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SHARETT WELCOMES GERMAN DECISION ON PRIORITY FOR ISRAELI CLAIMS

TEL AVIV, May 19. (JTA) -- A reported decision by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the West German Parliament to give priority to Israeli claims over any other foreign commitments is regarded by the Israeli Government as a "positive step" on the part of the Germans.

A statement to this effect was made here today by Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett prior to his departure for the United States. Mr. Sharett left for New York to help press efforts to secure financial aid for Israel through the United Jewish Appeal, the sale of Israeli bonds and through assistance from the U.S. Government.

"I shall be most happy if I succeed in coordinating more harmonious relations between the United Jewish Appeal and the group directing the Israel bond sale in the United States," the Foreign Minister said. "My suggestions with regard to coordination will be made after studying conditions on the spot." Mr. Sharett revealed that he also expects to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson.

German Labor Leaders Demand Maximum Payment to Israel

BONN, May 19. (JTA) -- Leaders of the trade union movement in West Germany today demanded early reopening of reparations talks between Germany and Jewish organizations and the State of Israel.

"Germany's limited financial ability must not serve as a pretext for escaping the ethical duty to make material reparations to Jews, at least within the scope of the possible," the federal chairman of the German Trades Union Council declared in a statement here. He added that the unparalleled enormity of the wrongs inflicted upon the Jews in the past should not be allowed to leave the minds of the German people and of the German representatives at the reparations talks.

Usually reliable sources today reported that Dr. Otto Kuester, deputy head of the German delegation to the reparations discussions with Israel and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, has resigned because of lack of support of his views by the West German Government. Official sources declined to comment on the report.

A report from Stuttgart today said that the state of Wurttemberg-Baden has paid out 40,000,000 deutschemarks in reparations to Nazi victims up to the end of April. Another 11,500,000 marks has been claimed and will be paid out in due course, the report stated.

ISRAEL CELEBRATES NATIONAL MARITIME DAY; ALL SCHOOLS PARTICIPATE

TEL AVIV, May 19. (JTA) -- The sirens of all ships in the ports of Tel Aviv and Haifa shrilly signalled today the celebration of Israel's national Maritime Day.

All ships in the harbors were decorated with flags, and special rowing races were held on the Yarkon River by boat crews from various vessels. Mayor Israel Rokach and Communications Minister David Zvi Pinkas addressed a meeting in the harbor area here. All schools featured maritime programs while the Chief Rabbinate composed a special prayer in memory of the sailors lost at sea.

RESETTLEMENT OF ARAB REFUGEES IN ARAB LANDS URGED BY U.S. GROUP

WASHINGTON, May 19. (JTA) -- A report advocating the "resettlement of the Arab refugees in Arab countries" was presented here today to the national conference of Americans for Democratic Action by the foreign policy commission of organization.

"Among the causes of Middle Eastern unrest" the report said, "are the presence of foreign troops and oil interests, the heritage of feudalism and colonialism, the need of land reform, the Arab refugee problem, and the continuing state of war between Israel and the Arab countries. In meeting these issues we urge our government to give primary consideration to the welfare of local populations and to political and economic independence.

"The U.S. should continue to support proposals for land reform. We support the plans adopted by the U.N. for the resettlement of the Arab refugees in Arab countries. We urge caution in planning a Middle East defense command until there is peace between the Arab countries and Israel," the A. D. A. foreign policy commission emphasized in its report.

UNESCO SIGNS AGREEMENT TO SEND FIVE SCIENTISTS TO ISRAEL

PARIS, May 19. (JTA) -- An agreement signed here between the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization and the State of Israel provides for the dispatch of five scientists to the Jewish State. The agreement was signed at UNESCO House by Torres Bodet, director general of UNESCO, and Maurice Fischer, Israel Minister to Paris.

Under the agreement, UNESCO will send a professor of biochemistry and a professor of optics to the Weizmann Institute at Rehovoth, professors in geology and experimental physics to the Haifa Technical Institute and a fifth scientist to work with the National Physics Research Laboratory. Five fellowships will be granted to Israelis in these fields for research and study abroad.

KAPLAN SETS NEW HIGH VALUE FOR ISRAEL BONDS USED IN JEWISH STATE

NEW YORK, May 19. (JTA) -- A decision which will be of special interest to Americans now planning to visit Israel was announced here today by the office directing the sale of Israeli bonds in the United States. Pointing out that with the revaluation of Israel currency the question arose as to the value at which the Israel bond might be converted in the Jewish state, the announcement says that Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan has issued the following ruling:

"An individual coming to Israel with State of Israel bonds may convert the first \$200 of such bonds at the rate of \$1.40 to the pound. For amounts in excess of \$200 in Israel bonds, the conversion will be at the rate of one dollar to the pound." This gives full recognition to the Israel bond as available for use in Israel for investment in any enterprise or for purchase, "the announcement emphasizes.

INCREASE IN BIGOTRY IN U. S. REPORTED BY ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

NEW YORK, May 19. (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith made public its annual study of racial and religious bigotry in the United States today, reporting "an astonishing stream of evidence pointing to the existence in this country of a vast enterprise of prejudice that feeds upon domestic disputes and capitalizes upon international strife."

"Never in all the history of our land has there been such widespread recognition of the peril of uncontrolled prejudice, bigotry and group tensions; and never have so many people and organized groups taken so active a part in coping with these problems," the A. D. L. report declares.

The nationwide survey noted, in particular, "an alarming increase in violence and hoodlumism attributable to racial and religious tensions." It pointed to riots in Cicero, Ill., gang assaults in Boston, the series of still unsolved bombings in Florida and similar eruptions in other areas as "disturbing evidence of promoted lawlessness that has not stopped even at murder."

Other major findings of the report disclose:

1) The undisguised injection of false racial and religious issues into political campaigns. This process, the A. D. L. reports, manifesting itself during the state and local elections of 1950 and 1951, has now erupted with greater force in the current Presidential campaigns.

2) The threat that "guilt by association" and smear techniques involving racial and religious slanders will become imbedded in American mores, doing violence to traditional democratic concepts of justice, fair play and "freedom to disagree." Americans find themselves accepting hysterical, unproved denunciations with less and less repugnance; the A. D. L. warns.

3) Efforts by Communists to "injure racial and religious minority groups by posing as their friends and defenders, but actually working to exploit minorities for their own political advantage." The Communists have "failed dismally" to win any support from minority groups, the report notes, adding: "But Communist activity has served to complicate and hurt the fight against bigotry. In that respect, the Communists and the phony, professional anti-Communists are doing each other a service."

4) The continued successful operation of a network of professional bigots who -- although they operate independently and compete for funds -- maintain close contacts for purposes of mutual support, the exploitation of common propaganda themes and the exchange of "sucker" lists.

5) A recent trend among several prominent hate propagandists to switch from Jew-baiting to anti-Catholic themes -- "a heretofore less competitive area among dollar-seeking hate merchants." Anti-Catholic bigotry still seeks to carry on its century-old vendetta, the report declares, "and a number of pseudo-religious publications have been trying to revive the hysteria of the Know-Nothings."

6) The operation of an "Arab propaganda invasion" that "substituted anti-Semitism for anti-Zionism." It worked on high diplomatic levels through the

United Nations, but made common cause with many of the nation's outspoken bigots.

7) Widespread discrimination against Jews by resorts and places of public accommodation. Noting that its records are "not at all exhaustive," the A. D. L. reports that its current files show 675 hotels in 21 states where "discrimination is a matter of public record." It cited the case of Delray Beach, Florida, a community which realtors advertise as "the only city in the East Coast fully restricted to Gentiles, both to buying and renting."

The outbreaks of violence and hoodlumism during 1951 -- the worst year on record, says the report, since the pre-war days of the Christian Front -- "cannot be dismissed as juvenile delinquency, although many authorities have sought refuge in this unsupported explanation."

ANTI-SEMITIC GROUP OF MILWAUKEE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS UNCOVERED

MILWAUKEE, Wis., May 19. (JTA) -- The existence of an anti-Semitic organization of high school students in Milwaukee who have been distributing anti-Semitic propaganda was disclosed here following the arrest of a 17-year-old high school senior believed to be the leader of the gang, which calls itself the "American Action Army."

The youth is being held for psychiatric examination. Although he has not admitted distributing the leaflets, hundreds were found in his possession or in a cache of which he informed the police. Distribution of material defaming an individual or racial or religious group or exposing them to hatred, contempt or ridicule is a violation of a Milwaukee ordinance.

Meanwhile, Police Chief John W. Polcyn and Assistant City Attorney John L. Coffey have given their assurances that the municipal authorities are doing everything to prevent the recurrence of such activities.

SENATE REJECTS MOTION TO RETURN MCCARRAN BILL TO COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, May 19. (JTA) -- The Senate today rejected by a vote of 44 to 28 a motion to return the McCarran omnibus immigration bill to the Senate Judiciary Committee for further study. Twenty Democrats and eight Republicans voted to recommit the bill while 21 Democrats and 23 Republicans voted against the move.

Sen. Paul H. Douglas told the Senate that the McCarran bill "doesn't protect the rights of individuals scheduled for deportation." Sponsors of the liberal Humphrey-Lehman substitute moved to bring their bill before the Senate after their attempt to recommit the McCarran bill was beaten.

BLAUSTEIN CONFERS WITH STATE DEPT. OFFICIAL ON GERMANY, ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, May 19. (JTA) -- Jacob Blaustein, president of the American Jewish Committee, conferred today with Acting Assistant Secretary of State Burton Y. Berry in connection with situations pertaining to Germany, to Israel, and to other parts of the Near East.

Assistant Secretary of State Henry A. Byroade will arrive in Jerusalem on May 24, it was announced here today. Mr. Byroade will remain in Jerusalem until May 26 when he will go to Tel Aviv. He will leave Tel Aviv on May 28 for Ankara. Mr. Byroade will enter Israel from Jordan.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA DISCUSSES STANDARDS OF JEWISH LIVING

BOSTON, May 19. (JTA) -- The 39th annual national convention of the United Synagogue of America concluded here last night, re-electing Maxwell Abbell of Chicago as president. The convention attended by 800 delegates, was devoted to discussing standards for Jewish living.

Addressing the convention, Rabbi Ralph Simon of Chicago said that a quiet revolution is going on among Conservative rabbis in an effort to adapt the religious aspirations of Judaism to modern times. He also appealed to the delegates to export some of the principles of the Conservative movement to Israel in addition to giving financial aid to the new Jewish State.

Israel Ambassador Abba Eban, who was one of the principal speakers, said if Israel fails as a democracy all the Middle East will be lost to the Western Powers. He added that the relations between Israel and the United States had become increasingly cordial and intimate. "The inclusion of Israel in the Mutual Security Pact is a striking illustration of this fraternity between two democracies," he stated. "We believe that American policy regards the strengthening of Israel as an important objective."

Judge Simon H. Rifkind, onetime advisor on Jewish Affairs to the American forces in Europe, summed up his idea of the Jewish community as a society "whose primary function and central responsibility are to transmit learning from generation to generation; to propagate the quest for truth as the highest good; to inculcate the capacity to discriminate between the sacred and the profane, between light and darkness, between the Sabbath and the work day; and to distinguish between good and evil; to maintain the sanctities of life and promote the concept of sanctified living; to lead a private and institutional life which such a system of standards and values comprehends."

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Saul Margolis, of Brookline, Mass., was selected as the "Jewish Family of the Year" by the convention. Criteria for selection, as established by the United Synagogue award committee, include religious observance by the entire family, knowledge of Judaism, synagogue attendance, and interest and participation in Jewish communal life.

10,000 ATTEND MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES LAUNCHING UNITED JEWISH DRIVE

BUENOS AIRES, May 19. (JTA) -- More than 10,000 persons attended a mass meeting here last night marking the launching of the United Jewish Campaign. Principal speaker at the meeting was Zaiman Shazar, former member of the Israel Cabinet, who hoisted the Argentine flag, while Dr. Mordecai Shneerson, Israeli Charge D'Affaires in Buenos Aires, hoisted the Israel flag.

At the opening of the annual national conference of the united campaign it was reported that in 1951 ten per cent more was raised than in the previous year. The session was opened by Jose Ventura, co-chairman of the drive, and the 400 delegates attending the gathering were greeted by Dr. Ricardo Dubrovsky, president of the DAIA, central representative body of Argentine Jewry, and Dr. Julio Filer, vice president of the Buenos Aires Jewish Community. Mr. Shazar, addressing the conference, lauded Argentine Jewry for their warm support to Israel.
