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GERMANS DELAY OFFER OF DEFINITE SUM TO ISRAEL AND JEWISH GROUPS

THE HAGUE, April 6. (JTA) -- The West German Government will not be able to set a definite sum to be paid in settlement of the claims of the State of Israel and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany without considering its obligations to other creditors, Prof. Franz Boehm, head of the German delegation at the reparations talks here, said this week-end.

Prof. Boehm said that the next few days would be devoted to clarifying points of difference still existing between the Germans and the claims conference and declared that before recessing the talks for Easter, his delegation would be able to announce what sums it would recommend to the West German Government. Official announcement of the sums the German Government would be prepared to pay, Prof. Boehm said, would be made after Easter.

Asked if the setting of these sums would be a unilateral action, Prof. Boehm expressed hope that the German and Israeli delegations would be able to agree on a sum that both delegations could recommend to their respective governments. He admitted, however, that there could be no assurance that the German Government would accept this recommendation.

"It is our hope that before recessing next week to have reached agreement on a single sum which we will ask our Government to pay and the Israel delegation will ask its Government to accept," Prof. Boehm declared. Asked for assurance that the German Government would accept this recommendation, he added: "There can be no such assurance. Our government must bear in mind the connection of this debt with all other debts,"

Asked by a correspondent whether his delegation had not agreed with the Israel and Jewish delegations that the Hague discussions had no connection with the current London conference on Germany's external debts, Prof. Boehm replied: "We did not agree there was no connection. We did make definite statements, however, defining that connection. We agreed that the task of determining the sums was up to the German delegation. But Germany is not in a position to meet all these external debts. There is so much money available to the government and this money has to be divided among all creditors."

Asked further if he did not differentiate between the debt due to the Jews because of criminal acts committed against them and commercial debts due to others, the German spokesman replied: "The talks here were called to discuss obligations, not to take action against criminals. According to law, there are two kinds of obligations, one arising from contract, the other from criminal action. The law, however,

does not recognize the priority of one type over the other. In fact, it forbids a debtor from making a choice. Only by agreement among the creditors can priority be established."

Israel Delegation Insists on Immediate Offer

The Israel delegation is interested only in an authoritative offer from the German delegation and will not consider any offer not backed by the German Government, the delegation announced here today. Referring to the statement by German delegation head, Prof. Franz Boehm, that the sum the delegation would recommend to the German Government would be announced within a few days, the Israeli spokesman said:

"We have notified the German delegation what we expect from them, before we recess for the Eastern holidays, an answer from their government, not a recommendation to their government." It is understood here that the Israeli position was put very strongly before the German delegation.

German Official Denies He Sought to Torpedo Reparation Talks

LONDON, April 6. (JTA) -- A denial that he sought to torpedo the German-Israeli-Jewish reparations talks currently proceeding at The Hague was made here today to the Jewish Observer by Dr. Herman Abs, head of the West German delegation at the London conference on Germany's external debts.

The German official said that it was no denigration of the claims made at The Hague to say that the German Federal Government could not arrive at a figure which it could afford to pay Israel without considering all claims being made against Germany. It was important to understand, he declared, that the last word on any settlement which involved payment in the form of transfers abroad or payment in the form of goods rested not with the German Government but with the three occupying powers.

The charge that Dr. Abs sought to torpedo the talks at The Hague was made by the London Jewish Chronicle last week. That paper published a letter today from Dr. Eckwaedt, chief press officer of the German Government, charging that an interview with him published by the paper had distorted his statements. He denied having said that Chancellor Konrad Adenauer had been forced to compel several members of his cabinet to agree to payment to Israel.

Eban Keeps State Department Informed on German-Israeli Talks

WASHINGTON, April 6. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban met with Geoffrey Lewis, State Department Deputy Director of German Affairs, this week-end to convey information to the American Government on current negotiations at The Hague relative to German restitution to Israel for anti-Jewish acts of the Nazis. After the talk, Ambassador Eban said that he believes "the decisive stage is approaching" in Israel's negotiations with Germany at The Hague.

German Jews Express Abhorrence of Attempts on Adenauer's Life

BONN, April 6. (JTA) -- Deep abhorrence at the attempt made on his life several weeks ago when a bomb was mailed to West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer was expressed here this week-end by a delegation of the Central Council of Jews in Germany which visited the Chancellor. The Chancellor discussed with the group the political and social problems of the German-Jewish community.

COMMUNAL LEADERS ADOPT PROGRAM TO HELP ISRAEL MEET NEEDS

NEW YORK, April 6. (JTA) -- A program calling for the arrangement of short-term loans to Israel by Jewish communities in this country and from other sources was adopted here last night at a meeting of some 200 communal leaders from all parts of the country. Presiding at the meeting was Israel Ambassador Abba Eban.

The program also stressed the need for paying "as soon as possible" all pledges to the United Jewish Appeal and to make good promises to purchase State of Israel bonds. A report on plans to mobilize short-term loans--for not less than one year--to help Israel overcome temporary financial difficulties was presented by Morris Berinstein, member of a provisional three-man committee set up at an earlier meeting of communal leaders on March 15. The other members of the committee, which was established as a permanent group at last night's session, are Jack Weiler and Sam Rothberg.

A detailed picture of Israel's economic situation was presented by Ambassador Eban and by Dr. Martin Rosenbluth, representative of the Israel Treasury in the Western Hemisphere. Among the guests last night was Israeli Labor Minister Golda Myerson. During a discussion of the committee's report it was evident that communal leaders active in the U. J. A., the bond drive and in the welfare funds were united behind the three-man group. It was also apparent from the discussion that all the guests at the meeting were acutely aware of the need for speed in meeting Israel's financial requirements.

ISRAELI GENERAL ZIONIST CONFERENCE DEMANDS CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT

TEL AVIV, April 6. (JTA) -- The national conference of the Israel General Zionist Party closed here this week-end after adopting a resolution calling for a change in the composition of the Israel Government and stating that it is the party's mission to "receive control of the state."

Other resolutions called for a reduction in the number of persons on the government payroll and urged Jews abroad to invest capital in Israeli enterprises. The party also decided that General Zionist workers within the Histadrut would remain there but would form a special group within the labor federation. This group and other workers will also form a workers section of the party.

The national conference of the Progressive Party today adopted a resolution demanding the expansion of the government coalition as a means of speedy economic recovery. It also suggested that American Zionists not identify themselves with either of the two major American political parties.

PUBLIC ATTACKS ON JEWS DECLINED IN BRITAIN IN 1951, REPORT SAYS

LONDON, April 6. (JTA) -- There was a marked decline in public manifestations of an anti-Semitic nature in Britain last year, Dr. Abraham Cohen, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews reported here today at a meeting of the board.

In his report, Dr. Cohen noted this development "with satisfaction," but simultaneously warned that "nevertheless, the future cannot be contemplated without anxiety. Anti-Semitic agitators will probably exploit the worsening economic position in the country as an opportunity to sow discord between the general population and the Jewish community. Consequently," he urged, "alertness must be maintained and the defense organization which has been built up must be preserved intact."

COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM WARNS PARTIES THERE IS NO "JEWISH VOTE"

WASHINGTON, April 6. (JTA) -- The four-day annual convention of the American Council for Judaism closed here today with the adoption of a resolution to notify the Republican and Democratic Party national committees, the respective national conventions of the parties and their candidates for public office this year that there is no such thing as a "Jewish vote." Lessing J. Rosenwald was re-elected president of the Council.

The anti-Zionist group also called attention to the "to-mingling of charitable and political causes in the existing structure of United Jewish Appeal," and urged the U. J. A. leaders to "correct this situation." Still another resolution declared that it is "presumptuous" to suggest that because an American citizen is of the Jewish faith he has a "unique duty" to purchase Israeli bonds. It added that the Council was "deeply disturbed" by the promotion of Israel bond sales in synagogues and religious schools.

Earlier, the Council announced that it plans the experimental establishment of a Jewish religious school project designed to emphasize "non-nationalistic Judaism." The announcement was made by Bernard S. Gradwohl, chairman of the Council's religious and synagogue committee, at the Council's session last night. The Council's project also includes the use of new textbooks and the encouragement of "non-nationalistic Jewish students in preparation for the American rabbinate."

The problems of the Middle East will be solved only if the area is considered as a whole, without disproportionate benefits being offered to any one country at the expense of the others, Dr. Harry N. Howard, U. S. State Department expert on Near Eastern Affairs, declared at the Council session. "Attempts to solve these problems," Dr. Howard said, "demand perspective on the part of the American people, balanced understanding, and a fundamental realization of all the difficulties involved in these questions. They also require maintenance of our faith in the ultimate values which have made our people great."

ISRAEL BOND DRIVE RAISED \$121,000,000 IN 11 MONTHS, SONNEBORN REPORTS

NEW YORK, April 6. (JTA) -- The State of Israel Bond Drive has raised \$121,000,000 for the expansion of the economic development of Israel in the first 11 months since the launching of the \$500,000,000 Independence Bond Issue, Rudolf G. Sonneborn, president of the national bond organization, announced today at a meeting of its board of governors.

Stating that 356,000 persons had already subscribed for the Israel bonds, Mr. Sonneborn declared that "it is our aim to enroll every Jewish family in the United States, in addition to the thousands of non-Jews who are purchasing these Bonds as an investment in a growing democracy." In a report on the progress of the drive, Mr. Sonneborn emphasized that the bond issue had "already achieved first place in the chain of American financial aid for Israel." He said that the "State of Israel bond issue has within less than a year become the most important source of assistance for the economic growth of Israel."

Israel is "well on the road to economic independence as a result of the progress made during the past year with the aid of the investment dollars made available through the Israel bond issue," Mr. Sonneborn said. As an example of the new opportunities for economic expansion created by the bonds, he pointed to the large-scale mining operations that have recently been started in the Negev, where vast deposits of phosphates, glass and kaolin have been uncovered. The board of governors named Alex Lowenthal national chairman for bond sales.

J. D. A. PRESENTS CITATION TO BLAUSTEIN FOR SERVICE TO JEWRY

NEW YORK, April 6. (JTA) -- A citation for "distinguished services and leadership in behalf of world Jewry" was presented to Jacob Blaustein, president of the American Jewish Committee at the inaugural dinner of the 1952 Joint Defense Appeal campaign of New York.

The dinner, held at the Hotel Pierre, marked the start of the J. D. A. effort to raise half of the national goal of \$5,000,000 in the New York area. The money will be used to combat religious prejudice and discrimination. In accepting the award Mr. Blaustein said: "The decent, freedom-loving people of the United States realize that Americans have to fight bigotry if we want to fight for national existence as a free people."

GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND LEAVES FOR ISRAEL TO STUDY USE OF U. S. AID

NEW YORK, April 6. (JTA) -- Governor Theodore R. McKeldin of Maryland left here yesterday for a two-week visit to Israel, where he plans to study that nation's use of American economic aid because "Israel is a vital factor in implementing our national policy of strengthening the forces of democracy."

"It is my belief," he said in a statement issued on his departure, "that American aid to Israel, in the businesslike fashion represented by the Israel bond issue, is thoroughly consistent with the tenor of our entire foreign assistance program. Israel is a young and promising democracy, and although it needs our help today, I know that America will ultimately be richly recompensed. I regard continued economic aid to Israel as a vital factor in implementing our national policy of strengthening the forces of democracy wherever they exist. Our investment in Israel is particularly sound because it is democracy's foremost advocate in the Middle East."

MID-WESTERN PARLEY OF JEWISH LEADERS URGES U. J. A. SUPPORT

SIOUX CITY, Iowa, April 6. (JTA) -- A resolution urging "immediate generous support" to the United Jewish Appeal was adopted here today at a regional conference attended by more than 300 leaders of Jewish communities in Western Iowa, Nebraska, Southern Minnesota and South Dakota.

The action highlighted an all-day session at which conferees met to consider implementation of urgent immigration, settlement, welfare and rehabilitation programs in Israel, Europe, Moslem countries and the United States. E. N. Grueskin of this city, conference chairman, termed the attendance at the meeting "one of the largest turnouts ever produced by the Mid-West Region's Jewish communities to inaugurate a regional campaign of the United Jewish Appeal."

J. D. C. GRANTED \$4,000,000 IN LOANS FOR ECONOMIC RE-ESTABLISHMENT

NEW YORK, April 6. (JTA) -- Loans totalling nearly \$4,000,000 have been granted to needy Jews in Europe by the Joint Distribution Committee since the war, to help them re-establish themselves economically, it was reported this week-end by Monroe Goldwater, chairman of J. D. C.'s Reconstruction Committee.

"More than 16,000 individuals, most of them heads of families, have been aided by the loans," Mr. Goldwater said, "and extensive loan programs are still operating in Belgium, France, Italy, Austria and Greece. In addition, a J. D. C. loan program in Israel has just granted its 1,000th loan to a disabled immigrant in the Jewish state, as part of the J. D. C. Malben program for aid to the aged, ill and handicapped newcomers to the Jewish State."

BRONX MERCHANTS DEFY BOYCOTT THREAT OVER GOOD FRIDAY CLOSING

NEW YORK, April 6. (JTA) -- Jewish shopowners in the Highbridge section of the Bronx have refused to close their stores next Friday--Good Friday--from noon to 3 P. M. in defiance of alleged threats of boycott made by parishioners of a local Roman Catholic church.

According to shopkeepers, lay members of the church visited the stores requesting that they remain closed during the three-hour period. At the same time, they said, a printed card for window display was distributed. The card read as follows: "We will close from noon to 3 P. M. Good Friday, April 11, 1952, in observance of the death of Christ." The storekeepers reported that they were even more upset over the attitude of the visitors who, they said, implied that Catholics would boycott Jewish-owned stores which refused to abide by the request.

Msgr. William C. Humphrey, pastor of the church, has denied that pressure was exerted in approaching the merchants. He said that display of the cards "was a matter of choice" but acknowledged that in some instances an "imprudent" or "impulsive" approach might have been employed. He also suggested that provocation might have stemmed from remarks or actions of the storekeepers.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN JEWISH SCHOLARSHIP AND JEWISH PEOPLE URGED

NEW YORK, April 6. (JTA) -- A call for the renewal of the historic cooperation between Jewish scholarship and the Jewish people was made by Prof. Salo W. Baron of Columbia University at ceremonies marking the presentation of the Jay Joshua Marcus awards sponsored by the Department of Culture and Education of the World Jewish Congress for original essays in any field of modern Jewish history or contemporary Jewish affairs.

The first prize of \$500 was won by Bernard Lazerwitz of University City, Mo., for his essay entitled "An Investigation of Jewish Identification." The second prize of \$300 was awarded to Benjamin Orenstein of Montreal, Canada, for his essay, "Social Problems of the Jews in the Nazi Epoch." The third prize of \$200 was divided between two residents of Jerusalem, Israel: Samuel Kirschenbaum for an essay entitled "The Jewish Type--An Anthropological and Psychological Review," and Dan Meri for an essay on "The Problem of the Concentration of Jewish Immigration from Russia and Poland in the Principal Cities of Western Europe."

2,500 HONOR PROF. MARTIN BUBER AT NEW YORK CEREMONY

NEW YORK, April 6. (JTA) -- More than 2,500 persons, including many distinguished public officials, tonight paid honor to Dr. Martin Buber, internationally known philosopher, scholar and author, on the eve of his return to Israel.

The event, sponsored by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, was the climax of a six-month visit to America by the 74-year-old scholar during which he spoke before large audiences at universities and other centers of learning throughout the country.

HISTADRUT IN ISRAEL HONORS ALEXANDER KAHN, FORWARD MANAGER

TEL AVIV, April 6. (JTA) -- The Histadrut executive gave a dinner here in honor of A. Kahn, manager of the Jewish Daily Forward, and his wife, who are now on a visit to Israel. Leaders of the Israeli labor movement, including Joseph Sprinzak, Speaker of the Knesset, paid high tribute to the guests in their speeches and pointed out the roles which Mr. and Mrs. Kahn play in the American Zionist labor movement, as well as the influence of the Jewish Daily Forward on American Jewish life.