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TRUMAN RECOMMENDS AID TO ISRAEL IN HIS MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, March 6. (JTA) -- President Truman today said in his message to Congress that he has recommended economic and technical assistance to the Near Eastern area, including Israel, and help for the Arab refugees, for a total of \$196,000,000.

In his message on the distribution of Mutual Security funds, the President told of the importance of aiding the Near East. He suggested development projects in various countries of the area. In enumerating ways in which America could aid, he said: "We can help build roads and establish public health services in Israel."

"The Near East presents a sharp challenge to American statesmanship," President Truman declared. "The countries of these areas are of vital importance to the security of the free world, but the problems of achieving constructive and orderly development are extremely difficult." He pointed out that "most of these problems can be solved by the people of these areas finding ways to make solid progress in developing economic strength and effective free institutions. But we can and must help them."

No figures are available on an exact breakdown to indicate how much is proposed for Israel, other than the assurance that the Jewish State will share in the help for the area as a whole. Aid for Israel in the Mutual Security Act of 1952 may total as much as \$80,000,000, but it is not possible to secure confirmation of this estimate at the present time.

A spokesman for the Mutual Security Administration said today that the exact amount of aid proposed for Israel, as well as for other countries, cannot be made known because of "security reasons." It is expected that the amount will be submitted to the appropriate committees of Congress in executive session.

EBAN AND ACHESON DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS AT STATE DEPT.

WASHINGTON, March 6. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban today told Secretary of State Dean Acheson of Israel's positive interest in any prospects of bringing stability to the Middle East and improving Arab-Israel relations. Mr. Eban and Mr. Acheson discussed prospects for furthering Middle Eastern stability in a meeting today at the State Department.

MINISTER JOSEPH EXPLAINS NEW ISRAEL BUDGET TO KNESSET

JERUSALEM, March 6. (JTA) -- For the first time since the establishment of the state, the Government of Israel is proposing a balanced budget, Dr. Dov Joseph, Minister for Trade and Industry, today told Parliament. Minister Joseph, interpreting the 168,450,000-pound budget in behalf of the government as the Knesset began consideration of the document, said that the attempt to balance the budget is an "important milestone in our economic consolidation." He spoke in place of Eliezer Kaplan, Finance Minister, who is ill.

He stressed that the influence of a balanced budget would be felt not only within Israel but also abroad, where it is "bound to raise the value of our currency," encourage Jews to invest in Israeli enterprises and "assist us in placing our economy on a sound basis and in the further development of the state." The purpose of this budget, he added, is to break inflation and create conditions favorable to increased output and efficiency, as well as to stabilize Israel's currency.

Analyzing the almost 50 percent increase between this year's and last year's budgets, Dr. Joseph stressed that the income of the country had risen in the past year, but added that nevertheless there would be a small deficit--£1,670,000 pounds--caused by a drop in tax income on one type of tobacco and by unforeseen developments connected with the internal national loan. He expressed the hope that the one percent deficit would be made up from the national loan itself.

He spoke of the new revenue expected from private incomes as well as from the new luxury and sales taxes, admitting that the increased direct taxes would be a heavy burden on the public. But, he insisted, "the government has the right to expect certain sacrifices and the public may be sure that the government will use the budget in the most economical manner." He called upon the country to "maintain the dynamic character of our national economy simultaneously building it on a sound basis so as to make a greater contribution to the absorption of immigrants."

Debate on Budget to Start After Purim Recess

After Dr. Joseph's 50-minute presentation, the Knesset adjourned for its Purim recess. The festival will take place early next week. Today's session was presided over by Joseph Sprinzak, Speaker of the House, who returned to duty after having been ill for a number of weeks.

Among the innovations introduced in this budget is the fact that for the first time in the four-year history of Israel, the government has introduced in advance a full year's budget. Normally, the government asks for sums to cover its expenses for several months in advance. For the first time, too, the government has included security appropriations in the regular budget and will attempt to cover all its expenses, including the military, from income rather than by notes, bonds and the printing of new currency.

Increases in administrative and service expenses are 24 percent higher in this budget than in last year's, and it is expected that this will be reflected in a further increase in prices. At the same time, subsidies for essential foodstuffs have been cut in half, with the government allocating only 2,500,000 pounds for this purpose. After the Knesset session a Ministry of Finance spokesman said the budget was "anti-inflationary," although admitting that it will bring about a rise in prices.

JERUSALEM MAYOR GETS IMPRESSIVE RECEPTION FROM NEW YORK CITY

NEW YORK, March 6. (JTA) -- Mayor Vincent Impellitteri of New York today gave Mayor S. Z. Shragai of Jerusalem an impressive reception in the presence of thousands of people gathered in front of City Hall. The New York mayor presented the Jerusalem mayor with this city's Medal of Honor, receiving in turn from Mr. Shragai a Roll of Honor awarded him by the city of Jerusalem.

The Jerusalem mayor was brought from the Waldorf Astoria Hotel to City Hall by a motorcade of 20 automobiles escorted by police. City Hall was decorated with American and Israeli flags and municipal orchestras played "The Star Spangled Banner" and "Hatikvah" during the ceremony.

In greeting the Jerusalem mayor, Mr. Impellitteri said he was happy to welcome "the distinguished representative of the people of Jerusalem" on behalf of the 8,000,000 people of New York and to have him as guest of this city. Mr. Shragai, replying in Hebrew--which was translated into English--declared that he considers that the honors bestowed upon him are meant for the citizens of Jerusalem, "the historic and modern capital of Israel."

Mr. Shragai expressed the hope that the people of New York "will continue to lend a helping hand in the rebirth of Israel." He invited Mayor Impellitteri and his "fellow citizens" to participate in the celebration of the 300th anniversary of "the establishment of the Kingdom of David in Jerusalem," which will take place next year.

AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN INVESTED \$22,000,000 IN ISRAEL IN 1951

NEW YORK, March 6. (JTA) -- American businessmen invested \$22,000,000 in Israel last year in a wide field including new industries and existing enterprises, the Economic Department of the Jewish Agency reported today. American investments constituted nearly one-third of a total of \$70,000,000 in foreign capital invested in Israel last year. Foreign investments during 1950 totaled \$50,000,000.

Giving a broad view of the investment picture in Israel, the Jewish Agency said that total investment, of both local and foreign capital, amounted to \$154,000,000 in 1951 as compared to \$97,000,000 in 1950.

"Though the influx of private investment capital from the U. S. is significant, it does not keep pace with the growth of the population and is therefore far from adequate relative to the needs of Israel and to the almost limitless opportunities offered by Israel's expanding economic market and her export trade," the Jewish Agency report emphasized.

It expressed confidence that the recent economic policy announced by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion as it affects the rate of exchange for foreign investments in Israel, would help accelerate the flow of American investments. "Israel is primarily concerned with such investments as will enable her either to acquire foreign currency directly or to conserve foreign exchange through the production of vital goods that otherwise would have to be imported," the statement said.

HONDURAS RATIFIES GENOCIDE PACT; IS 35TH COUNTRY TO DO SO

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., March 6. (JTA) -- The permanent representative of Honduras yesterday deposited his government's instrument of ratification of the convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide at a ceremony at U. N. headquarters here. Honduras is the 35th country to ratify or accede to the convention.

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ILSE KOCH, "WITCH OF BUCHENWALD," TO HAVE NEW TRIAL BY GERMANS

MUNICH, March 6. (JTA) -- A re-trial of Ilse Koch, notorious German war criminal who has been charged with ordering inmates of the Nazi camp in Buchenwald murdered in order to use their tattooed skins for lampshades and book covers, will begin on April 22 before the central court in Karlsruhe, it was reported here today.

The sadistic "mistress of Buchenwald camp" was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1947, but her sentence was later reduced by Gen. Lucius D. Clay, then American military commander in Germany, to four years. The commutation of sentence aroused public indignation in the United States and led to a Senatorial investigation.

At the end of her four-year term in an American military prison, in October 1949, Ilse Koch was turned over to German authorities who re-arrested her to face another trial for her war crimes - this time by a German court. She has been charged on five major counts, one of which is the shooting of 24 Jewish prisoners in the Buchenwald concentration camp in 1941, when she was the wife of the commandant of the camp. The German court last year sentenced her to life imprisonment, but she appealed for a review of the sentence.

U.S. RESTITUTION COURT ISSUES RULING ON DEBTS OF GERMAN STATES

NUREMBERG, March 6. (JTA) -- A ruling which may affect the restitution of Jewish property in Germany was issued here today by the United States Court for Restitution Appeals.

The court ruled that the Laender--the federal states in Germany--are not legal successors of the former German Reich. However, property held by the former Nazi Laender which the federal states have acquired should be used for settlement of debts incurred by the former Laender, the court held.

WAR SECRETARY SAYS JEWS NOT ELIMINATED FROM OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT

WASHINGTON, March 6. (JTA) -- Secretary of Army Frank Pace has written Sen. Herbert H. Lehman that recent statements of Maj. Gen. G. L. Nold concerning the desirability of eliminating Jews from among candidates for employment on overseas projects "were broader than the facts justified."

Sen. Lehman made known today that he received from Secretary Pace a letter stating that the Army "intends to comply" with the President's executive order on non-discrimination and pledging that no discrimination would be permitted in hiring workers for employment in building U. S. bases in Arab countries or elsewhere.

The Secretary of Army wrote that contractors have not discriminated against Jews who seek work on Saudi Arabia projects, but that such Jews are automatically eliminated because the Saudi Arabian Government will not grant them the required visas. He added that it was possible that Gen. Nold, at the time of his testimony, was of the opinion that the same or similar difficulties applied to all Arab countries. "Our investigation, however, discloses that this is not the case," Pace emphasized.

Secretary Pace also made known that the Army is still investigating reports of anti-Jewish discrimination on U.S. construction projects in Iceland, Greenland and Newfoundland.

CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS OPPOSES RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS

TORONTO, March 6. (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress has recommended to Jewish parents in the province of Ontario that they ask that their children be exempt from religious instruction in the schools. In a statement issued here, the Congress pointed out that such exemption may be requested by individual parents under the Ontario legislation which provides for religious instruction in the public schools of the province.

The Congress reiterated its opposition to the religious instruction program on the grounds that it "violates the principle of the separation of Church and State, fosters division and segregation and works a hardship upon parents, teachers and children who cannot, for reasons of conscience, accept the demands of the regulation."

It also directed attention to the provision in the law which permits individual schools and school boards to secure exemption from the religious education program. The statement adds, however, that "it is recommended that only in communities where there is a distinct likelihood of achieving exemption should representation be made to the board to act upon its right of exemption as a board."

U.S. SUPREME COURT ASKED TO RULE ON CASE INVOLVING WORK ON SABBATH

WASHINGTON, March 6. (JTA) -- The case of an Orthodox Jewish resident of Youngstown, Ohio, who was denied unemployment compensation when she refused to accept a position requiring her to work on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, was carried yesterday to the United States Supreme Court.

Complainant in the case is Mary Jane Heisler, who was denied unemployment benefits on November 13, 1948, after she refused to investigate potential employment at St. Elizabeth Hospital of Youngstown, Ohio, when told that the job would require working on the Sabbath.

Leo Pfeffer, counsel for the Youngstown Jewish Community Council and the American Jewish Congress, filed the appeal with the highest Federal court from a decision by the Ohio Supreme Court which affirmed a ruling of the State Board of Review of Unemployment Compensation. Mr. Pfeffer argued that the Ohio decision violates Amendment I of the U.S. Constitution, which says that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

MAJOR JEWISH GROUPS SEEK SUNDAY LAW RELIEF FOR ORTHODOX JEWS

NEW YORK, March 6. (JTA) -- Twenty-five major national and local Jewish organizations today protested against the action of the New York State Joint Legislative Committee on the Sabbath Law in recommending "immediate relief for sports promoters" from the operation of the Sunday Law but failing to propose similar relief for persons "who abide by their deeply religious convictions."

In a telegram to Gov. Dewey, the organizations expressed "grave distress" over the failure of the Joint Committee to include in its recommendations provisions whereby persons observing Saturday as their day of rest may be exempted from the operation of the Sunday Law. Under the present law, such persons must suffer "serious penalty for their adherence to their religious convictions," the organization said.

"We urge you to use your good offices to obtain passage during this session of a bill permitting exemption from the Sunday Law for observers of the Jewish Sabbath and thus strengthen the foundations of religious liberty in this state," the telegram to Governor Dewey asked.

\$12,150,000 SPENT FOR JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER CONSTRUCTION IN 1951

NEW YORK, March 6. (JTA) -- The sum of \$12,150,000 was spent or earmarked in 1951 for the construction of Jewish Community Center buildings and facilities, the annual report of the National Jewish Welfare Board's Building Bureau revealed today.

Construction of Jewish Community Center buildings continued, the annual report states, in the face of the National Production Authority's controlled materials program which has slowed down some building projects already under way and delayed the beginning of construction already planned. Nevertheless, Jewish Community Center building projects costing an aggregate sum of \$2,100,000 were completed or neared completion during the year in Paterson, N. J.; Brooklyn; Houston, Texas; Ottawa, Canada; Nashville, Tenn.; and Duluth, Minn.

Construction was begun on projects in Manchester, N. H.; Winnipeg, Canada; Bayonne, N. J.; Toronto, Canada; New Orleans, La.; Toledo, Ohio; and Hazleton, Pa. When finished, these will have cost a total of approximately \$3,600,000. Completed plans for \$2,950,000 worth of Community Center construction in New Haven, Conn; Birmingham, Ala.; Akron, Ohio, and the Bronx are now in the offices of local architects. Start of actual building is awaiting materials allocation by the National Production Authority.

-- In addition, plans for Center buildings in Milwaukee, Wis.; Youngstown, Ohio; Los Angeles, Calif.; Scranton, Pa.; and Evansville, Ind. are in the process of completion by local architects. The total cost of these structures will be approximately \$3,500,000.

N.C.C.J. GETS \$100,000 GIFT FROM HOROWITZ FOUNDATION

NEW YORK, March 6. (JTA) -- The National Conference of Christians and Jews announced today it had received a gift of \$100,000 to its endowment fund from the Louis J. and Mary E. Horowitz Foundation, established in 1922 for educational and philanthropic purposes including the furtherance of understanding and cooperation among religious groups. The gift was made by the Foundation through its president Louis Caplan, of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, president of the National Conference, indicated that under the terms of the grant, the annual income would be used for promoting the efforts of the National Conference nationwide organization in ameliorating prejudice and building goodwill among American religious and racial groups.

GRONEMAN, MEMBER OF WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS COURT, DIES IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, March 6. (JTA) -- Sami Groneman, well known author and playwright, a close friend of Dr. Theodor Herzl and member of the World Zionist Congress Court for many years, died in a hospital here today. He was 77 years old.

Born in Strassbourg, he studied in Germany and graduated from the Berlin University. He practiced law in Germany and emigrated to Israel shortly before the Nazis came to power. His plays were produced in Hebrew by the Habima and Ohel theatres here.

LT. COLONEL LANDY, PIONEER HADASSAH NURSE, DIES IN CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND, March 6. (JTA) -- Lt. Colonel Rae D. Landy, retired, who was one of the first two nurses sent by Hadassah to Palestine in 1913, died at her home here today, aged 66. She stayed in Palestine for more than two years helping the Hadassah fight disease and pestilence there.