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JEWISH GROUPS, ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES MEET ON REPARATIONS

LONDON, March 17. (JTA) -- The Israeli delegation to the German reparations negotiations began meeting here today with representatives of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany on final plans for coordination between the two groups which will soon enter into separate negotiations with the Bonn Government. Although the composition of the delegation representing the Conference has not yet been set, it was reiterated that it would be composed of experts and that no Jewish political figure would participate in the talks.

The World Union for Progressive Judaism today submitted to the United Nations a request that it bring a claim for restitution for the Union before the West German Government. The memorandum said that the request was put to the U. N. "because we did not have an opportunity to express our point of view in the Conference on Jewish Claims Against Germany and because a considerable number of our governing body felt that our organization should not approach the German Government directly."

The memorandum stipulated, however, that the Union does not "wish to interfere with or disassociate" itself from claims made on behalf of Jews generally, but only to add the claim of the religious organizations which the Union represents. It pointed out that in pre-war Germany the majority of the Jews expressed a preference for affiliation with Liberal Judaism and that two Liberal Jewish religious organizations were associated with the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

Meanwhile, a New York Attorney, Lillian D. Rock, left here for Paris on the first leg of an international search for the assets of the Mendelssohn family, whose members fled Germany in 1933, leaving behind an estimated \$5,600,000 which the Nazis stole. Miss Rock will seek valuable paintings belonging to the Mendelssohns in French banks. Later she will travel to Holland to recover about \$280,000 which she believes is there. Finally, she will go to Frankfurt to begin proceedings to recover the remainder of the family's assets from the Bonn Government.

ISRAELI POLICE PREPARE FOR DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST GERMAN TALKS

TEL AVIV, March 17. (JTA) -- Police here were today preparing measures to meet possible disturbances by opposition parties when the negotiations for reparations with Germany begin. The police action followed a rally here last night at which 200 Communists denounced the negotiations with West Germany, and Herut preparations for a huge anti-government demonstration on the day the Israeli-German talks begin.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the government is contemplating the suspension of the official newspaper of the Herut Party. In a letter to the right-wing party, Minister of Interior Moshe Shapira said that its newspaper "Herut" might be suspended if it continued its campaign of "incitement" against reparations negotiations.

SYRIAN TROOPS PENETRATE ISRAELI TERRITORY; FORCED TO WITHDRAW

TEL AVIV, March 17. (JTA) -- A number of Syrian irregular troops penetrated Israeli territory north of Kibbutz Dafne and fired on an Israeli Army patrol, a military spokesman announced here tonight.

The announcement added that after an exchange of fire the Syrians retreated to Syrian territory. A strong protest has been lodged with the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission.

ISRAEL MAY RECEIVE PART OF \$55,000,000 IN PROPOSED U. S. AID

WASHINGTON, March 17. (JTA) -- Israel may receive an as yet undetermined proportion of \$55,000,000 in proposed mutual security economic and technical aid for the Near East, in addition to \$76,000,000 for Jewish refugees, it was learned today. However, a spokesman for the Mutual Security Administration said that for security reasons, a country-by-country breakdown could not be published at this time and that the additional amount for Israel would probably be submitted in executive session to the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees.

Mutual Security Administrator W. Averill Harriman asked Congress last week for \$76,000,000 for the relief and rehabilitation of Jewish refugees in Israel, in addition to \$65,000,000 for the care of Arab refugees in Arab lands. The total amount of aid recommended by President Truman for the Near East is \$196,000,000.

18,000 ATTEND PURIM FESTIVAL IN NEW YORK; HEAR REPORT ON ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- More than 18,000 persons tonight attended the Purim Victory Festival arranged by the New York Committee for State of Israel Bonds, at which Golda Myerson, Israel's Minister of Labor, was one of the principal speakers.

Mrs. Myerson, making her first major address in New York since her arrival in the United States three weeks ago, said that "it would be foolhardy to set a time when Israel will win economic self-sufficiency, but we are well on our way and should be there within the next six or seven years." Noting that the results of the investment of Israel bond dollars have given Israel strong foundations for economic growth, Mrs. Myerson said: "We have begun to speed up our production so that there will be more of everything for our own people, and so that we may compete with other nations in the export trade."

Describing Purim as not only the happiest holiday in the Hebrew calendar, but also the one holiday that more than any other is "responsible for the survival of the Jewish people," Henry Morgenthau, Jr., told the audience that the story of Purim has given the Jewish people throughout the centuries the confidence that it will outlive all oppressors.

The former Secretary of the Treasury assured his listeners that it is wrong to think of Israel as poor in natural resources, citing the new towns and villages that are rising on every hand as evidence of "tremendous development." They are a direct result, he asserted, of Israel's achievements in pushing back the desert and discovering such resources as kaolin and glass sand, which he had held in his hands in Israel's new mining regions.

Referring to Israel's progress with Israel bond drive receipts as "a glorious beginning," Mr. Morgenthau urged the necessity of continuing support for Israel's battle for economic independence, and emphasized that "the State of Israel \$500,000,000 bond drive will go on until the whole issue has been subscribed."

JEWS AND ARAB STANDARDS OF LIVING TO BE EQUALIZED IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- The Israeli Cabinet last night approved a series of proposals designed to bring the standard of living of the Arab population of the entire country up to the level of the Jewish citizens.

The proposals call for equalization of pay standards for Arabs working for the government and government-supported enterprises, as well as for Arabs working in private industry and agriculture. The proposals were drafted by a Ministerial Committee consisting of Premier David Ben Gurion, Minister for Minorities Behor Shitreet, Welfare Minister Moshe Shapira and Minister of Agriculture and Development Levi Eshkol.

COMMUNIST PARTY IN ISRAEL CONDUCTS PURGE; MANY MEMBERS EXPELLED

TEL AVIV, March 17. (JTA) -- A purge is taking place in the Israeli Communist Party, the evening newspaper Yedioth Achronoth reported last night. The newspaper said that in advance of the forthcoming national conference of the party many members who came from Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia have been expelled on charges of "Titoism."

The newspaper reports that the purge has even been extended to Esther Wilenska, a leading Communist and the party's representative on the Tel Aviv municipal council and on the Histadrut executive. It said that she has been removed from her official posts, but that the explanation given publicly is that she is inactive for "private reasons."

U.N. AND JORDAN ASKED TO PERMIT JEWS TO PRAY AT WALL

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- An appeal to the United Nations and to the Jordan Government to permit Jews to worship at the Wailing Wall and to open the road to the Hebrew University and the Hadassah Hospital was voiced here last night by Shlomo Z. Shragai, Mayor of Jerusalem, at a dinner given in his honor by the New York Council of the Hapoel Hamizrachi, Orthodox Labor Zionist group. More than 1,200 guests attended the affair.

Mayor Shragai pointed out that under the terms of Paragraph Eight of the armistice agreement which was signed between Israel and Jordan access to these points should be given to the people of Israel. He emphasized that it was the prime duty of the United Nations to protect its own honor and the agreement signed in its name.

In a strong appeal for widespread support for the United Jewish Appeal the Mayor called attention to the economic problems which are confronting Israel and the need to rehabilitate and re-settle the constant influx of newcomers. He paid tribute to the U. J. A. for making it possible to settle 750,000 homeless Jews in Israel since the establishment of the Jewish state.

The dinner given in honor of Mayor Shragai also commemorated the 30th anniversary of the founding of Hapoel Hamizrachi in Israel. Mr. Shragai is one of the founders and leaders of this movement which is endeavoring to build Israel "according to the laws of the Torah and social justice."

ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO ELIMINATE PUBLIC RECEPTIONS

LONDON, March 17. (JTA) -- The Israeli legation here has announced that it will not hold a public reception on the fourth anniversary of the proclamation of the State of Israel--which this year falls on April 30--because of the strict austerity regime in effect in Israel. The announcement said that this policy will hold for all Israeli diplomatic missions throughout the world.

ANTI-SEMITIC PARTY DECLARED ILLEGAL IN TURKEY; OFFICES CLOSED

ISTANBUL, March 17. (JTA) -- The Turkish Government today declared illegal the democratic Moslem Party founded by Gevat Atilhan, a leading anti-Semite.

The ban was proclaimed following a court decision establishing that the Democratic Moslem Party has violated the Turkish law on associations. An order was issued today to local police authorities to close all the offices of the party which was conducting anti-Jewish propaganda.

AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES DROP CHARGES AGAINST AGUDAH LEADER

VIENNA, March 17. (JTA) -- Charges of violating foreign trade regulations which were brought against Benjamin Schreiber, leader of the Agudas Israel organization in Austria, were dropped today.

The Agudah leader, who had been arrested and later released on bail, said today that he will sue the Austrian Government for moral and material damages which he claims to have suffered as a result of the arrest.

SYNAGOGUES STILL FUNCTION IN PRAGUE; COMMUNITY PUBLISHES PAPER

VIENNA, March 17. (JTA) -- Jewish religious life in Prague is continuing although many institutions maintained by Jews have been liquidated, a report reaching here today indicated.

The report said that a number of synagogues are still open in Prague and that six rabbis and cantors are still ministering to the congregations. The Jewish community publishes its own organ in the Czech language, the report stated.

1,600 JEWISH REFUGEES RECEIVE NATURALIZATION IN HOLLAND

THE HAGUE, Holland, March 17. (JTA) -- About two-thirds of the 2,400 Jewish refugees who were given asylum in Holland between 1933-39 have been granted naturalization, the Netherland Ministry of Justice reported today. The remaining 800 applications are being absorbed in naturalization bills now before the Parliament, "the report said.

LAST DISPLACED PERSON TO MIGRATE TO U.S. LEAVES GERMANY

BREMEN, Germany, March 17. (JTA) -- The last displaced person to migrate to the United States under the United States Displaced Persons Act which expired on December 31, left Bremerhaven this week-end, it was reported today.

JEWS IN IRAN TO ELECT THEIR OWN DEPUTY TO PARLIAMENT

TEHERAN, Iran, March 17. (JTA) -- Jews in Iran are now making arrangements for the election of a Jewish member to the new Iranian Parliament. The new Iranian constitution provides that the Jewish population may be represented in Parliament by one deputy.

U.S. AIR FORCE DEFENDS HIRING OF NAZI CHARGED WITH ATROCITIES

WASHINGTON, March 17. (JTA) -- The United States Air Force today defended its action in hiring Nazi General Walter Schreiber who was charged with complicity in Nazi medical atrocities carried out in concentration camps. However, it said that "Dr. Schreiber's contract with the Air Force expired on Feb. 26, 1952, and will not be renewed."

In a letter to Rep. Jacob Javits, Brig. Gen. Robert L. Eaton, director of the Legislative and Liaison Service of the U. S. A. F., said that before Dr. Schreiber was hired, it had previously been determined that there was no record that he was ever a member of the Nazi party and that his name did not appear in the central registry of war criminals and security suspects.

"Dr. Schreiber was hired by the Air Force because of his extensive experience in the field of epidemiology and military preventive medicine, coupled with his peculiar knowledge of public health and sanitation problems in certain geographical areas," the letter said. "He has collaborated in the preparation of a treatise on the epidemiology of air travel and has been able to furnish the Air Force with valuable information. He has not occupied a position of trust responsibility, or importance in the School of Aviation Medicine, nor has he taught there. He has carried on no medical research for the Air Force, has done no work in the field of experimental medicine while in the United States, and has had no access to classified material.

"The charges which have appeared in the press have been based on certain evidence introduced in the trial of several defendants in the medical case before the Nurnberg Military Tribunal No. I. Dr. Schreiber was not tried as a defendant in the medical case, presumably because he was a prisoner of the Russians at that time, and not under the jurisdiction of the tribunal. Whether he would have been convicted, had he been tried, is a highly speculative question. The evidence concerning Dr. Schreiber is the incidental by-product of the trial of other defendants in the medical case.

"This evidence has never been tested by cross-examination, conducted on behalf of Dr. Schreiber, and since Dr. Schreiber himself has never been on trial, any favorable evidence which he might produce is not available. It is believed, therefore, that a fair and informed judgment cannot be made on the basis of this evidence," the letter stated. It added that the Nazi general is still in this country under military custody, pending settlement of his personal financial affairs, and that it is expected that "he will leave the U. S. in a few weeks."

ALLIES TO PLACE NAZI WAR CRIMINALS UNDER GERMAN CUSTODY

WASHINGTON, March 17. (JTA) -- The State Department made known today that "it is intended to transfer to the German authorities custody of the war criminals held by the Allies in Western Germany when the contractual agreements become effective." This was stated by Jack K. McFall, Assistant Secretary of State, in a letter to Rep. Jacob K. Javits of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"It would be inconsistent with this new relationship for the American, British, or French governments to maintain a prison for German nationals in the Federal Republic," the State Department official said. He made it clear that when the new agreements with the Federal Republic of Germany enter into force, the occupation of that country will come to an end.

"The Federal Republic," said McFall, "will agree to carry out the sentences of these prisoners and to maintain the conditions of confinement existing when custody

is transferred. An international board will be established in order to provide a means of considering questions of termination or reduction of sentence, or of parole, after custody has been transferred to the Germans. Since there were war crimes trials held not only by the United States authorities in Germany, but also by the British and French, it was agreed that the board would be composed of one American, one British, one French and three German members.

The board will have no jurisdiction over those convicted by the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, since they are held in joint custody by the American, British, French, and Soviet authorities in Berlin, the State Department communication pointed out. "No criteria for the board's actions have yet been established," it added. "However, it has been made clear that the board will not have any authority to question the validity of the convictions. It is expected that the board will follow generally accepted penological practices in arriving at its recommendations."

VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY DENOUNCES BIGOTRY IN ADVERTISING

RICHMOND, Va., March 17. (JTA) -- The Virginia General Assembly today went on record in a resolution denouncing advertising which contains religious bias. The resolution was adopted after a bill to enforce such a ban was killed.

"The publication, posting, broadcasting, circularizing, issuing, displaying, transmission, or other dissemination or placing before the public of any commercial advertising to the effect that the patronage or custom of any person is, because of his religion, not welcome, or objectionable, or not solicited, is a reprehensible act which is calculated to foment discord and cause disunity in this time of grave peril to the state, and one which is strongly condemned by this body, which is dedicated to the preservation of all the liberties of the people of this commonwealth against all enemies, foreign and domestic," the resolution stated.

REGIONAL PARLEYS BRING \$1,500,000 TO UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- Two regional conferences of the United Jewish Appeal this week-end produced more than \$1,500,000 in contributions, it was announced here today by U. J. A. headquarters.

At a regional conference in Boston, attended by Jewish community leaders from Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and Rhode Island, the sum of more than \$1,000,000 was raised after an address by Dr. Jorge Garcia Granados, former Guatemalan Ambassador to the United States. This was in addition to \$450,000 presented recently by the Greater Boston district. The other \$500,000 were presented in cash at a regional Eastern Pennsylvania conference attended by 500 leaders from 80 communities.

HAYIM WEINER, JEWISH WRITER, DIES IN ISRAEL; RESIDED IN U.S.

TEL AVIV, March 17. (JTA) -- Hayim Weiner, Jewish writer who arrived here from the United States two months ago, today died of a heart attack. Born in Russia, he came to the United States in 1923 but left for Palestine in 1932. He later returned for a visit to New York where he contributed articles to the Jewish Daily Forward and American-Hebrew publications. He was especially known for his essays on literature and the theatre.