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TRUMAN INDICATES DESIRE TO VISIT ISRAEL; LAUDS JEWISH STATE

WASHINGTON, May 27. (JTA) -- President Truman last night indicated his desire to visit Israel in an address which he delivered at a Jewish National Fund dinner marking the completion of Kfar Truman, an Israeli village of 180 settlers bearing his name.

"The growth and progress of the new State of Israel are a source of great satisfaction to me," Mr. Truman said. "I had faith in Israel even before it was established. I knew it was based on the love of freedom, which has been the guiding star of the Jewish people since the days of Moses. I was sure that under the leadership of President Weizmann, Israel would take its place in the family of nations as a strong supporter of the ideals of human freedom."

Pointing out that "it was a great pleasure for me when you named one of the new villages of Israel after me," President Truman said: "Some day, when I don't have so much to do as I have now, I want to go to Israel and see Kfar Truman, and talk to their young farmers there. Perhaps they can teach me a few things about farming, and perhaps I can tell them a few things about the way we farm over here, although I will admit I am 30 years out of practise in practical on-the-ground farming. But my brother, my sister and myself still own the old home farm. Two of my nephews do as much work in this mechanical age as my brother and my father and myself with five helpers could do in one day."

Praises Visionary Mission of Jewish National Fund

Mr. Truman expressed the hope that the people of Kfar Truman will have a wonderful future. "The people of the Truman village," he said, "are very fortunate, of course, in having the Jewish National Fund behind them. Through that Fund, you have been working on the Point Four idea for 50 years. You have been buying land in Israel, reclaiming it, irrigating it, and planting trees on it. That was the far-sighted way to build a new nation--start with the land itself."

"You have studied history. You realized that the whole area of the Near East, that had produced some of the greatest civilizations of the world, was today able to support only a fraction of the people it once had. The trees were gone, the water was gone, some of the land was eroded away, and other parts were swamp and marsh. After 50 years, the founders of your organization decided to correct this situation in Israel. The work you have done is an outstanding example of what can be done to help the people throughout the Near East to help themselves."

"That is what we are trying to do in our Point Four program. That is why I say the Jewish National Fund embarked on a Point Four program 50 years ago. I like to think that the first large-scale program of the Jewish National Fund was the reclamation of a desert valley called the Valley of Death. Today that valley is being brought

back to life, and so is the whole of Israel. That is what Point Four programs can do throughout the world, if we have the courage and the good sense to go ahead with them."

Says Israel Can Be Made the Country of Milk and Honey

Referring to the fight in Congress over the cutting of the Mutual Security Aid program, Mr. Truman stated: "I am glad to say that Israel did escape the wild swings of the meat axe in the House, but it was a close call. An attempt was made to cut down the funds that Israel needs to help itself, to take care of its refugees through improving its resources, and to place its economy on a firm, self-sustaining foundation. But this cut was defeated. However, the amendment that was made in the Point Four program will cut the funds for the countries that are neighbors to Israel; and for the free countries of Africa."

The President predicted that "the Mesopotamian Valley, properly developed, will support 20 or 30 millions of people, as it did in ancient times." It can be developed with American help, he stated.

"I can't help but dream a little out loud here," he continued. "The Tigris and Euphrates valleys can be made to bloom as it did in the times of Babylon and Nineveh. Israel can be made the country of milk and honey as it was in the time of Joshua. That is what we are trying to do. If those developments are made, why, there's a project which contemplates a siphon 100 yards in diameter from the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea Valley, the fall would create enough power for the whole Near East. And it is not impossible, for I have had the survey made on it."

"I have had Gordon Clapp, the chairman of the T. V. A. board, make a survey of the Mesopotamian Valley, the Tigris to the Euphrates Rivers, and several other rivers in that neighborhood, in Turkey and in Lebanon. These things can be done, and they are self-liquidating projects. We have immense amounts of money in this country that you might call risk capital, hunting for a place for investment."

Referring to the possibility of Arab-Jewish peace, President Truman said: "Think what a wonderful thing it would be if we had complete peace and harmony in the Near East. Think of the developments that I have been talking about. It is an integrated economic whole, with Israel as the industrial center and the rest of the country around there to produce the food and fibre necessary to feed that industrial mill of Israel."

EGYPTIAN OFFICERS ATTEND OPENING OF ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE AT SINAI

TEL AVIV, May 27. (JTA) -- A synagogue was opened at Auja el Hafir, the Sinai border town where the Israeli-Egyptian Mixed Armistice Commission meets, at a ceremony last night attended by United Nations observers and Egyptian and Israeli members of the M. A. C. The synagogue was officially opened by Col. A. Mishneh, Chief Chaplain of the Israeli Army.

Rabbi Shlomo Goren, who will hold services in the house of worship, presented the congregation with a Scroll, declaring: "Israel received the Scroll at Sinai, and now Israel returns to Sinai with the Scroll." Before the synagogue was opened, a memorial was dedicated to the memory of the Israeli soldiers who died in the liberation of the town.

ISRAEL "MOURNS" SIGNING OF PEACE PACT BY ALLIES WITH GERMANY

JERUSALEM, May 27. (JTA) -- Israeli evening papers appeared with black borders, reporting the news from Bonn that the Foreign Ministers of the United States, Britain and France yesterday signed a peace contract with the West German Government restoring Germany to equal partnership in the community of free nations.

In connection with the signing of the peace contract between the Western powers and West Germany, the Israel Parliament last night recessed for five minutes. The recess was in protest against the failure of the world to take note of Israel's plea of Jan. 10, 1951 calling for world-wide protests against the re-arming of Germany and demanding its demobilization as well as the punishment of Nazi war criminals.

The recess was called by Deputy Speaker Benjamin Mintz, who revealed that Israel's plea had been ignored by both East and West-- "the East which proposed the unification of Germany and the West which signed a pact with West Germany." The recess came after Mapam leader Itzhak Ben Aharon suggested it to protest the signing of the contractual agreement between the United States, France and Britain and West Germany. Mr. Mintz declared that the recess was not aimed against the West, as Ben Aharon had demanded, but against Germany.

BEN GURION DEPLORES SPLIT IN KIBBUTZIM; TALKS OF HARDSHIPS

TEL AVIV, May 27. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion today expressed sorrow for the Israel working people who because of splits within the kibbutz movement have been forced to leave their homes and establish new settlements after many years of work and sacrifice at their former homes.

He was speaking at the dedication of a new kibbutz whose members are Mapai Party followers who left Kfar Szold and Givat Haim, where Mapam settlers were in the majority. Recalling earlier splits among the labor and left parties of Israel, he said that some of those who found local socialism "insufficient" left for the Soviet Union where they are not as well off as they were here.

ISRAEL'S CHIEF OF STAFF ANNOUNCES RESHUFFLE OF ARMY'S HIGH COMMAND

TEL AVIV, May 27. (JTA) -- Brig. Yigal Yadin, Chief of Staff of the Israel Army, last night announced a reshuffle of the Army's high command. He revealed that Deputy Chief of Staff Shaul Makleff was returning from six months' study in Europe to resume his duties.

The announcement said that Col. I. Banarzi, Quartermaster General, was being relieved at his own request and would be replaced by Col. L. Ayalon, formerly commander of the Central Command. Col. A. Avidar, commanding the northern sector, will replace Col. Ayalon and will be succeeded in the northern command by Col. Moshe Dayan, who recently returned from studying abroad.

SPRINZAK'S TERM AS ACTING PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL TO BE EXTENDED

JERUSALEM, May 27. (JTA) -- A decision to extend the term of Joseph Sprinzak as Acting President of Israel for another three months was adopted today by the Home Committee of the Knesset.

The decision was taken in view of the fact that President Chaim Weizmann is still unable to fulfill his duties as the head of the state. The decision will be sent to Parliament for approval.

ISRAELI DELEGATION TO REPARATIONS TALKS GETS NEW INSTRUCTIONS

TEL AVIV, May 27. (JTA) -- Dr. George Josephthal, chief Israeli delegate at the reparations talks with Western Germany, left this morning on an urgent mission to Paris with instructions from Prime Minister David Ben Gurion regarding future steps in connection with the German-Israeli negotiations.

He refused to disclose the nature of the instructions. Yesterday, when he reached Israel from Paris, Dr. Josephthal indicated that the Bonn Government has made new preliminary proposals which may offer a basis for the resumption of the Israel-German reparations conference.

(The New York Herald Tribune, in an editorial today, calls upon Germany to make "a substantial payment" to Israel. "It can be hoped that a nation which is struggling to reassert its integrity will find some way to pay off this moral indebtedness," the editorial says. "The Bonn Government would win itself much "good will throughout the world by demonstrating the sincerity of its intentions and honestly striving to reach an agreement," the newspaper says.)

Dr. Josephthal disclosed that Premier Ben Gurion asked him to become Israel's Minister of Finance, to succeed Eliezer Kaplan who resigned. However, he added that he declined the offer "because of the doubts I have in my ability to carry out this great task." Mr. Kaplan will continue in office until the end of June, it was indicated today in circles close to him.

GERMAN LEAGUE APPEALS TO ADENAUER TO RE-OPEN TALKS WITH JEWS

FRANKFURT, May 27. (JTA) -- The League for Freedom and Human Dignity today addressed a letter to Chancellor Konrad Adenauer expressing hope that the West German Government will act speedily to re-open the reparations talks with Israel and representatives of Jewish groups from other countries.

The League called on the West German Government to submit a concrete proposal on reparations as requested by Israel and the Jewish groups, and to separate the question of reparations to Jews from that of the London conference on Germany's commercial debts to other countries.

The Berlin newspaper Nacht Depesche says that Germany's talks with Israel will have to be conducted "more realistically and in a better spirit" if they are not to break down completely.

U. S. COMMISSIONER IN AUSTRIA DEMANDS "PROPER RESTITUTION" ACTION

VIENNA, May 27. (JTA) -- Replying to Austrian press criticism of his refusal to approve legislation granting amnesty and relief from denazification penalties to former Nazis who are repatriated prisoners of war, American High Commissioner for Austria Walter J. Donnelly has issued a new statement reiterating his disappointment in finding legislation for the relief of ex-Nazis preceding that for their victims.

"While I do not question the humanitarian impulses of the proponents of this law, I cannot help but wonder why they continue to postpone enactments that would grant proper restitution to those whom the Nazis persecuted here," the statement declared. It pointed out that since 1947 American representatives on the Allied Council have been urging the Austrians to make greater amends to victims of the Nazis.

SENATE HEARS APPEAL FOR MUTUAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, May 27. (JTA) -- Mutual security assistance for Israel was urged today by Sen. H. Alexander Smith, of New Jersey, one of three Senators who critically questioned aid for Israel during hearings last month before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Sen. Smith told the Senate, which today voted against a proposed further cut of \$1,000,000,000 in general Mutual Security Aid funds, that "direct aid is needed in the case of Israel because of the deplorable condition of the people." He said "the State of Israel has courageously assumed responsibility for taking care of millions of homeless people who have fled from persecution in Europe, especially from Germany."

"We feel," Sen. Smith said, "a special interest in and responsibility for the new State of Israel, which has so resolutely started its life under difficult conditions." He pointed out that funds "for Israel and for the Arab refugees are established to insure a greater degree of stability in the Near East and to give desperately needed aid to resettle thousands of homeless people."

ISRAEL'S ECONOMY IMPROVING DUE TO U.S. AID, MRS. HALPRIN REPORTS

NEW YORK, May 27. (JTA) -- Increased agricultural production, industrial expansion and the discovery of natural resources in the Negev are helping Israel to round the corner of economic security, although many difficult days still lie ahead, Mrs. Rose Halprin, acting chairman of the Jewish Agency, stated today on her return from Israel.

Mrs. Halprin, who heads the Jewish Agency's economic department in the United States, reported that the general economic picture in Israel is improving. Agriculture and agricultural output is expanding due to U. J. A. dollars, bond sales and also to the Export-Import Bank loans. There has been a notable rise in the production of industry where many Americans have invested both manpower and money, she said. Valuable natural resources, particularly phosphates, have been discovered and are being exploited.

She warned, however, that Israel's economic problems are still far from solved. Within the next few months a difficult period may arise due to a shortage of dollars for which Israel depends largely upon the U. J. A., bond sales and private investments. Mrs. Halprin added that "American know-how is already making itself felt in the industrial development of Israel."

PHILADELPHIA JEWISH APPEAL PRESENTS SHARETT WITH \$500,000 FOR U.J.A.

PHILADELPHIA, May 27. (JTA) -- A \$500,000 check for the United Jewish Appeal was presented here last night to Israel's Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett at a dinner tendered in his honor by the Allied Jewish Appeal of Philadelphia.

Mr. Sharett said he would meet with leaders of the U. J. A. and the Israel Bond Drive to bring about co-ordination of the two campaigns in whose success Israel is vitally interested. This meeting, he stated, will take place in New York after he completes his tour of the United States in behalf of both drives.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE LEAVES ISRAEL AFTER FOUR-DAY VISIT

TEL AVIV, May 27. (JTA) -- Henry Byroade, U. S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Middle East, left Israel this morning by plane for Turkey and Greece after spending four days in this country. Secretary Byroade expressed satisfaction over his talks with the Israeli Premier on questions concerning America and Israel.

