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GERMAN-ISRAELI TALKS OPEN TODAY IN STRONGLY GUARDED DUTCH CASTLE

THE HAGUE, March 20. (JTA) -- The opening session of the Israeli-German negotiations for reparations payments by West Germany will be held tomorrow in an old castle at Wassenaar, a suburb of The Hague, it was learned here today. The castle will be guarded by a large number of Dutch police and plainclothesmen to prevent any possible disturbances by elements opposed to the holding of the negotiations.

A spokesman for the delegation of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany today told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the delegation will support Israel's claims. He outlined the aims of the Conference, which represents 23 major Jewish organizations outside of Israel, as being:

1). To secure for hundreds of thousands of survivors of Nazi persecution the restitution of property wrested from them by the Nazi government;

2). To obtain compensation for those incarcerated in concentration camps and for what they suffered as a result;

3). To guarantee that Jewish assets confiscated during the Nazi regime, for which there are neither heirs nor claimants, not remain with those who participated in or profited from the pillage, but be made available to representative Jewish organizations for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of hundreds of thousands of needy survivors of Nazi persecution.

"The magnitude of the problem facing negotiators may be gauged from the fact that under fragmentary legislation already in force, providing compensation for persecutees, individuals residing outside of Germany filed some 125,000 claims in the U.S. Zone alone," he said. "The U.S. Zone encompasses only four of the eleven states of the West German Federal Republic."

Herut Gives Tel Aviv Police Notice of Anti-Government Rally

TEL AVIV, March 20. (JTA) -- The rightwing Herut Party today informed the Tel Aviv police that it intends to hold its demonstration against the Israeli-German reparations negotiations on March 25, but added that it may change that date after giving the police additional notice. The leftwing Mapam Party has called a mass meeting against the negotiations for this Saturday.

The Herut announced that the demonstrators will march through the main streets of Tel Aviv and will pass the Great Synagogue on Allenby Street. At that point the prayer for the dead will be recited by the demonstrators, after which they will disperse. The Herut has issued invitations to foreign correspondents in this country to witness the demonstration.

EFFICIENCY OF ISRAEL'S DEFENSE FORCES TESTED; MANEUVERS HELD

TEL AVIV, March 20. (JTA) -- The efficiency of Israeli regional defense forces was tested recently in limited maneuvers held in various parts of the country, a military spokesman revealed here today.

The spokesman said that "important and significant achievements were noted in the organization of the regional defense forces." The war games were carried out by groups of "attackers" and "defenders" under various topographic conditions.

The Mapam newspaper Al Hamishmar reported that "over ten border settlements were 'under fire' in the past few days and all workers left their ploughs, gardens and cowsheds to participate in the defense of their settlements. In a number of settlements," the reported added, "non-combatants were moved to 'safer' locations."

ISRAEL HAS NO QUARREL WITH EGYPT, SAYS BEN GURION; HOPES FOR PEACE

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- Israel has no quarrel with Egypt and sincerely hopes for peace with all the Arab countries, Premier David Ben Gurion declared here last night at a press conference arranged for 55 American editors now visiting the Jewish state.

"The defeated Arab countries," he said, "do not want peace with Israel, but we hope that peace will come sooner or later when these countries become democratic. To defend ourselves against the much discussed 'second round' we have to impose upon us a heavy defense burden and introduce universal military service of men and women. But we have no quarrel with the Arab countries and I hope that peace treaties with them will be signed. If not peace treaties, then at least non-aggression pacts. Especially we have no quarrel with Egypt. I sincerely hope for peace with the Egyptians."

Premier Ben Gurion took the opportunity to thank the American people and the U.S. Government for their support of the Zionist movement and later for the recognition of Israel and for the grant-in-aids to the Jewish state. He expressed the hope that the United States will continue its support of Israel.

Replying to questions on freedom for private investors, the Israel Premier said: "Israel is a free country and everybody is free to invest here. Kaiser-Frazer and others invested a total of $65,000,000 in various enterprises, and I see no reason why others should not invest."

Mr. Ben Gurion told the American editors that Israel is now fighting inflation and hopes to succeed to some degree. This, he pointed out, will lead to economic recovery and will make possible the absorption of a greater number of immigrants, the conquering of desert land and the settlement of several million Jews in the country.

Regarding oil prospects in Israel, the Premier said: "American experts were very optimistic. But until oil is drilled and we see practical results, we are not satisfied." Speaking about the economic difficulties which Israel is now facing, he declared that the country will become self-supporting within four to six years.

Replying to questions with regard to Soviet Russia, Mr. Ben Gurion said that the Israel Government formally applied to Moscow to allow any Jew desiring to

emigrate from the Soviet Union to Israel to leave, but has not received any reply as yet. "We know that the Jews in Russia do not enjoy the same privileges as other nationalities there," he stated. "The Jews have no schools of their own, or newspapers, and they cannot live freely as Jews," he pointed out.

BROWDY'S PROPOSAL ON ARAB-JEWISH PEACE IS PERSONAL, EMBASSY SAYS

WASHINGTON, March 20. (JTA) -- The Embassy of Israel today issued a statement emphasizing that Benjamin G. Browdy, president of the Zionist Organization of America, spoke in his own name only when he suggested at a luncheon in New York yesterday that President Truman should 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 Embassy statement reads:

"The Embassy of Israel wishes to make it clear that Mr. Browdy's statement on Israel and matters involving the Israel Government's interests was made without consultation with the representatives of the Israel Government in the United States and the United Nations. It should therefore be regarded as an expression of opinion on Israel's foreign relations not involving the Israel Government in any way.

"Peace with the Arab states is a constant objective of Israel policy. The procedures whereby that objective may be sought, including the time, place, and nature of mediation efforts are matters on which the Government of Israel, through its representatives, is in constant touch with the United Nations, the Government of the United States, and other governments which share the concern for peace and stability in the Middle East."

PAKISTAN SUGGESTION FOR ARAB-ISRAEL PEACE REPEATED IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, March 20. (JTA) -- The Pakistan Embassy today published a statement by Pakistan Foreign Minister Zafrullah Khan calling for an Arab-Israel peace settlement. The statement was published in "Pakistan Affairs," issued by the Government of Pakistan to describe developments in that country.

"On his return from the Middle East," the publication said, Sir Zafrullah Khan repeated his Cairo advice to the Western Powers when he stated in Karachi recently that "it is absolutely essential that a satisfactory settlement of Arab-Israel relations be brought about before collective security in the Middle East can be fully effective." It added that "the Pakistan Foreign Minister has always maintained that the Middle East defense plans cannot be expected to succeed unless the Arab grievances are satisfactorily settled."

The Pakistan publication carries on the same page a letter from Rabbi Bernard Heller, of New York City, who visited and observed the religious and educational endeavors of the small Jewish community in the capital of Pakistan. "I was delighted to learn," says Rabbi Heller, "from the president of the community, Simon A. Reuben, and others, of the rights and protection which they have in worshipping God according to the dictates of their conscience and in following the traditions of their sires, for which they are keenly grateful. I can assure you that their loyalty to the state and the welfare of its people is as great and as deep as is the love of American Jews for the U.S.A."

SWISS-AMERICAN-ISRAELI GROUP SEEKS OIL CONCESSIONS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- Negotiations were begun here today between a Swiss-American-Israeli group of oil prospectors and the Israel Government for concessions for exploratory drilling for oil. The success of the negotiations will hinge on the proposed Israeli oil exploitation bill which will be submitted shortly to the Knesset.

The prospectors' group is headed by Dr. Walter Fehr, noted Swiss oil expert and geologist who was formerly chief geologist for Royal Dutch Shell and who prepared a general oil survey of Israel during 1938 and several years thereafter. The group has already formed an Israeli corporation headed by B. Federmann of Haifa.

Speaking to newsmen, Dr. Fehr said that there is evidence to support the belief that oil exists in several regions of the country. While he refused to be specific about these locations, he said they were not confined to the southern part of the country and that they included an off-shore strip paralleling Israel's 120-mile Mediterranean coastline. He said that first drilling would not be carried out in this strip, because under-water prospecting is six times as expensive as drilling on land.

It is known that the company seeks concessions in three regions for a start. If agreement is reached with the Israel Government, Dr. Fehr will make a new survey and then will fix the places for drilling.

A group of 22 Swedish pilgrims arrived here today to visit the Holy Places and to establish business contacts with Israeli firms. Among the members of the group is Pastor Einar Rimmesforrs, who helped rescue many Jewish youths from Germany during the war.

SHARETT AND CHURCHILL CONFER ON "MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST"

LONDON, March 20. (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett called on Prime Minister Winston Churchill at Number 10 Downing Street today, it was officially announced here.

The announcement said that the two Ministers discussed "matters of mutual interest." This is the first time in a week since he was forced to take to his bed by the flu that Mr. Sharett has made an official call. It is also the first time that he has met Mr. Churchill since he became Israel's Foreign Minister.

It was learned today that David Horowitz, director general of the Israeli Finance Ministry, is expected to arrive here tomorrow. He and Mr. Sharett will confer with the Chancellor of the Exchequer during the week-end.

INDUCEMENTS OFFERED FOR SOUTH AFRICAN JEWS TO GO TO ISRAEL

JOHANNESBURG, March 20. (JTA) -- The Zionist Federation of South Africa today offered skilled South African Jews their transportation to and accomodations in Israel if they agree to remain and help build the Jewish State for a period of 18 months. The offer was made public by S.M. Kuper, chairman of the Zionist Federation, who expressed the opinion that the majority of those who accept the 18 month offer will remain permanently in Israel.

PARLEY CALLED BY EBAN DID NOT DISCUSS U.J.A.-BOND COORDINATION

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- United Jewish Appeal sources revealed today that at the meeting last weekend to which Israel Ambassador Abba Eban invited leaders of the U.J.A., the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and the Israel bond office, and which was also attended by Mrs. Golda Myerson and representatives of the Jewish Agency, there was no discussion of the relationships between the agencies engaged in raising philanthropic and investment funds for Israel or of coordination between these agencies.

No agreement of any sort was reached with regard to these matters, it was stated. The meeting was devoted wholly to a discussion related to the mobilization of maximum dollar income for Israel during the next six months, it was indicated.

Endorsement of the United Jewish Appeal as "a work of great significance for the maintenance and defense of human freedom" was made here last night by Associate Justice William O. Douglas of the U.S. Supreme Court in an address at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. "The United Jewish Appeal," he declared, "in its support of the people of Israel, is helping to build a model society that can awaken other peoples and show them the way out of feudalism to freedom, dignity and plenty."

Calling for the preservation of Israel and for support of the United Jewish Appeal to help the new state overcome serious economic difficulties Justice Douglas declared: "Israel needs help and sympathetic understanding because it is costly to restore the productivity of the earth and to keep the standards of living high. Israel, though rich in achievement, will be on a subsidy basis for a long time."

REP. RANKIN REBUKED IN HOUSE FOR ANTI-SEMITIC OUTBURST

WASHINGTON, March 20. (JTA) -- A sharp reply to an anti-Semitic attack made in the House of Representatives last week by Congressman William Rankin has been voiced on the floor of the House of Rep. Ray Madden. Repudiating Rankin's assertion that "Yiddish Communists" are in the leadership of Communism in Russia, Czechoslovakia and other Communist countries of Europe, Rep. Madden said:

"The patriotism and the loyalty of the Jews has been tested in wartime and in peacetime. It reveals a brilliant and patriotic service to their country. The Jewish people of this country have given far more than their share of lives and money to help our country in all times of crisis. They are now sacrificing millions upon millions of dollars to help Israel survive in order to preserve their homeland and also to fight the Communist aggressor. Testimony has been presented at the Katyn hearings where a great number of heroes who died at Katyn were Polish Jews.

"These remarks of mine are not necessary to establish the position of the Jewish people as far as patriotism, liberty and freedom are concerned. Their record speaks for itself. During World War II, the Jewish representation in the armed services was far above its pro rata allotment. A large concentration of Jewish people live in metropolitan centers. Agricultural, mining, and metal industries, and so forth, which were favored by draft exemptions did not apply to metropolitan centers. Besides the relatively large proportion of Jewish boys taken in the draft, there were approximately 35,000 Jewish volunteers."

TWENTY-THREE ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT OMNIBUS IMMIGRATION BILL

WASHINGTON, March 20. (JTA) -- Twenty-three organizations, including a number of veterans groups, have adopted a resolution supporting the McCarran-Walter omnibus immigration bill, which has been opposed by major Jewish bodies. Jewish groups, the C.I.O. and other liberal organizations have opposed the bill as racist and undemocratic. Displaced Persons Commissioner Harry Rosenfield termed it "America's Nuremberg Law."

The organizations supporting Sen. McCarran and Rep. Walter on this issue include the American Legion Auxiliary, the Disabled American Veterans, the Patriotic Women of America, the Military Order of World Wars, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the American Revolution and others.

HALF OF JEWS IN WORLD LIVE IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE, SURVEY SHOWS

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- The distribution of the world's Jewish population has shifted drastically during the first half of the 20th century and more than half of the Jews now live in the Western Hemisphere, it was disclosed here today by the World Jewish Congress' Institute of Jewish Affairs.

An Institute survey revealed that the Jewish population of North and South America has increased from 1,200,000 at the turn of the century to 6,000,000 in 1951 -- rising from 11 percent in 1900 to 53 percent last year. Europe's Jews, who once numbered 8,900,000, now total 2,700,000, while Israel's Jewish population has risen from 35,000 to 1,400,000 in the same period. The survey was made by Jacob Lestschinsky, noted statistician and demographer.

ANNUAL JEWISH YOUTH WEEK STARTS TODAY THROUGHOUT U.S.

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- The fifth annual Jewish Youth Week, which aims to focus attention on the role, achievements and potentialities of Jewish youth in the growth and development of a creative Jewish community in the United States, starts tomorrow and will be observed in many communities throughout the country.

The Week is being conducted under the auspices of the National Jewish Youth Conference, a body sponsored by the National Jewish Welfare Board. In celebration of the Week, hundreds of youth groups and councils in communities across the nation and national Jewish youth organizations will conduct Jewish Youth Sabbaths, rallies, culture festivals, youth forums, institutes, join-a-Jewish-youth-group campaigns, community dinners, Maccabiads and other events.

JERUSALEM TO NAME STREET AFTER U.S. PHILANTHROPIST HARRY FISCHEL

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- The City Council of Jerusalem has decided to name one of the city's streets in honor of the late Harry Fischel, prominent New York philanthropist, it was learned here today. Mr. Fischel was one of the founders of the Yeshiva University, Beth Israel Hospital, HIAS, Hebrew Free Loan Society, Joint Distribution Committee and other organizations in the United States. In Israel, he endowed the Harry Fischel Institute for Higher Jewish Studies.

S. PALME, YIDDISH POET, DIES IN LONDON; WAS AUTHOR OF MANY BOOKS

LONDON, March 20. (JTA) -- S. Palme, author of more than a dozen Yiddish books, died today in the London Jewish Hospital. He was 64 years old. His poems were included in Yiddish text books published in Poland before World War II.
