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SHARETT TO MEET POPE; TO CONFER WITH FRENCH AND ITALIAN LEADERS

TEL AVIV, March 12. (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett, who is now in Britain, will visit Italy later this month and meet with Pope Pius XII, it was revealed here today by a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry. Minister Sharett, who will be a guest of the Italian Government, will also confer with Premier Alcide de Gasperi--who is also Italy's Foreign Minister--about various Mediterranean problems, the spokesman added.

It was stressed, however, that although Mr. Sharett's itinerary calls for him to visit Italy between March 17 and 20, this will depend upon the state of his health. It was announced that the Minister was stricken with the flu today in London.

The Foreign Minister is scheduled to leave London for Paris on March 15. During his two-day visit in France, arranged at the request of the Israel Government, Mr. Sharett will confer with French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman and Alexandre Parodi, director general of the Quai d'Orsay.

BEN GURION, KAPLAN, GOLDMANN MEET ON U. J. A. -BOND COORDINATION

JERUSALEM, March 12. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion, Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, today conferred on the question of bringing about coordination in the United States between the Israel bond drive and the United Jewish Appeal campaign.

The meeting took place in Zikhron Yakov, where Mr. Kaplan is now recuperating. Earlier in the morning, Dr. Goldmann conferred with Premier Ben Gurion on the question of securing from the Israel Government a special status for the Jewish Agency.

A proposal that a world conference of Zionist activists--"men of spirit and thought"--be convened to make plans for the revitalization of the Zionist movement was voiced here last night at the plenary session of the Jewish Agency executive. The session appointed committees today to draft resolutions which will be voted upon tomorrow.

The executive yesterday devoted two full sessions to a discussion of proposals to increase activity within the movement, with the debate centering chiefly about the issue of the transfer of major tasks and wider authority to local Zionist organizations. While some members of the executive favored liquidation of the party system in the Zionist movement outside Israel, others held out for continuation of the party system, looking toward the eventual establishment of united territorial organizations within which individuals and parties would find their places.

RED CROSS ASKED TO INTERVENE IN DEPORTATIONS OF JEWS IN HUNGARY

LONDON, March 12. (JTA) -- The International Red Cross in Geneva has been asked by the world executive of the Agudas Israel Organization to intervene with the Hungarian Government against the renewed mass deportations of middle class Jews from the larger cities in Hungary, it was reported here today. Agudah leaders also discussed the matter with the British Foreign Office.

The Agudah headquarters here also reported today that the Swedish Government would consider granting visas to Hungarian Jews over 60 years old providing they are permitted to leave Hungary. More than 200 visas for Hungarian Jews in this category have already been made available by Sweden. The Agudas Israel Organization is negotiating with several other governments to permit the entry of aged Jews from Hungary into their countries, the announcement said.

BERLIN RABBI THANKS GERMANS ADVOCATING CONCILIATION WITH JEWS

NUREMBERG, March 12. (JTA) -- The Jews of Germany do not harbor hatred, not even against those at whose hands they suffered in the past, Rabbi M. Freier of Berlin today told a German Protestant conference here.

Dr. Freier said that the Jews wish to thank those Christians who risked their lives in Hitler Germany to help the persecuted Jews. He added that thanks is also due to those Germans who today seek reconciliation between the Germans and the Jews.

In Hamburg, Erich Lueth, originator of the "peace with Israel" movement, reported that contributions have been received by his movement for the purchase of the first 2,000 olive trees to be planted in a "Wood of Reconciliation" in the Jewish State.

GERMAN COURT ORDERS RE-TRIAL OF NAZIS WHO MISTREATED JEWS

NUREMBERG, March 12. (JTA) -- The Federal court at Karlsruhe has ordered the re-trial of three ex-Storm Troopers charged with imprisoning and mistreating 600 Jews in Germany in 1938. At their trial before a lower court two were released and the third received a 10-month sentence, but was released a short time later.

PLAY OFFENSIVE TO JEWS WITHDRAWN FROM BRITISH TELEVISION

LONDON, March 12. (JTA) -- The British Broadcasting Corporation's television department has promised to withdraw from its repertoire the television play "The Prisoner," whose presentation recently gave offense to Jews, it was learned today. The play's central character was a Nazi-like Israeli officer.

SURVEY ON CONVERTS WHO RETURNED TO JUDAISM STARTED IN ITALY

ROME, March 12. (JTA) -- The Union of Italian Jewish Communities will begin a survey to establish the extent to which Jewish converts to Catholicism during the fascist regime have returned to Judaism, it was learned here today. The Union has asked all communities affiliated to it to prepare a numerical study of conversions and reversions.

BRITISH MINISTER BECOMES PATRON OF MEMORIAL TO JEWISH MARTYRS

LONDON, March 12. (JTA) -- British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden has accepted the invitation to become a patron of a memorial to the Unknown Jewish Martyr which will be erected in Paris, it was learned here today. Prime Minister Winston Churchill is also a patron of the project.

RANKIN ATTACKS JEWS IN SPEECH ON FLOOR OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, March 12. (JTA) -- Rep. John Rankin, long known for his anti-Jewish outbursts, made a vicious attack on Jews in the House declaring that "the same element of Yiddish Communists has control in Russia, in Czechoslovakia, and in every other Communist country in Europe." He spoke in connection with the investigation of the Katyn massacre of Polish officers.

Rep. Ray J. Madden, of Indiana, chairman of the subcommittee which is conducting the investigation, agreed with the anti-Semitic view of the Mississippi Congressman. "The gentleman is absolutely correct," he said. Chairman Madden made this observation after Rankin finished an anti-Semitic statement which included the expressed hope that Congress "will not only investigate all the angles of these atrocious Katyn outrages but that you will investigate the so-called Nuremberg trials."

Rankin said: "Some months ago the Michigan delegation invited me down to hear a very distinguished man who, I believe, is now president of a great military academy in the United States. He had just come back from Poland. His statement was to the effect that the people of Poland were reduced to slavery of the most beastly character, and that a little gang of Yids at the top were in complete control."

The discussion in which Madden and Rankin participated concerned the killing of Polish officers during World War II in the vicinity of Katyn, Poland. Rankin, Madden, and other members of Congress have urged action on requests that an investigation be held to fix the blame for the massacre. Rankin, among others, asked that the Germans be exonerated for the anti-Polish atrocity and that the Soviets be held responsible.

JEWS GROUPS URGE HOUSE TO REJECT THE OMNIBUS IMMIGRATION BILL

WASHINGTON, March 12. (JTA) -- Major Jewish organizations today joined non-Jewish groups in a letter to members of Congress urging them to reject the Omnibus Immigration Bill slated to reach the House of Representatives tomorrow. The letter emphasized that the passing of this bill "would tear down precious rights of American citizens and undermine the security and welfare of the United States."

Among the Jewish groups which signified their opposition to the bill are the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Jewish Labor Committee, the Jewish War Veterans, the National Community Relations Advisory Council and the National Council of Jewish Women.

The letter pointed out that some organizations, representing considerable segments of the country's population, have requested, but have not received, an opportunity to be heard on the bill. "We urge that the bill be referred back to committee for further hearings and further study so that the good in this bill may be freed from the evil that now infects it, and so that precious rights of American citizens may be safeguarded," the joint letter said.

OAKLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION BARS GIDEON BIBLE FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OAKLAND, Cal., March 12. (JTA) -- The Oakland Board of Education has denied permission to the Gideon Society to distribute Gideon Bibles in the public schools of this city. The society's request for permission had been opposed by the Jewish Community Relations Council and other Oakland groups on the grounds that distribution of the Bibles would violate the traditional separation of church and state.

NEW YORK U. J. A. OPENS 1952 DRIVE; \$7, 000, 000 IN PLEDGES REPORTED

NEW YORK, March 12. (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York formally inaugurated its 1952 campaign tonight with a dinner at which it was announced that more than \$7, 000, 000 has already been received in pledges.

Five hundred persons prominent in business and civic affairs attended the dinner, which was a testimonial to the five general chairmen of the campaign--Samuel Hausman, Benjamin Lazrus, Samuel S. Schneierman, Jerome I. Udell, and Jack D. Weiler--as well as the occasion for presentation to U. S. Senator Herbert H. Lehman of New York of the third annual Chairmen's Award for distinguished service to the causes participating in the New York U. J. A. drive.

The award for Sen. Lehman--a gold plaque--was accepted by his son because the Senator was prevented from coming to New York by urgent business which required his presence in Washington. The principal speakers at the dinner included Viscount Samuel of Mount Carmel, who was the first British High Commissioner under the Palestine Mandate; Abba Eban, Ambassador of the State of Israel to the United States, and Louis Brodido, president of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York. William Rosenwald, a U. J. A. national chairman, presided.

In his statement of acceptance--read at the dinner--Sen. Lehman said: "The millions of dollars poured into Israel in the effort to create a haven for countless thousands of Jewish refugees helped immeasurably to strengthen and develop this new nation which America now recognizes as its staunchest ally in the Middle East. In Israel, as in Europe, our government has followed the example set by its private citizens in supporting the work of the United Jewish Appeal and related causes. The private aid of the United Jewish Appeal, while given not to governments but to people, has none the less mightily advanced the democratic cause all over the world."

Eban Outlines Basis for Arab-Israeli Peace

Ambassador Eban said in his address that there will be peace between Israel and the Arab states of the Near East "if each nationalism in the area recognizes for other nationalisms the same rights as it claims for itself." There are signs of a new awakening in the Near East to the necessity of regional cooperation, he asserted. "Men of vision in Arab and Moslem capitals are beginning to realize that a sterile vendetta against Israel weakens and distracts the region as a whole and each of its individual states--the Arab states no less than Israel," he declared.

Contrasting Israel's 8, 000 square miles of land area with the 1, 000, 000 miles of Arab land, the Israel Ambassador said: "Because the sovereignty of Israel operates within such modest limits, it shall be defended with special zeal. However, if each nationalism in the area recognizes for other nationalisms the same rights which it claims for itself, there will be peace."

Speaking of the aid which the people of Israel are depending on Americans to give them in their current battle for economic survival, Ambassador Eban said: "It remains vitally necessary for Israel's future to strengthen the United Jewish Appeal which is one of the most remarkable undertakings in voluntary statesmanship ever known. It is an indispensable architect of Israel's future. The other efforts on which we have embarked must supplement and augment but not replace it."

ISRAELI OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN U.S. TO STUDY AMERICAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

WASHINGTON, March 12. (JTA) -- Moshe Avidor, a senior administrative officer of the Israel Ministry of Education and Culture, has arrived in Washington to begin a three-month study of education in the United States, the Department of State announced today. Dr. Avidor's visit is under the sponsorship of the State Department program for the exchange of persons.

During his travels, Dr. Avidor will study school systems, at all levels, and their relation to municipal, state, and Federal government. He is especially interested in legislation, administration, financing, and services provided by both governmental and school authorities for pupils. He also wishes to study compulsory school attendance and methods of enforcement. The U.S. Office of Education is arranging his itinerary.

DETROIT COMMUNITY COUNCIL EXPLAINS STAND ON ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

DETROIT, March 12. (JTA) -- The Jewish Community Council here today issued a statement denying that it attempted to secure amendment of the constitution of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit which would have given the Council the right to allocate its own funds without examination.

"Our amendment," the statement said, "did not provide 'for allocation of funds without examination.' On the contrary. It provided for the existing method of appropriation by the Federation upon its examination of the Council's budget estimates. Within these total funds thus appropriated, the amendment if adopted, would have permitted the Council to transfer funds from one budget to another as exigencies would demand."

The statement emphasized that the amendment received 397 votes for and 470 against. "Only 867 voted on the amendment," the Council pointed out in its statement, taking issue with a report which stated that a total of 1,012 votes were cast.

BILL TO OUTLAW DISCRIMINATION PRESENTED IN MANITOBA FOR 11TH YEAR

WINNIPEG, Man., March 12. (JTA) -- A "Bill of Rights" which would outlaw racial and religious discrimination in the province has been introduced in the Manitoba Legislature by M. A. Gray for the eleventh successive year.

The measure is given little chance of passage since the majority in the legislature in past years has argued that discrimination must be fought by education rather than legislation. The government, however, has introduced a measure prohibiting restrictive covenants in real estate sales.

LEADERS OF JEWISH CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN MEXICO RE-ELECTED

MEXICO CITY, March 12. (JTA) -- The Jewish Central Committee leadership here was re-elected in its present composition for another term at a conference of representatives of Jewish organizations and institutions. Fabian Sviadosch will continue in his post as president of the Central Committee.