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U.S. JEWISH LEADERS, ISRAEL REACH AGREEMENT ON CLAIMS-ON GERMANY

PARIS, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- A general understanding on the problems concerning Jewish reparations claims from Germany was reached by representatives of the Israel Government and the American Jewish leaders who are now here as members of the praesidium of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, it was announced in a statement issued here today. The statement reads:

"The praesidium of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany met in Paris from February 10 to February 13 with representatives of the Government of Israel to exchange views on the nature and scope of material claims against Germany. The subjects taken under review included the claims of the Government of Israel, claims of individuals throughout the world for restitution and indemnification, and claims with respect to heirless and unclaimed property.

"The problems of procedure to be followed in future negotiations with the German Government were also discussed. A general understanding was reached between the members of the praesidium of the Conference and the representatives of the State of Israel concerning all problems under discussion. Preliminary to the meetings with the Israeli delegation, the praesidium consulted with European members of the executive committee of the Conference."

Members of the praesidium refused to amplify on the statement. A spokesman for the Israel delegation here said there were no definite plans for meeting with delegates of Germany at present and that such move would not be kept secret or hidden. As soon as such arrangements are made, the press will be notified, he stated. The Israel delegation was headed by Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett.

BEN GURION PRESENTS NEW ECONOMIC POLICY INVESTORS TO BENEFIT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion announced in the Israeli Parliament today a series of new measures aimed at stabilizing the country's economy by reducing government expenditures, encouraging foreign capital investment, narrowing the gap between Israeli imports and exports and curbing inflation.

The most revolutionary feature of the new policy is the introduction of three rates of exchange for the Israeli pound replacing the present official rate of \$2.80 to the pound for all purposes. The official rate of the pound will remain at \$2.80 for general purposes of exchange and for the purchase of wheat and essential foodstuffs. The rate of \$1.40 to the pound will be introduced for tourists, fund-raising institutions and for the purchase of other foodstuffs, including meat, fish, coffee, tea, seeds and medicines.

A third rate of \$1.00 to the pound is established for foreign investors who will in future be permitted to bring in their entire capital in the form of machinery and

raw materials. Formerly, they were permitted to bring in only half their capital in machinery and raw material and the remainder in foreign currency to be sold to the Israel Treasury at the rate of \$2.80 to the pound.

To facilitate foreign trade, the government will also establish an export bank, the Premier announced. This bank will accept deposits and extend credits in the form of foreign currency.

Indicates Reduction of Defense Program; Reduces Employees

Premier Ben Gurion indicated a reduction in the country's defense program when he declared that the budget for military purposes would be balanced "whatever the consequences." He promised that the government's budget would be balanced by tax receipts and reiterated a previous government pledge that no further Treasury bills or land bonds would be issued.

He announced that the government's present staff of 30,000 would be reduced by 1,000. Another measure the government would take, Mr. Ben Gurion said, would be abolition of the cost-plus system on government contracts. Hereafter, he said, the government will allocate the necessary raw materials and will fix payment rates according to the efficiency of the plants.

The Premier pointed out that in the 45 months of its existence, the State of Israel had imported goods to the value of \$828,000,000 while the state's exports during that period were less than one-eighth of that amount. He said the government was obligated to curb inflation, encourage the flow of investment capital and increase production.

Speaks of Copper and Magnesium Sources in Israel

The Prime Minister began his 70-minute presentation with an exhaustive review of the situation in Israel and achievements since statehood. He said there was no place in the world where such surprises, innovations and discoveries had occurred as in Israel in such a short period.

He referred to the "ingathering of exiles," the strengthening of security, the unprecedented tempo of development, housing for immigrants, discovery of new national treasures and their exploitation, improvement of land, sea and air communications, improvement in health services, inrooting of the national language, increase in bank deposits and constant increase in the national income, activation of Jewish communities outside Israel in support of absorption of immigration, and new activity in the arts and sciences.

Tremendous reserves of phosphates had been discovered, the Premier reported, and Israel may be able to develop copper and magnesium sources as well as to mine iron ore. "We have reason to believe," Mr. Ben Gurion told the Parliament, "that there are even more important natural resources in the Negev. If we continue our agricultural and industrial development, we will approach, within a number of years, the safe shores of a solid and stable economy."

The Israeli Army had been enlarged and strengthened in arms, training and spirit, he said. The Nahal youth battalions had shown their ability in developing the Negev and had already established 15 settlements, mostly on the border, creating a "security chain of human steel." More such settlements would be established, he said. Israel's merchant navy now numbered 34 ships, he reported.

"In less than four years," the Prime Minister declared, "we have doubled the number of agricultural settlements and placed under cultivation an additional 3,900,000 dunams with the labor of Jews from the Yemen, Morocco, Tunis, Turkey and Eastern Europe. Twenty-five million trees have been planted on 125,000 dunams."

KNESSET APPROVES MILITARY GOVERNORSHIP IN ARAB DISTRICTS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The Israel Government's policy of maintaining military governorships in Arab districts of Israel today had won the approval of the Israeli Parliament after a heated debate during which the Communists and the left-wing Mapam Party sought their elimination. The House gave the government a majority of 42 on its policy.

The issue was first raised by the Communists and Mapam three months ago and was referred to the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. The committee reported last night that "as long as present security conditions as well as the state of relations between Israel and the neighboring states remain unchanged, the military governorships should be continued to protect the security of the State."

The committee report noted declarations made to the committee by Prime Minister and Minister of Defense David Ben-Gurion that the government was continuing to eliminate all discriminations against Arab citizens in any field and had set up a special board to ensure this.

Mapam spokesman Y. Rifkin assailed continuation of the military governorships and demanded "a new democratic policy." Arguing the need for continued security measures, Meir Argov, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, warned that there were leftist elements among the Arabs "hostile and treacherous to the State" and quoted speeches by an Arab Communist leader promising arms, ammunition and men whenever the "Committee of National Liberation" proclaimed an uprising.

The Israel Government, he said, covered 95 percent of the cost of Arab education in Israel, although the government covered only 66 percent of the cost of Jewish education, and completely covered Arab welfare needs. Arabs in Israel have a higher percentage of voters than in any other country, he pointed out.

JORDAN APOLOGIZES FOR SHOOTING INCIDENTS IN JERUSALEM AREA

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Jordan apologized today in the Jordan-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission to Israel for recent shooting incidents in the Jerusalem area and promised that there would be no recurrence of these incidents.

The apology was accepted by the Israeli representatives who expressed the hope that the Jordanians would rigorously enforce measures against border infiltrations.

FOREIGN PLANES WARNED AGAINST UNAUTHORIZED FLIGHTS OVER ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- A warning against any foreign aircraft flying over Israeli territory without permission was issued today by the government. The warning emphasized that Israel will act firmly to discourage unpermitted flights over Israel. A government spokesman said that a number of violations by foreign airplanes have taken place recently over the territory of the Jewish state.

Z.O.A. PRESIDENT RECEIVED BY TRUMAN; DISCUSS AID FOR ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- President Truman was urged to run for re-election today by Benjamin Brodsky, president of the Zionist Organization of America, who visited the White House and later predicted that Mr. Truman will announce his candidacy within "ten or fifteen days." Mr. Brodsky said he spoke with the President about aid for Israel.

NAZI DR. WILL NOT BE RETAINED IN U.S. AIR FORCE, WASHINGTON SAYS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Dr. Walter P. Schreiber, who commanded the department of medical science of Hitler's supreme command, will not be retained in the employment of the U. S. Air Force after the expiration of his contraction February 28, a spokesman for the Department of Defense said today. The doctor, who has been accused of complicity in Nazi medical atrocities, has worked for the Air Force School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph Field, Texas, since September, 1951. The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith yesterday sent the following telegram to Robert A. Lovett:

"We have noted with shock that Dr. Walter P. Schreiber, war-time chief of medical science in the supreme command of Nazi Wehrmacht, is now serving in our own armed forces as a doctor attached to the Air Force School of Aviation Medicine.

"Schreiber's name figures prominently at the Nuremberg trials of Nazi war criminals as one who was strongly implicated in inhuman medical research carried on with concentration camp prisoners as guinea pigs. He was never brought to trial because he was held by the Russians. Yet his record is such that it calls for a thorough investigation on your part to determine whether he should be immediately relieved of his post in the Air Force School and returned to Germany."

ZIONIST GROUP NAMES IRVING MILLER CANDIDATE FOR Z. O. A. PRESIDENCY

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Rabbi Irving Miller was named candidate for presidency of the Zionist Organization of America at a meeting of about 200 Zionist leaders from various parts of the country held at Hotel Astor, under the chairmanship of Abraham Goodman, Z. O. A. vice-president.

The meeting, which was addressed by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, member of the Jewish Agency executive, also adopted a resolution expressing "warmest greetings" to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and emphasizing that his absence from the official Zionist leadership is considered "temporary." "We will continue to look to him for guidance and inspiration in the days to come," the resolution said.

The Z. O. A. national convention at which a new president is to be elected is expected to take place in June. At the meeting yesterday, Dr. Neumann pointed out that the process of adjustment between the Zionist movement and the State of Israel is still in its early stage. "American Zionists," he said, "have been deeply offended by injudicious and intemperate remarks occasionally made by Israeli spokesmen. We are fully entitled to resent such remarks. We must also be on our guard against letting our feelings destroy our judgment or affect our policies."

JEWS AND CHRISTIANS OBSERVE 200-YEAR-OLD TRADITION OF FRIENDSHIP

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- A 200-year-old custom was observed here last night when the congregations of Mikveh Israel Synagogue and Old Christ Episcopal Church held a joint dinner. The dinner, an annual affair, alternates between the two congregations. Last night it was held in the Neighborhood House of Christ Church.

In 1740 Christ Church congregation went on record that both Jews and Catholics should be permitted to build houses of worship. As a result, permits were issued for the erection of Mikveh Israel Synagogue and St. Joseph's Catholic Church. The association between Mikveh Israel and Christ Church began at that time.

BILL TO AID SABBATH OBSERVERS INTRODUCED IN NEW YORK LEGISLATURE

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 13. (JTA) -- A bi-partisan measure to amend the New York State Sunday Law to permit the carrying on of business on Sunday by persons who observe Saturday as their holy day of rest, was introduced in both Houses of the Legislature today by Assemblyman Samuel Roman and Senator Arthur Wachtel.

The bill, sponsored by the Joint Committee for a Fair Sabbath Law, does not grant absolute exemption from the State's Sunday ban to Sabbath observers but provides only that local laws may be enacted to permit Sabbatarians to operate their businesses if they can do so in a manner which does not interfere with "the rest and repose" of persons observing Sunday as their day of rest. Among the 22 national Jewish organizations which make up the joint committee are the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee, the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations and the Jewish War Veterans.

According to Leo Pfeffer, the joint committee's counsel, the bill's passage is essential for the protection of the religious liberty of Sabbath observers against whom the State Court of Appeals ruled last year when it decided that a person who observes the seventh day of the week as his Sabbath is not entitled to exemption from the operation of the State law which requires that all places of business, with certain exceptions, are to be closed on Sunday.

Ten other states--Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma and West Virginia--completely exempt Sabbatarians from the operation of their Sunday laws.

"HEBREW MONTH" IN U.S. SET FOR MARCH 10 TO APRIL 10

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- "Hebrew Month," traditionally celebrated during the month from Purim to Passover under the sponsorship of the Histadruth Ivrit of America in cooperation with other national Jewish organizations, will be observed this year in Jewish communities throughout the United States from March 10 to April 10, it was announced today by Samuel J. Borowsky, president of the Histadruth Ivrit.

The celebration of "Hebrew Month," which will be marked by special events in Hebrew schools, synagogues and other Jewish institutions, is designed to bring into sharp focus the broad national program of the Histadruth Ivrit of America, which is dedicated to the dissemination of the Hebrew language, literature and culture in this country, both for the enrichment of American Jewish community life and as a cultural and spiritual exchange with the State of Israel.

CANADIAN Z. O. A. SENDS CLOTHING, WOOL, MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO ISRAEL

MONTREAL, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Approximately 10 tons of material were sent to Israel last week and an additional 12 tons will be shipped next week, it was announced here today by the Zionist Organization of Canada. The goods included men's, women's and children's new clothing, medical supplies, shoes, sweaters, wool and a small quantity of machinery.

BRAZIL'S FIRST MINISTER TO TEL AVIV LEAVES FOR ISRAEL

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Dr. Jose Fabrino, Brazil's first Minister to Israel, sailed for Tel Aviv today to take up his post there. In a statement to the press he emphasized that he intends to establish close and friendly relations between Brazil and the Jewish State and will seek to promote commerce between the two countries.