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LEAVITT TO HEAD DELEGATION ON REPARATIONS TALKS WITH GERMANY

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- Moses A. Leavitt, vice chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee and honorary secretary of the praesidium of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, will head the delegation of the Conference at the reparations talks with representatives of the West German Government, it was officially announced here today.

Associated with Mr. Leavitt on the delegation will be Maurice M. Boukstein of the Jewish Agency, Alex L. Easterman of the World Jewish Congress and Simon Rubin of the Washington office of the American Jewish Committee, the announcement said. They will be assisted by a number of experts. The official communique does not mention where the German-Jewish reparations talks will take place.

(A cable from The Hague, Holland, to the J. T. A. said today that delegates representing Israel and the Conference on Jewish Claims Against Germany will arrive in The Hague tomorrow for talks preliminary to the reparations negotiations which these two delegations are to start with representatives of the West German Government. The place of the negotiations will remain secret. It is expected that they will last many weeks, the cable said.)

The Conference's communique emphasized that "responsibility for the negotiations rests with the praesidium which has made arrangements for frequent consultations with the European members of the executive of the Conference to help shape policy during the course of the negotiations." It also revealed that members of the praesidium and of the Israel delegation to the German negotiations met with Israel Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett here yesterday, after which the praesidium members conferred with European members of the Conference executive to review the preparations made for the negotiations.

Premier Says Israel Government Prepared for Herut Demonstration

JERUSALEM, March 19. (JTA) -- The Israel Government "has not averted its eyes from the Herut's stupid incitement and every precaution is being taken to prevent the recurrence of hooliganism and disturbances," Premier David Ben Gurion today told Parliament. He added that any lawbreaking resulting from the Herut's scheduled demonstration against the German reparations negotiations on March 25 would be punished.

The Premier's statement came in reply to a written query by a deputy from his own party who asked what the government planned to do in the face of the Herut demonstration. Herut deputy Esther Rasiel-Nahor protested both the form of the query and the Premier's reply.

OPPOSITION PARTIES TO VOTE AGAINST ISRAEL GOVERNMENT BUDGET

JERUSALEM, March 19. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament began a 24-hour debate on the government's budget last night. Opposition spokesmen representing the leftwing Mapam Party, the centrist General Zionists and rightwing Herut immediately announced their intention of voting against the government.

Dr. Moshe Sneh, Mapam leader, called for a reduction in the defense budget, insisting that it was "not needed for the defense of Israel but for a world imperialistic policy." He asserted that the government's record budget of 168,000,000 pounds will cut the immigration program, lower living standards, "oppress the poor" and "robs us of our political independence." Dr. Sneh insisted that 45 per cent of the anticipated income tax returns will come from the workers, who were also hit by price increases as a result of the government's recent economic reforms.

Dr. Peretz Bernstein, General Zionist deputy, demanded that the budget be returned to committee, declaring that the government spokesman in the finance committee of Parliament had admitted his inability to provide exact figures on what the government could expect from the income tax. He charged that the budget presented by the government has no basis and that the new government economic program has "ruined" the budget.

Dr. Jochanan Bader, Herut deputy, said that the budget increase was a reflection of the inflation caused by the new economic policy. He added that the policy also lowers living standards in the country and hinders its normal development.

Israel Gori, chairman of the finance committee, speaking for the government, insisted that "the grave situation in the country" is reflected in the "grave" budget and makes necessary a heavy schedule of taxes. He maintained that in the past the government had given the public more service -- such as health, welfare and education -- than it could afford. Now, he stated, "we must lower our standards." However, he pointed out that the government's education appropriation was so low that it would have to ask for additional funds in the middle of the fiscal year.

ARAB VILLAGERS IN ISRAEL CLASH WITH POLICE; SEVERAL WOUNDED

TEL AVIV, March 19. (JTA) -- Strong police detachments last night cordoned off the Arab village Rama, in Upper Galilee, after the inhabitants overpowered a number of food control officers who came to receive olive oil from the villagers.

The villagers refused to comply with the order and wounded several policemen. When reinforcement arrived, part of the oil was delivered while a search for the remainder continued. The authorities estimate that the villagers possess 100 tons of oil.

55 AMERICAN EDITORS ARRIVE IN ISRAEL; WILL TOUR THE COUNTRY

TEL AVIV, March 19. (JTA) -- A group of 55 American editors arrived here today and will visit various parts of Israel. They intend to remain in the country for four days.

A. S. Zuber, director of a Swiss railway company, has arrived here to help Israel plan a railway spur to Eilat, in the Southern Negev, it was announced today. M. Zuber and Israeli railway technicians have begun a survey of the possible route.

Z. O. A. PRESIDENT PROPOSES ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE TALKS IN WASHINGTON

NEW YORK, March 19. (JTA) -- President Truman was called upon today "to initiate an American move in the United Nations to call an Arab-Jewish peace conference in Washington under the chairmanship of Dr. Ralph Bunche, U. N. mediator in the Arab-Israeli war."

The proposal for such a conference to be held in Washington was made by Benjamin G. Browdy, president of the Zionist Organization of America, in an address at a luncheon meeting held at the Hotel Biltmore here, attended by Zionist leaders.

In his address, the Z. O. A. leader said that on his recent visit to Israel he "heard a great deal about a number of Arab statesmen and newspapermen, led by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Sir Mohammed Zafrullah Khan, urging peace between the Arab states and Israel." Mr. Browdy asserted that on the basis of conversations with Israel high officials as well as foreign diplomats he has come to the conclusion that "there is a great deal of substance" to these Arab peace feelers.

"As far as Israel is concerned," he said, "I can say with authority, having spoken to the highest officials, including Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, that Israel would welcome peace negotiations with the Arabs." He expressed the opinion that "once the representatives of the Arab states and Israel meet in Washington it should not be very difficult, under the guidance of the United Nations and the American government, to convert the armistice agreement between Israel and the Arab states into a peace treaty."

Mr. Browdy, who returned from Jerusalem where he participated in the plenary session of the Jewish Agency executive, also discussed the problems dealt with by the Jerusalem session. He reported that a bill conferring special status on the Jewish Agency governing its work in Israel will be introduced in the Knesset shortly and that a draft of the bill is now being whipped into final shape. Mr. Browdy felt confident that inasmuch as the bill has the endorsement of the government parties, its passage in the Knesset is assured.

Dr. Bunche Urges Speedy Action on Reaching Arab-Israeli Peace

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- Dr. Ralph Bunche, former acting mediator for Palestine, yesterday expressed disappointment at the fact that so little progress toward a permanent peace settlement between Israel and the Arab states had been made in the three years since he helped negotiate the armistice agreements.

"I had hoped that there would be fairly rapid movement from the armistice agreements to a more permanent settlement," Dr. Bunche told newsmen, adding that "I can only hope for the creation of a better climate and that some break will soon appear which will be of advantage to everybody." He expressed the opinion that a lasting peace in the Middle East was needed not only by that region, but by the whole world.

U. S. Urged to Deny Aid to Saudi Arabia for Non-Admission of Jews

WASHINGTON, March 19, (JTA) -- Senator Owen Brewster told Secretary of State Dean Acheson that Saudi Arabia does not deserve American aid. He emphasized that the ruler of Saudi Arabia does not permit "a single Jew to enter the country." The Senator voiced his sentiments when Secretary Acheson testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the Mutual Security Program.

GERMAN PRESIDENT RECEIVES COMMANDER OF U.S. JEWISH WAR VETERANS

BONN, March 19. (JTA) -- Paul Ginsberg, national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, was today received by West German President Theodor Heuss and John J. McCloy, American High Commissioner for Germany. Mr. Ginsberg is visiting Germany during a world tour.

From Frankfurt it was reported today that the provincial government of Hesse has decided to extend its indemnification program for racial and political victims of Nazism to persons forced to emigrate from Germany because of persecution by the Nazis on religious, racial and political grounds.

The Bavarian Parliament today announced that it would appeal to the Federal constitutional court at Karlsruhe to rule whether the Bavarian courts may continue to refuse permission for a Bavarian parliamentary commission to hear testimony by Dr. Philip Auerbach, deposed head of the Bavarian Restitution Office, who will be tried on charges of fraud in office next month.

PERON RECEIVES JEWISH DELEGATION; CONDEMNS BIGOTRY; LAUDS JEWS

BUENOS AIRES, March 19. (JTA) -- Argentine President Juan Peron, receiving a delegation from the pro-Peron Organizacion Israelita Argentina, today expressed abhorrence of all forms of discrimination and added that he understood the tendency of Jews to isolate themselves from other national groups when they are persecuted or feel insecure.

The President lauded the ability of Jews in many fields, and asked: "Why should these superior manifestations of human intelligence be lost or isolated and enclosed in a national circle?" He declared emphatically: "We absolutely oppose this type of unjustified segregation within the Argentine community. We ask you to work and fight against prejudices within your own group where they have no reason to exist since we have totally and absolutely liquidated discrimination."

The delegates were later received by Mme. Peron, who thanked them for their sympathy during her recent illness.

PUNISHMENT OF GROUP LIBEL SOUGHT IN BRITISH PARLIAMENT

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- A new attempt is being made in Parliament to pass legislation designed to punish group libel in Britain, it was learned here today.

An amendment providing for a maximum punishment of two years imprisonment for group libel was moved yesterday by Sir Leslie Plummer, M. P., in a Parliamentary committee considering a new libel and slander bill. The amendment was seconded by Barnett Janner.

Explaining his reasons for offering the amendment, Sir Leslie said that five or six fascist newspapers are being sold openly in Britain, and that they repeat almost exactly all the Nazi slanders against the Jews. He declared that it is the moral duty and responsibility of a democracy to protect its minorities, adding that "unfortunately, abuses against them continue." He told the M. P.'s that cases have been recorded of people in the East End of London -- a predominantly Jewish district -- being incited to pull the beards of Jews and to knock them down and mistreat them.

In his seconding speech, Mr. Janner said that the matter was much graver than most people are able to understand.

RUMANIA ASKED TO PERMIT JEWS TO JOIN RELATIVES IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, March 19. (JTA) -- Over 3,000 former Rumanian Jewish families in this country who left relatives behind in Rumania today decided to appeal to the Rumanian authorities to permit their relatives to join them in Israel.

The appeal will be sent to the Premier of Rumania and to various United Nations organs. It is estimated that 85 per cent of these 3,000 families left children behind, 10 per cent left parents and five per cent are wives who came to Israel without their husbands.

ISRAEL WILL NOT RESTRICT IMMIGRATION OF EAST EUROPEAN JEWS

PARIS, March 19. (JTA) -- Jews from Eastern European countries will not be subject to Israel's selective immigration policy, but will be admitted without restriction, it was announced here today at a conference on European and North African immigration to Israel. The parley was held under the auspices of the Jewish Agency's European office, with a representative of the Agency immigration department attending.

It was stated that despite the difficulties raised by the authorities, a steady flow of immigrants continues from Rumania to Israel and 2,400 are scheduled to leave for the Jewish State this month. It was also reported that 200 Jews are leaving from Hungary this month and that the Agency hopes to arrange for the migration of 250 Jews monthly from that country.

Of the 7,000 Jews left in Bulgaria, it was disclosed, 2,000 have registered for emigration and the Agency hopes to arrange for their transportation shortly. Although more than 1,000 Jews have registered for visas at the Israeli legation in Czechoslovakia, it is feared that few will be allowed to leave. Also, it was revealed that the Agency is trying to arrange for Polish Jews with families in Israel to migrate there on an individual basis.

The Agency policy on Western European Jewish immigration is to concentrate on reaching Jews with special skills and knowledge needed in Israel. Since the creation of the state, it was reported, more than 25,000 individuals from Western Europe have gone to Israel, including 4,000 from France and more than 2,000 from Britain. During the same period 1,900 American Jews have settled permanently in Israel.

It is planned to admit 1,000 Jews each month from North African countries. However, many of them must first receive extensive hospital care and education to fit them to the Western culture of Israel. It was revealed that 5,000 North African Jews are now going through such preparatory procedure in Morocco and France.

EMIGRATION OF JEWS FROM TUNISIA TO BE SPEEDED UP

TUNIS, March 19. (JTA) -- Plans for the speeding up of emigration of Jews from Tunisia were announced here today. In the future, 500 Jews will depart monthly for Israel instead of 200 departing now, the announcement said.

Officials of the Joint Distribution Committee are now pressing the Jewish Agency for the abolition of the policy of selective emigration from Tunisia. They point out that the position of the Jews in this country must be considered potentially dangerous.
