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WASHINGTON DISCUSSES POSSIBLE VETO OF AUSTRIA'S PRO-NAZI LAWS

WASHINGTON, July 23. (JTA) -- The question of a possible veto by the United States, in the Allied Council, of the pro-Nazi laws passed last week by the Austrian Parliament restoring property and civil rights to more than 20,000 former Nazis, was discussed here today following the receipt of information at the State Department that the American High Commissioner for Austria, Walter J. Donnelly, was not consulted by the Austrian Government before passage of the laws.

State Department officials made no secret of the fact that they are disturbed by the haste with which the laws were enacted in Vienna. The officials indicated that they felt the new Austrian laws were not adequately considered before adoption by the Parliament. Criticisms of the laws continued to reach the State Department today, including an appeal from Jacob Blaustein, president of the American Jewish Committee, to Secretary of State Dean Acheson to have the laws vetoed.

Austrian diplomatic sources here today said that the Parliament in Vienna, "just like the American Congress," was anxious to adjourn and that therefore there was no time for a more thorough consideration of the laws. They made it clear that the Austrian Government was officially behind the laws and offered no explanation as to why the U.S. High Commissioner was not consulted on this as he has been on other matters.

Austrian Diplomats in Washington Seek to Defend Laws

The Austrians here tried to explain away the pro-Nazi laws by stating that they concerned only "minor" Nazis. They said that the laws may be "emotionally" distasteful but are a practical necessity. "You cannot split a country permanently into two categories of people," they argued.

Austria, they continued, considers itself a victim of the Nazis and, therefore, not legally responsible for wrongs done the Jews under the Hitler regime. However, they added that responsibility is accepted for identifiable property. As a humanitarian gesture, Austria has paid pensions to Jews and others who suffered under the Nazis, they declared, asserting that seven-eighths of the 20,000 restitution cases involving Jews were settled satisfactorily.

Under the new laws, the Austrian officials explained, Nazis may petition the courts for the restoration of property and civil rights, but the only property that would be restored, they insisted, would be certified private holdings and not properties confiscated from Jews.

The Austrians pointed out that among the laws were measures which would compensate concentration camp victims on a basis of months spent in confinement and would provide adjustment of pay to civil service employees who were denied promotions under the Hitler regime. They admitted that the civil service employees to benefit would probably not include Jews, because members of the Jewish faith were not only denied seniority but were cremated in concentration camps.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM PLEDGES CONTINUED AID TO ISRAEL

CHICAGO, July 23. (JTA) -- Continued assistance to Israel is pledged in the Democratic Party Platform prepared today by the 19-member drafting sub-committee of the Resolutions Committee for adoption by the Democratic National Convention. The Convention will also call for the revision of the McCarran immigration law which was opposed by liberal and Jewish organizations and was condemned by President Truman as "racist." The text of the plank on Israel and other countries in the Middle East reads:

"We seek to enlist the people of the Middle East to work with us and with each other in the development of the region, the lifting of health and living standards and the attainment of peace. We favor the development of integrated security arrangements for the Middle East and military assistance to help safeguard the independence of the countries in the area.

"We pledge continued assistance to Israel so that she may fulfill her humanitarian mission of providing shelter and sanctuary for her homeless Jewish refugees while strengthening her economic development.

"We will continue to support the tri-partite declaration of May, 1950, to encourage Israel and the Arab states to settle their differences by direct negotiation, to maintain and protect the sanctity of the Holy Places and to permit free access to them.

"We pledge aid to the Arab states to enable them to develop their economic resources and raise the living standards of their people. We support measures for the relief and reintegration of the Palestine refugees, and we pledge continued assistance to the reintegration program voted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in January, 1952."

Wants No Distinction Between Native and Naturalized Americans

The plank calling for revision of the McCarran immigration law emphasizes that the Democratic Party wants "no second-class citizens in free America" and is determined "to eliminate distinction between native-born and naturalized citizens." The text reads:

"Subversive elements must be screened out and prevented from entering our land, but the gates must be left ajar for practical numbers of desirable elements from abroad whose immigration to this country provides an invigorating infusion into the stream of American life, as well as a significant contribution to the solution of the world refugee and overpopulation problems.

"We pledge revision of our immigration and naturalization laws to do away with any unjust and unfair prejudices against national groups which have contributed some of our best citizens. We are determined also to eliminate distinction between native-born and naturalized citizens. We want no second class citizens in free America."

After a ten-hour battle within the drafting subcommittee, a compromise on the demand of liberal forces for a compulsory F.E.P.C. and for support of a cloture rule in the Senate was adopted today. Sen. Herbert H. Lehman of New York, who had led the fight for a strong F.E.P.C. and cloture rule, told newsmen he had given in and accepted a compromise anti-filibuster plank. Although the text of the F.E.P.C. resolution was not available, it was said to be stronger than the F.E.P.C. plank adopted at the 1948 Democratic Convention.

HOPE FADES FOR EARLY CONCLUSION OF HAGUE REPARATIONS TALKS

THE HAGUE, July 23. (JTA) -- Optimistic hopes that the reparations negotiations here between Israel and the Jewish Conference and West Germany will be concluded in two weeks faded today as the second phase of the negotiations entered their fifth week with three major points still unresolved.

Progress is being made, but slowly, at numerous committee meetings. The task of formulating the points already agreed upon into watertight legal clauses is proceeding so carefully and slowly that it will require many days to complete the job after all disagreements are cleared up.

Meanwhile, Israel and Germany have not yet agreed upon the delivery schedules nor upon the types and quantities of goods to be obtained abroad by Germany for transshipment to Israel. The Claims Conference has not yet accepted the German offer of about \$107,000,000 to settle its global claims nor have the Conference and the German delegation straightened out their differences over a legislative program in Germany for individual restitution and indemnification to Nazi victims.

In an effort to reach agreement on the legislative program, which Germany is as anxious as the Jews to see completed, German experts are being sent here from Bonn and even from the debt conference in London. It is reported that Herr L. Wolff, second in command of the German delegation in London, has been ordered to proceed to The Hague.

There is every likelihood that the Conference praesidium will make no decision on acceptance of the German global offer until it becomes clear how far Bonn will go on the legislative program.

ISRAEL SEEN IN NO DANGER AS RESULT OF EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION

LONDON, July 23. (JTA) -- Israel is in no danger of an attack from Egypt as a result of the Army coup which seized control of the Arab state yesterday, informed observers in Britain said today. Neither do these circles expect any trouble between Egyptian forces and British troops based in the Suez Canal area.

General Neguib Mohammed, who heads the Army group responsible for the revolt, has an unimpeachable military record, it was stated here. During the war with Israel he was wounded three times.

ISRAEL AND GREECE SIGN THREE COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS

TEL AVIV, July 23. (JTA) -- Israel has signed three commercial agreements with Greece which are designed to pave the way for closer relations between the two countries, it was announced here today by Joseph Tkoa, a member of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations with Greece.

The agreements provide for: the granting of various concessions by each country to the airlines of the other; a "most favored nation" clause which is viewed as a preliminary to a broader trade pact; and a mutual release of companies owned by each other nationals from double taxation.

JAPAN TO OPEN LEGATION IN ISRAEL IN SEPTEMBER

TEL AVIV, July 23. (JTA) -- A Japanese legation will be opened in Israel in September, it was officially reported here from Tokyo. (In Washington today, Japanese Ambassador Eikichi Araki paid a courtesy call on the Israel Embassy and discussed diplomatic and economic relations with Ambassador Abba Eban.)

STATE DEPT. RELEASES NOTE TO ISRAEL ON FOREIGN MINISTRY TRANSFER

WASHINGTON, July 23. (JTA) -- The State Department today made public the text of its aide memoire to the Israel Government in which "concern" was expressed over Israel's decision to transfer its Foreign Ministry from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The text reads:

"The Government of the United States has noted with concern the decision and the announcement of the Israel Government of May 4 to move the Foreign Office to Jerusalem. The Government of the United States has adhered and continues to adhere to the policy that there should be a special international regime for Jerusalem which will not only provide protection for the Holy Places but which will be acceptable to Israel and Jordan as well as the world community.

"Since the question of Jerusalem is still of international importance, the United States Government believes that the United Nations should have an opportunity to reconsider the matter with a view to devising a status for Jerusalem which will satisfactorily preserve the interests of the world community and the states directly concerned.

"Consequently, the United States Government would not view favorably the transfer of the Foreign Office of Israel to Jerusalem. The Government of the United States wishes to convey that in view of its attitude on the Jerusalem question it has no present intention of transferring the Ambassador of the United States and his staff to Jerusalem."

ISRAEL CHIEF JUSTICE REVOKES BAIL OF MEN CHARGED WITH BOMB PLOT

JERUSALEM, July 23. (JTA) -- Israel Chief Justice Moshe Smoira today revoked the bail of Amos Kinan and Shalteal Ben Yair, the two members of the Canaanite movement arrested in connection with the bombing of the home of Communications Minister David Zvi Pinkas last month, and ordered them to stand trial August 3.

Granting a motion by the Attorney General, the Chief Justice ordered the two men held until their trial. The Attorney General based his plea on the fact that there is a "fear" that the defendants might influence important witnesses in the case and that they might commit other acts of terrorism. Although considerable property damage was caused by the blast, no one was injured.

ZIONIST ACTIONS COMMITTEE TO MEET IN NOVEMBER; PLACE TO BE CHOSEN

JERUSALEM, July 23. (JTA) -- A plenary session of the Zionist Actions Committee, policy-making body of the world Zionist movement between World Congresses, will be held in November, the praesidium of the Actions Committee decided today. The place of the meeting has not yet been chosen.

The praesidium also voted to hold a meeting of Actions Committee members residing in Israel some time next month. It approved a new constitution for the Jewish National Fund, which will be registered as an Israeli corporation.

ISRAEL SEEKS TO EXCHANGE SCRAP IRON FOR STRUCTURAL STEEL

HAIFA, July 23. (JTA) -- The Government of Israel is, for the first time, attempting to secure steel for building purposes in exchange for large stores of scrap metal left in Palestine after the war by British motorized units. An experimental shipment of 1,000 tons of scrap metal has already been dispatched to Genoa and additional shipments will be made if the plan proves satisfactory.

4,964 JEWISH IMMIGRANTS ENTERED U.S. DURING LAST SIX MONTHS

NEW YORK, July 23. (JTA) -- A total of 4,964 Jewish immigrants entered the United States during the first six months of this year, it was reported here today by Ben Touster, president of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. The report, reviewing six months' activities of the organization, said that 2,190 of the Jewish immigrants were discharged to HIAS by U.S. immigration officials.

"The desire to become American citizens and to be integrated into the life of their new land runs high in these immigrants, and a large percentage avail themselves without delay of the opportunity to file their applications for citizenship," Mr. Touster said. "During the first six months of this year 3,479 persons applied for their first and second citizenship papers through HIAS offices," he declared.

Thousands of relatives both here and abroad, Mr. Touster stated, still seek to be reunited with kin with whom contact had been lost as a result of the war. He revealed that since 1944, the HIAS location service has been successful in finding more than 150,000 persons sought throughout the world, many of whom had long been given up for dead.

Emphasizing the activities of the HIAS overseas offices during the first six months of 1952, Mr. Touster stated that the European offices of HIAS had arranged for the emigration of 2,263 migrants during this period of time. More than half of them came to the United States. Canada received the next greatest number, 560, and the balance was divided among Latin America, Australia, Israel, and other countries of destination.

He called attention to the large number of pending immigration cases in the HIAS European offices, amounting, in France, to a total of 10,633, in Belgium to 5,159, Germany and Austria accounting for 1,263, and the rest divided among Holland, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, and England, making a grand total of 20,468. The HIAS president stated that "the position of most of these people, waiting in Europe amidst surroundings often hostile, usually forbidden by law to engage in gainful occupation, and separated by the ocean from their only remaining kin, was precarious and pitiful in many instances."

ISRAEL DISCUSSES NAMING OF DR. SCHWARTZ AS HEAD OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY

TEL AVIV, July 23. (JTA) -- Israel Minister of Education Prof. Ben Zion Dinaburg favors the naming of Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, executive vice-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, as president of the Hebrew University to succeed Prof. Selig Brodetsky, it was reported in the local press today.

The reports also stated that government circles oppose Prof. Dinaburg's proposal because they feel that Dr. Schwartz is needed much more in his present post as executive head of the United Jewish Appeal in whose success the Jewish State is deeply interested.

LATIN AMERICAN CAMPAIGNS EXPECT TO RAISE MORE FUNDS FOR ISRAEL

BUENOS AIRES, July 23. (JTA) -- The United Jewish Campaigns in Mexico and Peru are expected to bring in 50 percent more than last year, Eliahu Dobkin, Jewish Agency member, declared here today upon his arrival from Brazil. Mr. Dobkin, who has visited the United States, Canada, Mexico, Peru and Brazil during his present tour, expressed confidence that the Brazilian campaign, which he helped launch, will also raise more money this year than last.