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ISRAEL'S 11-DAY STORM ENDS; HEAVY DAMAGES REPORTED

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Estimates of three million pounds in damage ($8,400,000) as a result of the storms which have lashed Israel during the past 11 days were being revised sharply upward today as the skies cleared throughout most of the country and flood waters dropped.

Less than a day before the storm finally ended heavy rains caused new floods in various areas and brought the lowering flood waters to new highs, re-flooding roads and bridges and causing the collapse of many buildings. Rescue operations, although hampered by the continuing rain, continued with thousands of volunteers who responded to official calls for manpower for the emergency. The third direct casualty of the storms which have ravaged the country for a week-and-a-half occurred Monday near Tel Aviv when a woman was drowned in flood waters.

All plans for celebration of Chanukah, the Feast of Lights, which began Sunday night, were cancelled because of the flood situation. Gifts prepared for Chanukah celebrations were being sent to the children evacuated from the immigrant work camps and now being temporarily sheltered in school buildings and other public edifices.

Government agencies have distributed more than 100,000 free rations to storm and flood victims in the immigrant work camps. The absorption department of the Jewish Agency has issued an appeal to workers' organizations to begin immediate collection of shoes and warm clothing, especially for children.

The flood situation was discussed at a meeting of the Cabinet which lauded the Army and the police force for their energetic rescue measures and voted additional funds for assistance of the immigrant work camps. The work of women's groups came in for particular praise. Members of 40 chapters of the WIZO were active in helping immigrants in the immigrant villages and evacuees, particularly caring for children in preparing food. Mizrachi women's organization members distributed large quantities of clothing to evacuees and toys to children.

Histadrut Launches Campaign in U.S. for Aid to Flood Victims

NEW YORK, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- An appeal for $250,000 to help Israeli flood victims was launched here today by the Histadrut campaign offices here. The fund-raising effort was launched following receipt of a cable from the Israeli labor federation in Tel Aviv reporting the aid program for disaster victims established by Histadrut institutions.

ISRAELI SEAMEN END STRIKE; FIRST VESSEL LEAVES FOR TRIESTE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- A general meeting of Israel's striking seamen today ratified decisions of their representative group to call off the strike and return to work immediately. The vote was 400-3.

The vote came after agreement between representatives of the strikers and the organizing committee of the new Histadrut-sponsored seamen's union under which the strikers are to return to work and the Histadrut will press for release from military service of strikers conscripted when they quit their jobs. All questions in dispute will be submitted to the Histadrut Council for decision and the decisions will be accepted by the seamen.

A total of 120 seamen will return to work within the next few days while the remainder will wait for ships now in foreign ports or on the high seas. The first vessel will leave tonight for Trieste to pick up a cargo of prefabricated houses. The strikers celebrated the end of their stoppage with a big Chanukah party.

SHARETT URGES ISRAEL TO DECIDE ON WHETHER TO DEAL WITH GERMANY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Israel Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett arrived at Lydda International Airport from Paris, where he headed the Israeli delegation to the United Nations, to report to Premier David Ben Gurion. The Foreign Minister said that a special Cabinet meeting was being called to hear his report and to formulate instructions for Ambassador Abba S. Eban who will proceed to Paris immediately after the turn of the year to head the Israeli delegation.

"It is time for the Knesset and the nation to decide whether or not reparations should be demanded directly from Germany," Mr. Sharett told reporters at the airport. Asked about his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Vishinsky at Paris, Mr. Sharett said it was a "routine" meeting and was concerned with mutual relations.

ISRAEL CABINET APPOINTS COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS JEWISH AGENCY STATUS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- A Ministerial committee was set up by the Cabinet last night to discuss the provisions of the proposed bill to confer special status in Israel on the Jewish Agency.

The Jewish Agency executive today welcomed the Cabinet's action and appointed a committee to contact the government's committee. The Agency's group is composed of S. Shazar, Eliahu Dobkin, Itzhak Raphael and Dr. Emanuel Neumann.

PALESTINE ECONOMIC CORPORATION WILL INVEST $10,000,000 MORE IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The Palestine Economic Corporation of New York will add another $10,000,000 in the coming year to the $25,000,000 it has already invested in Israel, Joseph Sugarman, its president, announced at a reception here last night. He said the P.E.C. would establish a new company with a revolving fund of several million dollars in foreign currency to help Israeli exports and imports.

ISRAEL DENIES VATICAN CHARGES IT SEIZED CATHOLIC CHURCH PROPERTY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- An official spokesman of the Israeli Government has emphatically denied Vatican charges that Israel has seized Catholic Church property on Mt. Zion and in Lower Galilee. The spokesman said that "the Benedictines returned to the Church of Dormition (on Mt. Zion) more than two years ago" and that the Church of Multiplication at Tabigha is "free although it is situated in Israel's security zone."

SITUATION OF JEWS IN COMMUNIST SATELLITE COUNTRIES REPORTED BLEAK

NEW YORK, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The situation of the Jews in all Communist satellite countries is "black and despairing," according to a survey prepared by the American Jewish Committee. The survey will be published in the American Jewish Year Book which will appear next Tuesday.

"In three countries--Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Rumania--the campaigns to bring about the systematic extinction of Jewish cultural, religious and communal life have reached such proportion as to threaten thousands of Jews with slavery and ultimate death," the A.J.C. report says. It presents the following summary of its survey:

BULGARIA: Only a small minority of the 49,000 Jewish survivors of war and Nazism remain after the great exodus of 1948-49. The number of Jews in Bulgaria was officially stated to be almost 10,000 while unofficial Jewish sources estimate the Jewish population as 6,000 to 8,000. Between five-sixths and seven-eighths of the post-war Bulgarian Jewish community have emigrated to Israel. Emigrants from Bulgaria stated that anti-Semitism, long absent from the country, is on the increase. The Zionist movement is liquidated, Jewish schools are closed and Jewish welfare institutions "nationalized."

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: The Jewish population in this country is about 15,000, about 4,000 of whom live in Prague. Like other religious organizations in Czechoslovakia, Jewish religious groups have been reduced to a few isolated congregations. Of the 35 synagogues in Prague, only three were open. The policy of this country is veering toward outright anti-Semitism.

POLAND: Stringent measures were taken by the government to force the liquidation of the organized Jewish community. The total Jewish population in Poland is now approximately 45,000, after a total of about 30,000 had left for Israel. The economic plight of the Jews was more acute here than any other of the Iron Curtain satellites. Economically, the Jews are suffering from increased anti-Semitism. Jewish religious life was at a minimum and except for Lodz and Warsaw, the few remaining congregations were without rabbis.

YUGOSLAVIA: Of the pre-war Jewish population of more than 80,000, only 14,000 survived the war and Nazi occupation. It is estimated that half this number have left the country for Israel. Economically, the Jews are better off in Yugoslavia than any of the other Iron Curtain countries. However, the religious life among the Jews has been sharply curtailed and there was only one rabbi still remaining in Belgrade who conducted services.

RUMANIA: Of an estimated 350,000 Jews living in Rumania in July 1949, about 250,000 still remain. About 80,000 were permitted to leave for Israel. Jews generally have had their property taken and have been left destitute and without employment because of the wholesale nationalization of small trades and business.

Anti-Semitism, always a problem in Rumania, continued unabated although incidents are never reported in the press. Religious services are continuing but rabbis have been forced to promote official "anti-imperialist" and anti-Zionist lines and participate in repeated "peace campaigns." The Jewish cultural life has been taken over by the Communist Party although some semblance of a Jewish press still remains.

JEWS TOLD TO DRAW INSPIRATION FROM CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

NEW YORK, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- A call to Jews everywhere "to draw inspiration from the heroic example of the Maccabees" and not to be discouraged in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles was issued here in a Chanukah message by Rabbi Simon G. Kramer, president of the Synagogue Council of America. A Chanukah-Christmas message, issued by Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, called for the promotion of human understanding and righteousness.

David Zvi Pinkas, Israel Minister of Communications, speaking at a Jewish National Fund Chanukah celebration, predicted that "the principles of the Religious Bloc will become the foundations on which the State of Israel will be built." A program of music, speeches and dancing featured the ninth annual Chanukah festival here of the United Organizations for the Israel Histadrut.

A bill of sale for land on which was built the first synagogue in the United States, Congregation Shearith Israel, was exhibited during the Chanukah celebration of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue of New York, which is the new name of the ancient synagogue. The land transfer was completed December 19, 1728, and the synagogue was built two years later.

PROTESTANTS USE SYNAGOGUE FOR SERVICES AFTER CHURCH BURNS

JACKSON, Tennessee, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Members of the Lambuth Memorial Methodist Church celebrated Christmas services in Temple B'nai Israel here last night after their own church was destroyed by fire.

Explaining why the Methodist church members chose to accept the Temple's offer when several other Protestant churches proffered the use of their buildings, Rev. James Irion, pastor of the Lamburth Church, said: "We were touched by the fact that people of the Jewish faith thought of us. We thought we should respond in the same spirit. It might strengthen the ties between the two faiths."

DYNAMITERS ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MIAMI

MIAMI, Florida, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- An attempt was made this week-end to blow up a Catholic Church in this city "to show" that the dynamiters who blasted a Jewish school here several weeks ago "aren't prejudiced against Jews." The attempt failed when a stick of dynamite left on the church steps failed to explode.

An anonymous telephone caller told Coral Gables Police Chief William G. Kimbrough that the dynamiting was planned to exhibit the lack of "prejudice." Miami Police Chief Walter E. Headley expressed the opinion that the dynamite was of the same make and strength as that used in six recent attacks on Jewish institutions in Miami.

MUNICH STUDENTS PLAN "PEACE WITH ISRAEL" CELEBRATION

MUNICH, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Munich University students are planning a special celebration around the idea of "peace with the people of Israel," it was reported here today. It is to be held during "Brotherhood Week," which occurs at the end of the winter term.

CANADIAN ZIONIST LEADERS HIT BEN GURION'S CRITICISMS

MONTREAL, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Declaring that Zionist circles in Canada are greatly perturbed by the recent statement by Israeli Premier David Ben Gurion that the leadership of American Zionism is bankrupt, Edward E. Gelber and Samuel Schwisberg, co-presidents of the Zionist Organization of Canada, issued a statement today asserting that if the Premier's statements are not repudiated they may prove damaging to the work of the Zionist movement on the American continent in behalf of Israel.

The statement insisted that Jews from the American continent will not be "panicked into migration by threats," adding that young people will go to Israel from countries like the United States and Canada with a positive motivation to contribute creatively to the upbuilding of the State of Israel. The co-presidents' statement says that Mr. Ben Gurion's remarks will not encourage Zionists in the Americas to perform their part in the tasks set for the Zionist movement at the last World Zionist Congress.

AMERICAN OSE LEADS JEWISH HEALTH WORK IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

NEW YORK, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The American OSE Committee has established national branches of the OSE, Jewish health organization, in ten Latin American countries, it was reported at the 10th annual meeting of the Committee here.

The American group has also been the pioneer in the opening of 11 institutions for preventive medicine in Latin American communities, including a school for nurses in Buenos Aires and a modern polyclinic hospital in Mexico City, the report said. The Committee also conducts work in Israel and Morocco.

Dr. Israel Wechsler, chairman of the board of directors, told the meeting that "these remarkable achievements were made possible through the sympathy of the Jewish people for the welfare work of the organization." He also lauded the officers of the organization for "spreading the ideas of OSE work over many countries in the Western Hemisphere."

The meeting expressed "deep gratitude" to Dr. Leon Wulman, executive director, for his devoted work and "for his courage in the face of almost insuperable obstacles." The Committee decided to inscribe Dr. Wulman's name in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund for "his more than 30 years of devoted service in the field of public health among the Jewish people throughout the world."

ISRAEL BOND DRIVE EXTENDED TO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

NEW YORK, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The extension of the Israel Bond drive to Latin American countries was reported today by bond headquarters here. The report said that thus far, the bond drive has been set in motion in three Latin American countries following some preparatory work from New York.

Harold J. Goldenberg, American Jewish leader who recently established the Kadimah Chemical Company at Haifa, has been appointed Israel chairman of the Israel Bond Drive, Henry Morgenthau Jr., chairman of the Board of Governors, announced here today. Mr. Goldenberg will channel information to the United States regarding economic development in Israel; make American visitors aware of the progress being made with the proceeds of Israel Bonds; and, keep the Israel population informed of the progress of the bond drive in the United States.

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