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WASHINGTON PARLEY PLEDGES TO SPEND \$200,000,000 IN ISRAEL BONDS

WASHINGTON, Mar. 2. (JTA) -- An emergency conference on Israel today adopted a program of action to make \$200,000,000 available for agricultural and industrial development of the Jewish State through the Israel bond issue before the end of 1952. The conferees, meeting at the Shoreham Hotel, emphasized that Israel's existence and political future hinge on "a fateful battle of production" during the present economic transition.

The program was adopted by 250 American Jewish leaders who conferred here for two days with Mrs. Golda Myerson, Israel Minister of Labor, Ambassador Abba Eban and Henry Morgenthau, Jr., chairman of the Board of Governors of the Israel bond campaign organization. They discussed the new economic policy in Israel and the prospects for large scale development of recently discovered natural resources and the establishment of new industrial enterprises.

A cable was received from Israel President Weizmann who characterized the bond issue as "the climax of the joint effort of American Jewry and the people of Israel to cement the establishment of the Jewish State by insuring its economic security and independence." The conference urged that all American Jews participate in a nationwide one-day house-to-house Israel bond sales campaign on Sunday, March 9.

The conferees expressed satisfaction with the reports of Mrs. Myerson and Ambassador Eban which outlined progress and prospects for greater development. However, concern was voiced over the current foreign exchange shortage which threatens to "impede the attainment of economic independence that is at hand." The \$500,000,000 Israel bond issue was depicted by the conference as the "one single factor which can determine the outcome of the present economic struggle."

Morgenthau Reports on Success of Bond Sale; Lauds U.S. Jewry

Mr. Morgenthau, who presided at today's session, described the results of the drive thus far as an "achievement without parallel." He said that "not only does it constitute an extraordinary record for American Jewry" but "it is one of the most revolutionary developments in the annals of international investment and government financing. It surpasses anything that has ever been accomplished by any foreign bond issue in the United States and it is particularly outstanding because it represents not the work of any banks or investment houses, but the participation of many thousands of people in every walk of life and in every economic bracket."

Henry Montor, vice-president of the campaign, said the bond issue is "an expression of the determination of the people of Israel to achieve self-reliance in the building of a free and creative life for themselves and their children." The investments so far, he stated, represent "only a beginning in the wide range of projects, new industries, new irrigation programs, the development of harbors

and communications, the exploitation of mineral resources and the development of electric power which must be established in the immediate future."

Mrs. Myerson, reporting on Israel's new economic policy, said that the present economic difficulties of the Jewish State are the result of a "self-imposed transition period of hardship" to make possible the creation of a highly industrial and productive economy within the next few years. She told the conferees that "our new economic policy is not only designed to combat inflation but to increase the productiveness of our labor force and at the same time to expand industrial production for the home market and for export as well.

"The new economic policy which calls for longer working hours, piece work and various forms of incentives for greater production will place additional hardships upon the individual citizens of Israel," she said. "But it will also mean an acceleration of industrial and agricultural production that will bring us closer to economic self-sufficiency." Mrs. Myerson described the mineral potentials in Israel including plans for the development of such resources as phosphates, peat, potash, iron ore, copper, and oil.

Ambassador Eban told the conferees that the hostile attitude of the Arabs forced Israel to concentrate considerable attention on military defense and thus made the Jewish State an important military factor in the Near East. He related how the ring of isolation established by the Arabs has created very serious economic problems for Israel.

The Ambassador said that as a result of the Arab boycott, Israel must spend \$100,000,000 a year for food and food products and that its food fuel bill is \$50,000,000 annually. "We must pay these unnecessarily inflated prices because of our lack of access to adjacent markets and sources of supply," he said. "The essence of the Israel bond issue," Mr. Eban said, "is the basic consideration that Israel must achieve a place in the world where it will no longer be dependent on periodic injections of foreign resources."

AUSTERITY IN ISRAEL TO LAST THREE MORE YEARS, PREMIER WARNS

TEL AVIV, Mar. 2. (JTA) -- The austerity regime in Israel will last for three more years, Premier David Ben Gurion warned here last night. His warning was given at the closing session of a Mapai central council parley which had considered the repercussions of the government's new economic program at several sessions this week-end.

The Premier insisted that Israel must increase production and decrease consumption in order to "reach a standard of living which will not depend on foreign dollars but on Israeli skill and resources." Listing the two major achievements of the Jewish State in its nearly four years of existence as its victory over the invading Arab armies and the admission of 700,000 immigrants, he stressed that the country must be ready to absorb many more thousands of Jews if Russia should permit Jews to migrate to Israel.

ISRAEL CABINET FINISHES DRAFTING 166,000,000 POUND BUDGET

JERUSALEM, Mar. 2. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet today finished drafting the budget for the 1952-53 fiscal year which will be submitted to Parliament this week. It is estimated unofficially that the budget will reach 166,000,000 pounds as against 113,000,000 last year.

COMMUNISTS IN ISRAEL DEMONSTRATE AGAINST NEW ECONOMIC POLICY

TEL AVIV, Mar. 2. (JTA) -- Five hundred Communists and Communist sympathizers demonstrated here this week-end against the Israel Government's new economic policy. The demonstrators marched through the main streets of the city carrying placards denouncing the new policy as a "hunger plan." The demonstration took place without incidents.

ISRAEL'S MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION BACKS PLAN TO HALT INFLATION

TEL AVIV, Mar. 2. (JTA) -- The biennial conference of the Manufacturers Association concluded here with the adoption of resolutions approving the intention of the Israel Government to halt inflation and agreeing to cooperate with the authorities to this end.

However, the resolutions demand that the government change its attitude on the collection of the surcharge tax on existing stocks of manufactured goods and that banks in Israel be permitted to give credits to industrialists more freely. One resolution also demanded that prices fixed by the government should "be based on reality."

The resolutions were adopted after a bitter debate. Many manufacturers demanded strong action against the government, suggesting the closing down of plants. They were finally persuaded to concede to the government's new economic plans, and to limit their demands to requesting a change in the execution of these plans.

MAPAM URGED TO QUIT WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION AND HISTADRUT

TEL AVIV, Mar. 2. (JTA) -- A demand that the Mapam Party withdraw from the World Zionist Organization and the Histadrut was voiced here today at a three-day conference of the Hashomer Hatzair, largest and furthest left faction within the Mapam. Speakers at the parley denounced the Zionist Organization for its "rightism" and "unsocialistic attitude."

Meanwhile, at a similar conference of the Achdut Avoda, least left of the three factions within the Mapam and second in strength, disowned Knesset deputies David Lifshitz and Hanna Lamdan, who broke away from the Mapam last month on the grounds that the party was a "tool" of the Communists. In a direct slap at the two dissenters, who have set up a new party group "between the Mapai and the Mapam," the Achdut Avoda parley insisted that the faction must "struggle from inside" to change Mapam policy.

One of the faction's leaders, Joseph Bankover, demanded a tougher attitude by the Mapam toward the Communist Party in Israel and Jewish Communist groups in Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R. He added that the leftwing Socialist party must demand free emigration of Jews from East European countries.

JERUSALEM MAYOR TO SEEK FUNDS IN U.S. TO BEAUTIFY CITY

JERUSALEM, Mar. 2. (JTA) -- Mayor S. Z. Shragai of Jerusalem said today that a main object of his forthcoming visit to the United States is to interest Americans in a plan to beautify and improve Jerusalem as "the world's and Israel's capital." He will arrive in New York on Wednesday.

The mayor told the JTA that Jerusalem must occupy one of the foremost places among the world's capitals because of its rich Biblical history and its great natural beauty. Large sums would be required to carry out the project, he said, estimating a minimum of \$50,000,000.

ISRAEL ALERT TO DEVELOPMENTS IN EGYPT, SHARETT REPORTS IN LONDON

LONDON, Mar. 2. (JTA) -- Israel's Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett, who arrived here this week-end to engage in talks on Anglo-Israeli relations with British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, last night warned that the rapidly changing Egyptian Government situation "imposes on Israel the necessity of extreme watchfulness."

"We must be alert to the dangers of any possible arrangement which would redound to our detriment, as we are anxious to seize upon any opportunity which may present itself for advancing toward a lasting peace and complete harmony with our neighbors." Referring to a "spate of reports" from Cairo advocating and foretelling an early start to peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab states, the Israeli Minister said it was too early to say whether the reports have substance to them and added that it is "highly questionable" whether anything will come of them at this time.

(The usually well informed Cairo newspaper Rose-el-Youssef this week-end published a sensational report that the Arab states have agreed among themselves to enter into direct negotiations with Israel for a settlement of all outstanding issues.)

Mr. Sharett's remarks on the Egyptian situation were made at a banquet given in his honor by the Joint Palestine Appeal of Britain. Over 500,000 pounds (\$1,400,000) was contributed at the affair toward the J.P.A. goal of 2,000,000 pounds in 1952.

Addressing the opening session of the J.P.A. national conference this afternoon, Mr. Sharett emphasized that it was his mission to strengthen the "bonds of solidarity and brotherhood between Diaspora Jewry and Israel." He pointed out that despite the fact that Israel's development was moving forward at a rapid pace, the Jews of Israel need monetary help from world Jewry for investment in projects which show no immediate economic returns. The requests for all grants and loans are made on the assumption that "the Jews would not let Israel down," Mr. Sharett asserted.

The Minister described stories of oil discoveries in the Negev as "fiction," but added "sometimes fiction turns out to be fact." He detailed the new discoveries of mineral wealth in the Negev, but stressed that financing on a "colossal scale" was needed because while grants and loans are important they cannot meet the great need. He appealed for all Jews to make private investments in Israel.

SYRIANS FIRE ON ISRAELI FISHING BOAT ON LAKE TIBERIAS

TEL AVIV, MAR. 2. (JTA) -- An Israeli fishing boat on Lake Tiberias was hit by Syrian troop fire yesterday, it was announced here last night by an Israeli Army spokesman. The spokesman also revealed that Israel has protested the incident to the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission.

Two Jewish watchmen were found killed today near Ein Karen where they were guarding the water installations. Their bodies were riddled with bullets. Neither police nor officials of the United Nations Armistice Commission could find any tracks of the assailants because of a pouring rain.

JERUSALEM EX-MUFTI DENIES HE WAS BARRED FROM EGYPT

LONDON, Mar. 2. (JTA) -- A report that the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem has been barred from Egypt and is seeking asylum in Pakistan was denied yesterday by the ex-Mufti who is now in Karachi, according to press reports here today.

THREE-DAY FARBAND CONFERENCE DISCUSSES JEWISH PROBLEMS

NEW YORK, Mar. 2. (JTA) -- Questions pertaining to Jewish life in the United States and to problems faced by the Israel Government were discussed here today at a three-day national conference of the Farband Labor Zionist Order, attended by more than 300 delegates from all parts of the country.

Louis Segal, general secretary, reported that the Order's assets at present amount to more than \$3,280,000 and that the branches of the Farband last year raised about \$5,000,000 for Israel and other purposes, including \$2,500,000 for the United Jewish Appeal, \$1,200,000 for the Histadrut campaign; \$325,000 for the Jewish National Fund and \$100,000 for Labor Zionist institutions.

The conference adopted a resolution expressing satisfaction over the fact that the Yiddish chair established at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem at the initiative of the Farband and with its financial assistance will begin to function in October. Principal speakers at the session today were James G. MacDonald, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel, and Dr. Hayim Greenberg, member of the Jewish Agency executive.

TEXTBOOKS CONTAINING BIAS BARRED BY N. Y. BOARD OF EDUCATION

NEW YORK, Mar. 2. (JTA) -- Eight books were dropped today by the Board of Education here from its approved textbook list on the ground that they contained derogatory statements about racial and religious minorities. The titles of the books were not disclosed.

The Board also dropped from its list of books approved for use in school libraries Paul Gallico's "Farewell to Sport" because of alleged anti-Semitic remarks in it on Jewish athletes. One member of the Board termed Gallico's book "viciously anti-Semitic."

TRUMAN GREETES ORT WOMEN; LAUDS THEIR VOCATIONAL TRAINING AID

NEW YORK, Mar. 2. (JTA) -- The 30,000 members of the women's branch of the American ORT were lauded by President Truman for "providing vocational training that will make it possible for thousands of men and women to take their places as productive and respected members of their new communities."

The message of praise was sent by the President to the women's organization on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, which will be observed on March 12. Mayor Vincent R. Impellitteri of New York has proclaimed that day as ORT Day "in recognition of the noble and constructive work performed by the Women's American ORT in the economic rehabilitation of uprooted and underprivileged Jewish people throughout the world."

\$160,000 HILLEL BUILDING DEDICATED AT UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

TUSCALOOSA, Alabama, Mar. 2. (JTA) -- A new \$160,000 Georgian style Hillel Building was dedicated at the University of Alabama here today at a ceremony attended by leaders of the Jewish community from all over the state and B'nai B'rith members from many parts of the South. Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, national director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, delivered the dedicatory address.

The annual state conference of B'nai B'rith lodges in Alabama met in the new building after the dedication. The Hillel director at the University of Alabama is Rabbi Henry Fischel, who also teaches five courses on Jewish subjects at the University.

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Z.O.A. SENDS PLANE TO ISRAEL FOR COMMERCIAL PILOT TRAINING

NEW YORK, Mar. 2. (JTA) -- The shipment to Israel by the Zionist Organization of America of the first of a group of commercial training planes was announced today by Benjamin G. Browdy, president of the organization.

The aircraft, which has already reached Israel, was presented to the Aviation Council in Tel Aviv, a civil group which trains commercial pilots for Israel's aviation needs. The purchase of the training plane by the Z. O. A. was made under its program of technical aid to Israel, with further purchases of similar equipment planned in the near future.

U.S. PROFESSOR TO ORGANIZE PSYCHOLOGY DEPT. AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, Mar. 2. (JTA) -- Professor Gregory Razran, chairman of the Department of Psychology at Queens College in New York, has been granted a leave of absence by the New York Board of Higher Education to serve as Visiting Professor of Psychology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, it was announced today by Dr. George S. Wise, national president of the American Friends of the Hebrew University.

Professor Razran will take up his duties at the University in April and remain through July of this year. In addition to teaching, his main task, he declared, would be the setting up of a department of psychology equal in standards to those of any first-rate American school.

A reception honoring Professor A. W. Binder, noted composer, conductor and educator, on the occasion of his departure for Israel where he will lecture at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, was tendered him today by the American Friends of the University. Highlight of the event was the presentation to Professor Binder of music scores by American Jewish composers, a gift to the Music Lending Library of the Hebrew University.

ASSYRIAN TABLETS GIVEN YALE IN MEMORY OF REBEKAH KOHUT

NEW HAVEN, Mar. 2. (JTA) -- Two rare Assyrian tablets, believed to be the only ones of their kind in the United States, have been presented to Yale University's Babylonian Collection by Mrs. Julia Kahn in memory of her mother Rebekah Kohut, famed Jewish educational and social welfare pioneer, it was announced here today.

The 2,800 year-old tablets, one of silver and one of gold, bear identical cuneiform inscriptions praising King Ashurnasirpal II and telling of the building of his palace at the city of Apku, in the foundation of which they were deposited. The King reigned between 883-859 B. C. E.

PROF. EPSTEIN DIES IN ISRAEL; SCHOLAR OF RABBINIC LITERATURE

JERUSALEM, Mar. 2. (JTA) -- Prof. Jacob Nahum Epstein, one of the world's foremost scholars of rabbinic literature, died here. He was 73 years old. A native of Brest-Litovsk, Prof. Epstein studied at Vienna and later taught Talmudic philology in Germany. He joined the faculty of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1926 and served as dean from 1936 to 1938. The Jewish Theological Seminary of America conferred an honorary degree upon him in 1940.
