of 125,000 cases of Israel citrus fruits.

Constantin Stănescu, new Rumanian Minister to Israel, presented his credentials to Acting President Joseph Sprinzak at brief ceremonies here this week-end.

FORMER JEWISH RESIDENTS OF BERLIN URGED TO FILE CLAIMS

LONDON, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The Council for the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Jews from Germany today issued a warning stressing that the deadline for registration of claims for compensation under the Berlin indemnification law is February 7, 1952.

The Council emphasized that all persons who prior to their flight from Germany lived in Greater Berlin--and not only in the portions of the city now occupied by the Western Powers--are entitled to file claims under this law. Compensation claims may be filed for loss of life by certain close relatives, for damage to health, loss of liberty, damage to property--including flight tax and the special levy imposed by the Nazi regime on the Jews--as well as for damage to the economic career of the complainant.

GERMAN STUDENTS IN GOETTINGEN RAISE FUNDS FOR NEEDY JEWISH STUDENTS

GOETTINGEN, Germany, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The Student Council of Goettingen University has announced its unanimous support of the "peace with Israel" campaign. In a resolution approved last night, the Council decided to launch a fund-raising campaign and to turn over the money raised to the Central Council of Jews in Germany with a request that the funds be used for aiding Jewish students.

JEWSH AGENCY OPENS DRIVE IN U.S. FOR MEDICAL PERSONNEL FOR ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA)-- A drive to recruit American medical personnel for urgently needed service in Israel was announced today by the Jewish Agency here.

A spokesman for the Agency's immigration department, which handles the selection of most categories of American technical and professional personnel for Israel, said that doctors, nurses and X-ray and laboratory technicians are being sought for 18 to 24 months of service either with Kupat Holim, the central sick fund which serves over 50 percent of Israel's population, or Malben, the welfare agency of the Joint Distribution Committee, which cares for "hard core" cases among the new immigrants.

"They will be engaged on a salary basis and adequate housing will be provided at or near their place of employment. In most cases their fare to and from Israel will be paid," the spokesman said. He emphasized that candidates will be assigned wherever their particular skills are most urgently needed.

Z.O.A. FORMS COMMITTEE ON JEWISH COMMUNITY "DEMOCRATIZATION"

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The appointment of Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum, veteran Zionist and communal leader, as national chairman of a Z. O. A. committee on the "Democratization of the American-Jewish Community," was announced here today by Benjamin G. Browdy, president of the Zionist Organization of America. This committee is charged with the task of broadening the base of representation in Jewish community councils.

The Committee on the Democratization of the American Jewish Community was established in accordance with a resolution unanimously adopted by the national administrative council of the Zionist Organization of America held last month in Chicago. The resolution, in keeping with a decision of the last World Zionist Congress, called upon American Zionists "to help in the organization of the American-Jewish community, to imbue it with the spirit and objectives of Israel, thus providing a continuing source of aid and inspiration to Israel and creating a flourishing, spiritual and cultural Jewish life in America."

To this end, the Z. O. A. resolution also urged the bringing of Jewish welfare funds within the administrative framework of such community councils, Mr. Browdy said. "Our purpose is to work in concert with all Jewish groups on the American scene that are interested in aiding the growth of democracy in the management of Jewish communal affairs in the United States," he declared, adding that "as Zionists and Jews, we have a stake in the American-Jewish community that must be forever active in shaping its development."

INCREASED JEWISH IMMIGRATION IN CANADA REPORTED FOR 1951

OTTAWA, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- A total of 4,756 Jewish immigrants entered Canada in the first nine months of this year, it was announced here today. The number of Jews who reached Canada as immigrants in the corresponding period in 1950 was only 1,823. It was noted here that the number of German immigrants in the first nine months of 1950 was 3,920 as compared with 16,427 this year.

Montreal's French Canadian population opposes any type of immigration into Canada, according to a survey prepared by Prof. Guy Debrieil for the Canadian Citizenship Council. The survey showed that Anglo-Saxon Canadians favor moderate immigration including a large proportion of immigrants of British origin, and Jewish Canadians are in favor of wide immigration.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY INAUGURATES CHAIR OF YIDDISH LITERATURE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- A chair of Yiddish literature was inaugurated at the Hebrew University here this week-end by Prof. Dov Sedan who delivered a lecture on Yiddish in the creative work of Chaim Nachman Bialik, the great Hebrew poet. The lecturer said that Bialik had considered Yiddish to be a potent means of preserving and reviving Hebrew as the national language. He emphasized that the influence of Yiddish was clearly discernable in some of Bialik's writings.

Prof. Moshe Schwabe, Rector of the University, in introducing the lecture, stressed the importance of research and instruction in Yiddish. He referred to the controversy which had arisen when it had first been proposed to establish a Yiddish chair at the University and said that "now, as Hebrew has struck such deep roots in Israel, Yiddish is no longer feared as a dangerous rival to Hebrew as the national language." The chair was made possible by the Jewish National Workers Alliance of the United States.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROTESTANT BIBLES HALTED IN NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS

RUTHERFORD, New Jersey, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The local Board of Education has temporarily halted the distribution of Protestant Bibles by the Gideon Bible Society in the schools of Rutherford after a protest by Rabbi Herman Schwartz of Temple Beth El of Rutherford, a Catholic priest and various citizens of the town.

The Bibles were to have been distributed in schools by teachers to those children whose parents had consented to their receiving them. However, after Rabbi Schwartz and others had protested, the Board of Education--which had originally given permission for the distribution--decided to seek legal advice before going ahead with the program. Rabbi Schwartz made the point, later supported by Joseph L. Bustard, Assistant Commissioner of Education of New Jersey, that the program violated the constitutional guarantees of separation of church and state.

LINCOLN'S MANUSCRIPT PRESENTED BY JEW TO WASHINGTON CHURCH

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Barney Balaban, president of Paramount Pictures Corporation, today presented the original manuscript of Abraham Lincoln's first proposal to abolish slavery, which preceded the Emancipation Proclamation, to the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Balaban said the "origins of the Lincoln Proclamation were 'rooted in a basic Judaic-Christian concept--the integrity of the individual human personality.'" He announced the establishment of a trust fund to provide awards to individuals who perform outstanding services in translating the spirit of the Emancipation Proclamation.

FIRST VOLUME OF "ISRAEL-AMERICA" YEARBOOK SENT TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The first volume of the new yearbook, "Israel-America," published by the Israel-America Friendship League, was sent to President Truman today. The specially dedicated volume was presented to Ambassador Monett B. Davis for transmission by Dr. M. Avniel, chairman of the League. The book, printed in Hebrew and English, is aimed at fostering close relations between the Israeli and American peoples.

CHANA CHIZIK, PIONEER WOMAN LEADER, DIES IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Chana Chizik, pioneer woman leader who settled in Palestine 30 years ago, died here this week-end. She had been especially active in child welfare and was the founder of a girl's farm near Tel Aviv which later became a children's farm. She visited the United States in 1930 as a delegate of the Council of Working Women in Palestine.