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KNESSET VOTES AUTHORIZATION FOR ISRAEL NEGOTIATIONS WITH GERMANY

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament today voted to authorize the Government to enter into direct negotiations with Germany for the payment of reparations claims totalling \$1,500,000,000. The vote, which followed a day of rioting outside the Knesset Monday, a day of bitter disputes and near fighting within the Knesset and then a 10-hour debate, was 61 for, 50 against, five abstaining and four absent.

The vote came on a Mapai-sponsored resolution that the "Knesset has taken notice of the Government announcement and empowers the Foreign Affairs Committee to take adequate steps according to the circumstances." An opposition motion flatly rejecting any negotiations with the Germans was defeated. The importance of the vote was underlined by the fact that each of the parties mustered every possible vote, with the Herut bringing Ariele Ben Eliezer, who was ill, to Parliament on a stretcher, while the Mapai summoned deputy David Hacohen back from Paris.

Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett, major speaker for the government today before the vote was taken, took issue with opposition deputies who charged that Israel was endangering its moral position vis-a-vis Germany by negotiating with the Bonn Government for restitution and reparations claims. Turning to Rabbi Mordecai Nurock, Mizrahi deputy and opponent of the government's position despite the fact that his party is a member of the coalition, the Foreign Minister expressed respect for Rabbi Nurock's moral position, but argued that he could not follow the "logic of his political motivation."

Why, asked Mr. Sharett, had not Rabbi Nurock argued and protested when the Jewish Agency, World Jewish Congress, Joint Distribution Committee and others began claiming property? "Why is it allowed to demand the return of property of the living and those who have heirs and why is it not allowed to demand restitution of heirless property?" he queried. "Where is the border between these demands?" he questioned.

Sharett Opposes Holding Referendum on Restitution Issue

To buttress his arguments, the Foreign Minister cited the fact that private individuals in Israel had received and would continue to receive goods from Germany. Entire plants in Israel had been completely equipped with German machinery, he said, and not only individuals but kibbutzim--Mapai and Mapam-sponsored alike--had received and were receiving German goods. "Why then should not the state receive them?"

Mr. Sharett expressed opposition to the holding of a referendum on the restitution question, but said that he was certain that a majority of the nation would support the government position if a referendum were held. He also reviewed the negotiations

between Israel and the Big Four Powers over restitution, pointing out that the U.S.S.R. has still not replied to Israeli notes.

Adolph Berman, Mapam deputy and former Jewish partisan in Poland, made an impassioned appeal against negotiations with the Germans. Referring to his experiences in the Warsaw Ghetto he said that such questions had arisen there and it had been decided that it was impossible to deal with the Nazis. "I have a right to speak in my own and my comrades' behalf; the ghetto fighters did not raise their standard in the uprising so that a few years after their extermination representatives of the Jewish people should sit down with the German representatives."

General Zionists Argue Against Talks With Germany

Several General Zionist deputies, including Mayor Israel Rokach of Tel Aviv, argued against negotiations on the grounds that only Germany would gain anything from them and that it is "doubtful that we will receive restitution." Dr. M. Boger, a General Zionist, condemned Monday's Herut-inspired rioting but, addressing the Premier personally, he insisted that Mr. Ben Gurion should not convert this into a personal issue and thus "widen the gap in the nation when unity is so badly needed."

Communist Esther Wilenska opened her address with a personal attack on Premier Ben Gurion who charged last night that the Communists as well as the Herut had inspired Monday's demonstrations. "This is a damnable lie and a wicked insinuation," she said. The phrase "damnable lie" was deleted from the official record over her protest and after she refused to retract it as demanded by Deputy Speaker Benjamin Mintz, who was presiding. She insisted that the Communists were opposed to personal terror.

During this portion of her address a number of heated insults were exchanged by Mapai and Communist deputies and the record of Shmuel Mikunis, Communist leader in Parliament, in support of the Soviet-German pact of 1939 was thrown up to him by Mapai deputies. In the midst of this exchange, Mikunis shouted that the "Communists will reign here." This raised a new storm which was finally resolved by the chairman.

After this Meir Argov, general secretary of the Mapai Party, attacked the Communists. He was followed by Mapai deputy Yona Kossoy who warned that "if one shot is fired, if one victim falls, the state will cut off the hands of those who did it."

Breakdown of Vote Shows Arabs Voted for the Resolution

A breakdown of the vote on the government resolution found the entire 46 members of the Mapai voting for it, as did six Poale Mizrachi deputies, one Mizrachi, three Progressives and five Mapai-affiliated Arab deputies. Against it were 22 General Zionists, 13 Mapam, eight Herut, five Communists, Mizrachi deputy Rabbi Nurock and Progressive Yizhar Harari. The abstainees were Agudat deputy Rabbi I.M. Levin, two Poale Agudists and two Poale Mizrachi. The absentees included one sick Mapam member and three deputies who disappeared from the chamber just before the roll was called.

Although the situation was tense within the Knesset during the debate and the vote, and although many preparations had been made by the police and unofficial reinforcements brought in from various parts of the country by the Mapai, there were no crowds outside Parliament nor was any attempt made at a demonstration. Immediately after the vote, the Knesset adjourned and after all the deputies and Cabinet members had left the police pulled down their barricades and barbed wire entanglements.

BEN GURION WARNS OF HERUT-COMMUNIST PLOT; FEARS ASSASSINATIONS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion told the people of Israel last night that the right-wing Herut Party, assisted by the Communists, are plotting against the present regime in the country and that the possibility of assassinations of members of the Israeli Cabinet by terrorists is not excluded. However, he emphasized that the government had sufficient power to fight off any attempt on the part of any group to impose its rule by violence.

"As Premier and as Minister of Defense I see it my duty to tell the nation of the gravity of the treacherous plot opened yesterday by the Irgun Zvai Leumi assisted by the Communists here," Mr. Ben Gurion said, referring to the riot in front of the Parliament on Monday. "I promise the nation--and I emphasize it--that all measures will be taken to safeguard the sovereignty of the parliament, the existence of democracy in Israel, the freedom of the people and their right to decide by a majority vote."

Speaking on a nationwide broadcast, Mr. Ben Gurion declared that a "criminal hand was raised last night against the Knesset's sovereignty and a start was made to ruin Israel's democracy." The demonstrators, he declared, had intimated that "not a government chosen by the nation but men of violent intent and political murderers will decide Israel's policy." He described the demonstrators who attacked the Knesset building as a "wild, incited mob of Irgunists and Communists."

Places Responsibility on Beigin; Takes This Threat Seriously

Mr. Ben Gurion placed responsibility for the day of rioting in which hundreds of police and civilians were hurt on Mr. Beigin, "the head and organizer of a revolt." Quoting from the Herut newspaper, Premier Ben Gurion said that the Herut leader had incited the demonstrators in Zion Square, telling them that when the government had fired against an Irgun vessel in Tel Aviv harbor in 1948 he had ordered his followers not to fight the government, but that now Beigin had said: "I order yes. This is a war of life and death."

The Premier then declared: "I do not underestimate Beigin's announcement that he is preparing for a war of life and death, and I have no illusions against whom those threats are directed, and I also know that it is not very difficult to kill members of the government which I have the honor to head, and it is no secret to me who is the first target of Beigin's war plans."

"I see it as my duty to warn the nation not to panic and not to fear whether the government has enough power and resources to prevent its domination by hooligans and political murderers--the police and army of a freedom-loving people is a sufficient and efficient guarantee that an insane and criminal plot by hooligans will be frustrated. Israel will not be converted into a Spain or Syria."

"The profane fascist ideology in its various forms, from right to left, an ideology of imposing a minority will by terror will not succeed, will not be permitted to ruin the nation's freedom and sovereignty. There is no ground for panic, but I will not, I am forbidden from deceiving the nation that the danger is not small."

Asserting that the majority of the utterances of the leaders of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, dissident underground group of the Mandatory period, and the Herut are "no more than empty threats," the Premier maintained that "this time" one must take

their words seriously. "I also do not underrate the physical courage of the Irgun, and I know that they do not shrink from arrests and punishment," he continued, "therefore I say this time the danger is great and Beigin's threat serious."

He concluded with an appeal to the Israeli people to guard "the law and the state's sovereignty" pointing out again that the defense of the state is in the hands of the police force and the army, both of which are controlled by the government which is determined to maintain law and order. He again warned that no one must dare take the law into his own hands.

325 STILL DETAINED; CHARGED WITH RIOTING AT KNESSET

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Of 410 persons detained by the police on the charge of participating in the unauthorized demonstration on Monday in front of the Parliament building, approximately 85 were released today.

The remainder are now held in the Jalameh detention center and in the local police stations in Jerusalem and Ramleh. The Ministry of Justice said today that it will "mobilize" magistrates for the speedy handling of the charges in order to avoid lengthy detention of innocents persons.

Some of the Israeli daily newspapers today reported that government circles are considering declaring the Herut Party illegal. No confirmation of this report came from any government source.

ISRAEL REQUESTS \$126,000,000 IN ECONOMIC AID FROM UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Administration sources said today that Israel has requested \$126,000,000 in economic assistance for the fiscal year 1953, but that this amount will be drastically reduced.

The President's budget message and word from the White House on foreign aid are awaited as an indication of the amount which might be available for the Middle East. The approximately \$65,000,000 in Mutual Security aid granted Israel last year will be taken from the budget for the current fiscal year. Therefore, the new request for \$126,000,000 would have to be acted on this year to be included in the fiscal year of 1953.

A joint meeting of Congress today heard President Truman refer to "turmoil" in the Middle East. Mr. Truman said in his State of the Union address that "in the Middle East, political tensions and the oil controversy in Iran are keeping the region in a turmoil." He later added: "I have just had the opportunity to discuss many of these world problems with Prime Minister Churchill. We have had a most satisfactory series of meetings." The President noted that the Middle East situation was among the topics discussed.

BRITAIN, U.S. PLEDGE THEMSELVES TO PROMOTE STABILITY IN MIDDLE EAST

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Britain and America today pledged themselves to promote "stability, peaceful development, and prosperity" in the Middle East, it was made known in a joint communique issued on the talks of President Truman and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

The communique expressed hope that the proposed Middle East Command be established as soon as possible because it was thought the Command would prove the best way of relieving tension. British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and Secretary of State Dean Acheson will continue discussion here on their program to coordinate the British and American policies in the Middle East.

SOVIET URGES U. N. TO ABOLISH PALESTINE CONCILIATION COMMISSION

PARIS, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- The Soviet delegation at the United Nations today introduced a resolution at the U. N. Political Committee urging the abolishment of the Palestine Conciliation Commission, in view of the fact that "experience has shown that the Commission has not coped with its tasks of settling the questions at issue in Palestine."

Speaking before the Political Committee, Ambassador Abba S. Eban, Israel's chief delegate at the United Nations, suggested that perhaps a good offices committee, with the same membership, could replace the Conciliation Commission. Such a committee, he said, should act only if the parties involved ask for its help.

Otherwise, matters could be left to develop within the framework of the existing armistice agreements between Israel and the Arab states, Mr. Eban continued. He said that the Arab refusal to enter into any discussions with Israel is the principal obstacle in the path of an Arab-Israeli peace.

The representative of the Jewish State emphasized that Israel has offered several times to sit down with representatives of the Arab countries either singly or together, in Palestine or elsewhere, formally or informally--but all in vain.

"The Arab states and Israel never sat together without reaching agreement, but they never reached agreement without sitting together," Ambassador Eban declared. The seven Arab states, he said, pretend that Israel does not exist. "There was no instance of any government refusing to recognize the statehood of a country which is a member of the United Nations," he pointed out.

The Israeli delegate drew attention to the failure of the U. N. Conciliation Commission to gain acceptance by the Arab states of its statement of peaceful intentions. The Commission, he insisted, had not been dealing with two parties which wanted a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute. "It faced one party which obstinately opposed any settlement," he emphasized.

Turning to the Arab claims that there was an economic crisis in Israel which threatens the entire Middle East, Mr. Eban said that in the past few weeks he had seen an industrial revolution in Israel which would bring about a balance of trade in the country. Commenting on Arab claims of alleged threats of Israel's expansion, he declared that they were not only baseless but that they did not jibe with the Arab refusal to sign a non-aggression pact which Israel had offered so often.

TRUMAN STRESSES RACIAL, RELIGIOUS EQUALITY IN MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- President Truman, in his message to Congress today, emphasized the progress which this country is making in securing equality of treatment and opportunity for all people, regardless of race or religion, and called upon the members of both Houses of Congress to support the government policy in this direction.

"As we build our strength to defend freedom in the world, we ourselves must extend the benefits of freedom more widely among all our own people," the President said. "We need to take action toward the wider enjoyment of civil rights. Freedom is the birthright of every American. The executive branch has been making real progress toward full equality of treatment and opportunity--in the armed forces, in the civil service, and in private firms working for the government. Further advances require action by the Congress, and I hope that means will be provided to give the members of the Senate and the House a chance to vote on them," he declared.

PARENTS OF 900 GROUPS OPPOSE INTRODUCTION OF PRAYERS IN SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- The United Parents Association here today reaffirmed its opposition to the introduction of prayers in the public schools. It announced that with one dissenting vote, more than 900 U. P. A. delegates adopted a resolution opposing the Board of Regents' proposal for prayers in public school classrooms on the ground that this would highlight "outward manifestations of religious differences." The resolution, as adopted by the U. P. A. delegates, reads in part:

"The dual foundation of religious liberty plus separation of church and state upon which our American democracy rests has allowed the flourishing development of all religions together with the evolution of a system of public education for all children, free from sectarian strife and divisiveness. This is our basic conviction, best stated in the words of the United States Supreme Court, 'We have staked the very existence of our country on the faith that complete separation between state and religion is best for the state and for religion.'

"Therefore, we must, as loyal Americans, oppose the Board of Regents' proposal for prayers in school, well-intentioned though the Regents' motives may be. This proposal would bring into the public schools outward manifestations of religious differences, since we know that children of different religions pray in different ways. Some kneel and make the sign of the cross; some clasp their hands and bow their heads; some pray with heads uncovered, some with heads covered."

NEW YORK GOVERNOR ASKS ACTION AGAINST BIAS IN PUBLIC PLACES

ALBANY, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Gov. Dewey today asked the Legislature to give the State Committee Against Discrimination power to investigate bias in restaurants and other public places. The SCAD's jurisdiction is now limited to the field of employment.

"For many years," Dewey said, "the state has recognized that access to public places is a civil right. I recommend expansion of the Commission's jurisdiction to include access to restaurants and other public places." In the field of unemployment discrimination, Dewey told the legislators that New York "continues to serve as the model to other states."

SIXTY CHALUTZIM LEFT CANADA FOR ISRAEL IN FOURTEEN MONTHS

TORONTO, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Sixty Canadian chalutzim left for Israel in 14 months, from October 1950 to December 1951, according to a report submitted to the convention of the Zionist Organization of Canada by Rabbi Samuel Cass, chairman of the chalutzim committee.

Of these, 40 percent belonged to the Labor Zionists and 30 percent belonged to Hashomer Hatzair; Mizrachim and Young Judaea contributed some five percent each and the remainder were in unaffiliated and professional categories. The report also stressed certain achievements in the emigration of professionals from Canada to Israel.

HYMIE JACOBSON, JEWISH ACTOR AND PLAYWRIGHT, DIES IN MIAMI

MIAMI, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Hymie Jacobson, well-known Yiddish actor and playwright, died here last night of a stroke. He was 57 years old. Born in Chicago, in a family long identified with the Yiddish stage, he wrote musicals for the Yiddish theatre, many of which were very popular. Two years ago he wrote the play, music and lyrics for "Catskill Honeymoon," an American movie in Yiddish.