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GERMANY WANTS TO CONTINUE REPARATIONS TALKS WITH JEWS AND ISRAEL

BONN, May 21. (JTA) -- The West German Government today indicated that it does not intend to break off the reparations talks with Israel and the Jewish groups from other countries. A government spokesman said that the Cabinet last night refused to accept the resignations of Prof. Franz Boehm and Dr. Otto Kuester, leading German negotiators at The Hague reparations conference.

Meanwhile, it became known today that the elements in the West German Government which oppose acceptance of compensation to Israel as a moral obligation with top priority also oppose the agreement reached at The Hague between the German delegation and the representatives of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. Chief opponent is Finance Minister Fritz Schaeffer.

The German Finance Minister particularly objects to the part of the agreement which provides that persecuted Jews who regained property taken from them by the Nazis are to be exempted from the "equalization of burdens" law. Mr. Schaeffer is understood to be demanding that the exemption be limited to 20 percent.

(The New York Times today quoted Jewish sources in Bonn as declaring that in the last few days a clause that would have required the Bonn Government to assume the liabilities accruing from Nazi Germany's confiscation of Jewish-owned property had been changed so that it provided an escape clause through capacity to pay in accordance with the prevailing German civil code. In addition, the joint restitution office, under which an earlier phraseology of a convention was to have been exempted from a variety of taxes under the equalization of burdens legislation was said to have lost this exemption under a revised wording of the clause.)

ISRAEL FOREIGN MINISTER CHARGES GERMANY WITH BREACH OF FAITH

NEW YORK, May 21. (JTA) -- The resignation of Prof. Franz Boehm, head of the German delegation at the negotiations at The Hague, and of his deputy Dr. Otto Kuester, is in effect a breach of faith on the part of the German Government in regard to its moral responsibilities towards the Jewish people, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett declared today upon his arrival in New York.

The resignation of the two German negotiators, he stated, constitutes a warning to the German people and to the German Government. He pointed out that the German Government had made a statement on its obligation to Israel. The next steps, he said, were up to Bonn. He revealed that neither the amount which the Bonn

Government is ready to pay to Israel, nor the timing of the payment has been made known to the Israel Government.

Mr. Sharett emphasized that the Jewish State is deeply grateful to the United States Government and people for the American aid program to Israel. He revealed that he is meeting with the presidium of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany tonight. Tomorrow morning, he will leave for Washington to attend a diplomatic luncheon in his honor. He will fly from there to Chicago to address the United Jewish Appeal's National Mobilization Conference which will take place there during the week-end.

ELIEZER KAPLAN RESIGNS AS ISRAEL MINISTER OF FINANCE

JERUSALEM, May 21. (JTA) -- Eliezer Kaplan, Israel's Finance Minister, today resigned from his post because of ill health. No official announcement has been made yet, but Mr. Kaplan informed the Mapai faction of the Parliament of his decision. Dov Joseph, Israel Trade Minister, is mentioned as his probable successor.

Mr. Kaplan, the "financial wizard" of the Israel Government and earlier of the Jewish Agency, has been suffering from a heart ailment for some time. There was no indication today as to whether he will remain in the Cabinet in any other capacity. However, it was rumored that he may become Vice-Premier, without portfolio.

TEL AVIV MUNICIPAL WORKERS STRIKE; DEMAND WAGE INCREASE

TEL AVIV, May 21. (JTA) -- Municipal workers went on strike here today when the city failed to meet their demand for a 15 percent wage increase.

The municipality rejected the demand because the government has prohibited wage increases. Premier David Ben Gurion, who has taken a personal interest in the matter, suggested that the workers should not be given a raise pending an investigation of their demand by a special committee. The Premier's suggestion was ignored by the workers.

DUTCH COURT NULLIFIES SALE OF SECURITIES SURRENDERED BY JEWS

AMSTERDAM, May 21. (JTA) -- The Amsterdam Stock Exchange stopped all operations yesterday in protest against a court decision nullifying the purchase of Jewish-owned securities during the Nazi occupation of Holland.

The Stock Exchange Committee declared that if the court decision was applicable to all similar cases it would lead to chaos in the exchange's operation. The court ruled that securities acquired by the Nazi-controlled Lipman, Rosenthal and Company Bank of this city must be returned to the depossessed owners. The Jews were forced to surrender these securities during the occupation without payment, after which the Nazi-controlled bank sold them through regular and other channels.

SENATE REJECTS HUMPHREY-LEHMAN IMMIGRATION BILL

WASHINGTON, May 21. (JTA) -- The Senate today rejected the Humphrey-Lehman substitute immigration bill by a vote of 51 to 27. The bill was submitted in an attempt to replace the McCarran Omnibus Immigration Bill with a more liberal measure.

Sen. Lehman said the Senate would do "a grave disservice to the country and the peace of the world" if it passes the McCarran Bill. He described the bill as dangerous to civil rights and has compared it with Nazi legislation. Opponents of the McCarran Bill have conceded that the bill will pass but predict that President Truman will veto it. In order to obtain a final vote on the McCarran Bill by tomorrow night, Sen. McCarran and opponents of his bill have agreed to limit debate on amendments.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT DEBATES REFUSAL TO MAKE OIL LOAN TO ISRAEL

LONDON, May 21. (JTA) -- Labor M.P.'s today precipitated a debate of the British Government's refusal to make Israel a 5,000,000-pound loan for the purchase of crude oil stocks. However, despite persistent questioning by several Laborites, Prime Minister Winston Churchill refused to change his decision.

Meanwhile, the British Overseas Airways Corporation has announced that owing to the fuel shortage in Israel all incoming flights from Lydda have been cancelled.

Responding to a question from Laborite Woodrow Wyatt, Prime Minister Churchill revealed that President Weizmann had sent him a message asking the British Government to advance 5,000,000 pounds to finance Israeli oil purchases for the next six months. The British Government gave the request its "most careful and sympathetic consideration," the Prime Minister declared, but "despite our understanding of the difficulties with which Israel is faced, we felt compelled to inform the President that the gravity of our own economic situation precluded us from making the loan."

Mr. Wyatt then asked for reconsideration of the refusal, pointing out that Israel played an extremely important part in Middle Eastern affairs and Britain should maintain its influence there. He also noted that Israel had offered to repay one-quarter of the loan in dollars, which would make the deal attractive from a commercial point of view.

The Prime Minister again expressed his regret over the situation, and Emanuel Shinwell, former Cabinet member in the last Labor Government, took up the questioning. He said that little had been done to help Israel by the British Government's opening up of the Haifa refinery and assisting Israel in obtaining supplies of oil. He asked whether Mr. Churchill would reconsider in the light of the defense aspects involved in Israel's situation.

Mr. Churchill then stated that for a long time he had "considered this matter to be of utmost importance, but every step has to be taken by the government with great care in order not to complicate still further the situation in the Middle East. Mr. Shinwell tried once more, pointing out that the United States had recently granted aid to Persia, "apparently without consulting the British Government" and if the United States could render assistance to Persia in the face of the Anglo-Iranian oil dispute, "surely His Majesty's Government could render some assistance to Israel," he pressed. Mr. Churchill ended the discussion by stating that "all these matters" would be kept in mind.

Israel Investigating Possibilities of Purchasing Oil from Russia

TEL AVIV, May 21. (JTA) -- The Israel legation in Moscow is investigating the possibilities of purchasing oil from the Soviet Union, Zeev Argaman, counselor of the legation in Moscow, declared here today before leaving to resume his duties. Mr. Argaman, who spent two weeks here facilitating the export of citrus products to Russia, said that Israel has purchased 300 tons of paraffin, which is enough to cover half of its annual needs, from the U.S.S.R.

AMERICAN TRADE UNIONS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO SELL ISRAEL BONDS

NEW YORK, May 21. (JTA) -- The American Trade Union Council for Israel, composed of representatives of local and national A.F.L. and C.I.O. unions with a total membership of more than 1,000,000 members, today launched a special campaign to stimulate the sale of Israel bonds among trade union members. The drive was launched at a luncheon at the Astor Hotel honoring Mayor Abba Hushi of Haifa.

MRS. ROOSEVELT HONORED BY U. J. A.; N. Y. DRIVE PASSES \$18,000,000 MARK

NEW YORK, May 21. (JTA) -- Contributions to the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York's 1952 campaign passed the \$18,000,000 mark tonight at a dinner in honor of Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Pierre. Three hundred guests at the dinner announced more than \$500,000 in pledges to the drive.

Mrs. Roosevelt, who will serve as chairman for the month of June for the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, expressed her conviction that the U. J. A. agencies, which have been resettling in Israel, the United States and other free lands survivors of Nazi persecution and victims of oppression in Middle Eastern and Iron Curtain countries, have been of great significance in extending human rights and furthering the democratic cause.

Ambassador Abba Eban of Israel said although Israel is weaker than most nations in all the usual attributes of power, its true strength lies in its "power of liberation" for the homeless and oppressed. Israel wields this power with the help of Americans through the United Jewish Appeal, which finances the immigration and absorption of newcomers to Israel, he stated.

Edward M. M. Warburg, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, said that there have been three years during which Americans have decisively influenced the course of history through their support of the United Jewish Appeal. The first was 1946, when U. J. A. aid saved the lives of more than a million Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution. The second was 1948, when the people of Israel, defending their newly declared independence against attack, needed help. The third is 1952, when the Israelis are in the midst of an unparalleled battle for economic survival.

Governor Thomas E. Dewey was enrolled as a volunteer worker for the United Jewish Appeal when he accepted the post of honorary chairman of Leadership Mobilization yesterday. The Governor urged citizens of New York State to "support the current United Jewish Appeal campaign to the fullest possible extent, both in the generosity of their gifts and the devotion of their service to this great cause."

ALEXANDER KAHN PRESENTS OPTIMISTIC REPORT ON ISRAEL'S FUTURE

NEW YORK, May 21. (JTA) -- An optimistic report on Israel's ability to eventually overcome its present economic difficulties was presented here yesterday by Alexander Kahn, general manager of the Jewish Daily Forward, following his return from the Jewish State where he conferred with Premier David Ben Gurion and other members of the government.

Mr. Kahn emphasized, however, that much depends on aid from American Jewry, which must be intensified. At a luncheon tendered in his honor, he described the problems which Israel faces in absorbing new immigrants and said that it is the duty of American Jews to help solve these problems by giving maximum financial assistance to the Jewish State.

Mrs. Sarah Kahn, leader of the Pioneer Women, who made the five-week visit to Israel with her husband, reported on the achievements of the Women's Labor Council in Israel in sheltering and educating the children of the newcomers. She presented an enthusiastic picture of the hopeful sentiment in the country despite food shortages and other inconveniences.

AWARDS FOR BEST JEWISH BOOKS OF 1951 PRESENTED IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, May 21. (JTA) -- Five awards carrying cash prizes totalling \$800 for 1951's best works of Jewish interest in the fiction, poetry and juvenile fields were presented today at the annual meeting of Jewish Book Council of America, sponsored by the Jewish Welfare Board.

The \$250 Samuel H. Daroff Fiction Award, named for its donor, Samuel H. Daroff, Philadelphia communal leader, went to Zelda Popkin, New York, for her "Quiet Street." The \$250 Isaac Siegel Memorial Award for 1951's best Jewish juvenile in English was given to Mrs. Sydney Taylor, New York, for her "All-Of-A-Kind Family." The three Harry Kovner Memorial Awards of \$100 each went to: A. M. Klein, Montreal, for his cumulative contributions to English-Jewish poetry. Mordecai Jaffe, New York, for his Yiddish translation of "Anthology of Hebrew Poetry;" and to Prof. Hillel Bavli, New York, for his cumulative contributions to Hebrew poetry.

Dr. Mortimer J. Cohen, of Philadelphia, who retired as president of the Jewish Book Council of America, was honored at the meeting with a special testimonial of appreciation granted "in recognition of his distinguished contribution to Jewish literature and of his leading role in effectively promoting the ideals of the Council." Dr. Sol Liptzin, chairman of the Department of German and Slavonic Languages, of City College of New York, was elected president.

B'NAI B'RITH AWARDED CITATIONS BY TRUMAN FOR SERVICE TO VETERANS

WASHINGTON, May 21. (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith men and women were awarded national citations by President Truman today at public ceremonies here, in tribute to the Order's service program for the disabled veterans in hospitals since the end of World War II. Several other major American welfare and service organizations also received these awards.

Frank Goldman, president of B'nai B'rith, received the certificate for meritorious service from President Truman, in behalf of B'nai B'rith men, while Mrs. Ben Rosenthal of Los Angeles, president of the Women's Supreme Council, accepted the citation for the women.

400 JEWISH SINGERS FROM U.S. AND CANADA TO SING IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 21. (JTA) -- Close to 400 singers, members of seven Jewish choirs from the U.S. and Canada, are scheduled to participate in the "Hazamir" World Assembly of Jewish Choirs to be held in Israel August 6-14, it was announced here today. The first meeting of four of the participating choirs took place in New York last night. Over 270 people attended.

Mr. Shlomo Kaplan, musical director of the "Hazamir" who is now in the U.S. to help organize American participation, conducted this first joint rehearsal. A committee comprising representatives of the seven participating choirs was formed to assist the directorship of "Hazamir" in technical matters.

NEW YORK TO NAME SQUARE AFTER I. L. PERETZ IN JEWISH SECTION OF CITY

NEW YORK, May 21. (JTA) -- The City Council of New York unanimously decided to name one of the squares in the city after Itzhak Leibush Peretz, noted Jewish writer, in connection with the 100th anniversary of his birth which is now being celebrated in Jewish communities throughout the world. "Peretz Square" will be located between Houston Street and First Street, in one of the sections of the city thickly populated by Jews.

AMERICAN J. N. F. LEADERS SATISFIED WITH ACTIONS COMMITTEE DECISION

NEW YORK, May 21. (JTA) -- Satisfaction with the resolution adopted by the Zionist Actions Committee to strengthen the work of the Jewish National Fund was expressed here today in a statement issued by Dr. Harris J. Levine and Mendel N. Fisher, president and executive director, respectively, of the J. N. F. of America. Both returned yesterday from Jerusalem where they participated in the Actions Committee deliberations.

"I am glad to report that the Zionist Actions Committee, the highest Zionist body between Congresses, took important steps to strengthen the work of the Jewish National Fund, especially in the United States," Dr. Levine said. "I am particularly gratified over the resolution of the Zionist Actions Committee which, reiterating the words of the 23rd Zionist Congress held in Jerusalem, declared that the World Zionist Organization has two funds - the Keren Hayesod and the Jewish National Fund - and called upon the Jews of the world to support the two chief instruments of the World Zionist Movement for the realization of Zionism."

Mr. Fisher reported that the meetings of the Actions Committee were marked by amity and better understanding between American Zionists and the leaders of Israel. "This bridge of understanding at the Actions Committee between Israel and us should help a great deal in the strengthening of the Zionist movement in this country," he declared.

CEREMONY MARKS PLANTING OF FIRST TREES AT "HEROES FOREST" IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, May 21. (JTA) -- The first trees have been planted in the Heroes Forest sponsored by the Farband-Labor Zionist Order of the United States, which is using this method to honor the Israeli men and women who died in the War of Independence. The Farband decided to set up the forest at its 1950 national convention. Since then the organization has raised \$300,000 from among its 30,000 members. It plans to plant 200,000 trees.

The forest was dedicated at a ceremony on a hill overlooking the Judean countryside. A military detachment presented arms as an Israeli flag was raised and then lowered to half-mast in honor of the fallen heroes. Present at the ceremony were representatives of the Jewish National Fund of America, through which the forest is being established, Meyer Brown, president of Farband, David Pinsky, noted Yiddish dramatist and former president of Farband, and Dr. Abraham Granot, world president of the J. N. F.

CORNERSTONE FOR BUILDING OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY SCHOOL LAID IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, May 21. (JTA) -- The cornerstone for a second building for the Hebrew University's Agriculture School at Rehovoth was laid today at ceremonies attended by leading University and civic officials.

Speakers at the ceremony stressed that when the school is expanded it will be able to turn out twice the present number of graduate agronomists and other agricultural specialists. They reported that the school's expansion was made possible by the Palestine Jewish Colonization Association, the Jewish Colonization Association and the San Francisco Chapter of the Friends of the Hebrew University.

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