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## STATE DEPARTMENT TO DECIDE ON ISRAEL'S ELIGIBILITY FOR MILITARY AID

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6. (JTA) -- Israel's formal application for eligibility for military aid under the Mutual Security Act, which was presented to the State Department last winter, has not yet received a definite response, it was learned here today. It was also learned that certain unidentified Middle Eastern Arab states have similarly filed applications for eligibility to receive American military aid under the Mutual Security Act.

Because of long delayed plans for the formation of a Middle Eastern Defense Command--plans which have not yet materialized--the State Department has delayed action on the applications. Little progress has been made toward persuading Egypt and other Arab states to participate in a Middle Eastern defensive arrangement. Some Israelis feel that the plan, as envisioned, is impractical and that meanwhile, in any case, military assistance should not be withheld from a democracy known for its resistance against aggression.

New interest in Middle Eastern defense was raised in Washington by the recent upheavals in Egypt and Iran. The newly-enacted Mutual Security Act provides approximately \$50,000,000 earmarked for munitions for Israel and the Arab states for distribution at the discretion of the American Government. It is from this sum that Israel hopes to draw in the event of favorable action on her eligibility.

## BRITISH PLAN FOR MIDDLE EAST DEFENSE REPORTED APPROVED BY U.S.

LONDON, Aug 6. (JTA) -- "A British plan for the Middle East Defense Organization was approved in general terms by the United States, France and Turkey and is now being submitted to those countries in detailed form," the London Evening News reported today.

"A British Chief-of-Staff," the report states, "will be named and he will head an international planning staff composed of British, American, French, Turkish and Greek officers. The island of Cyprus will be headquarters for the new organization," the report says.

(In Washington, the State Department made known today that it is unable to confirm London reports that a Middle East Command headquarters would be established at Cyprus or that the British Government is presenting a new proposal to set up a seven-nation planning body to coordinate the organization of such a command.)

The London paper stressed that "Egypt is aware that the sponsoring powers now intend to go ahead with their Middle East Defense Organization, and that they are leaving the door open for her to come in later if she should decide to do so."

### KNESSET REJECTS COMMUNIST AND HERUT MOTIONS ON ISRAEL'S SECURITY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 6. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament today rejected a motion by Communist deputy Esther Wilenska to discuss the question of airfields for bombers allegedly being built--according to a report in a London newspaper--somewhere in Israel "on orders of the American State Department" with a view to use them" when the capitalist world will bomb the Soviet Union. "

The Parliament also rejected a motion introduced by deputy Chaim Landau, leader of the rightist Herut Party, demanding a parliamentary discussion on Israel's security in the light of recent developments in neighboring Arab countries.

Replying to both motions, Israel's Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett asked the Parliament to remove them from the agenda since "it would not be in conformity with the Parliament's dignity to discuss baseless fabricated reports and I hope that the Parliament would not waste its time on such bunk. "

With regard to the second motion, Mr. Sharett said that the government is constantly watching the situation on Israel's borders, as well as developments in neighboring states, and keeps the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee of the Parliament well informed; however he emphasized that he did not think it advisable that the Parliament should enter into an open discussion on this subject.

### ISRAEL PARLIAMENT DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENT BUDGET; HEARS MINISTERS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 6. (JTA) -- Israel's Development Budget of 115,000,000 Israeli pounds was passed last night by the Knesset in the first reading, following a 10-hour debate.

Addressing the Knesset, Israel's Minister of Finance Levi Eshkol told the members of Parliament that Israel will become self-sufficient in the near future. He especially analyzed the achievements of Israel's agriculture.

Dr. Dov Joseph, Israel's Minister of Commerce and Industry, reported to the Knesset that the export potential of the country's industries today is \$114,000,000 a year. Ministry sources later revealed that Israel's import this year may amount to approximately \$240,000,000.

### LEFTISTS DEMONSTRATE IN JERUSALEM; DEMAND BIG-FOUR PEACE TREATY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 6. (JTA) -- A small group of approximately 150 Communists and members of the left-wing Mapam Party staged a demonstration near the Israel Parliament with a view to bring their demand for a Big-Four peace treaty to the attention of the Parliament. Speakers at the demonstration also opposed the rearmament of Germany.

Earlier, a delegation of Israel's "Peace Committee" asked to be received by the presidium of the Parliament. The delegation was told that the matter does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Parliament. The delegation then summoned representatives of the press and informed them that over 400,000 adults in Israel have signed a petition, sponsored by the Committee, demanding the calling of a Big-Four peace treaty conference and opposing the rearmament of Germany.

### ISRAEL OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR AMERICA TO STUDY OIL LEGISLATION

JERUSALEM, Aug. 6. (JTA) -- Dr. Dan Kitron, Assistant Attorney-General, left for Washington today by plane to consult American experts on procedure in connection with the oil bill recently adopted by the Israel Parliament. The Israel Government, it was learned here today, intends to draft detailed regulations on oil exploitation similar to those existing in the United States.

COMMUNISTS SUPPORT AUSTRIA'S PRO-NAZI LAWS; CRITICIZE U.S. OPPOSITION

VIENNA, Aug. 6. (JTA) -- The stand of the Communists on the pro-Nazi laws passed recently by the Austrian Parliament to the detriment of Jewish victims of Nazism is outlined here in the official Communist organ "Volkstimme."

The paper says that the Americans have objected to the Austrian amnesty laws "not because they are fervent anti-Fascists but because they do not want to give up 'the past' as a means of extortion of those former Nazis who refuse to jump on the American bandwagon of the government."

The Communist paper further contended that the Americans "interweave the amnesty laws with the indemnification claims filed with the Austrian state by former Austrian citizens who were meanwhile naturalized in America." The real issue at stake, the paper claimed, is "the property of Rothschild and those former Austrian capitalists who are now Americans and whose interests are protected by America at any occasion," the article states.

On the other hand, the American-sponsored newspaper "Wiener Kurier" commenting in a front-page editorial on the pro-Nazi laws, says that although the fate of those who suffered unjustly during the war is sometimes looked upon as a strictly local matter, its tie to the thoughts and emotions of millions who shared in that conflict is such as to give it universal meaning. Therefore the matter cannot be isolated from the western community and the question of Nazi amnesty and restitution in Austria is far more than an internal affair, continued the "Kurier."

It also bears directly on Austria's relations with other governments. The London Declaration of 1943 deciding to undo the Nazi's international looting and to declare void any transfer of property made by the Nazis in the countries they had despoiled applies directly to Austria, the article specifies. The paper then declares that the recently adopted "amnesty legislation" would in practice grant relief to the ex-Nazis, without extending any comparable aid to their victims.

Although the American Government has expressed its concern over the general tenor of this amnesty legislation it by no means opposes an amnesty as such, the article states, adding that it merely opposes one that would again victimize the victims of Nazism. The Americans look on Austria not as an ex-Nazi nation but as one that was a victim of the external Nazi plague, the paper goes on, and adds that the Austrian wish to reach a quick and convenient solution is comprehensible.

The American sponsored organ agrees with the idea of a Nazi amnesty but demands it as a "reasonable space, with circumspect deliberation and certainly not before the pledges of restitution of those whom they despoiled here have been made good." The paper also wished "good riddance" to all those Nazis who might move over to the Communist camp as the result of not having given full accommodations at once. It added that "surely men who have the welfare of the great mass at heart will never let themselves be misled by the attempted blackmail of a few."

In conclusion, the article points out that while Americans understand the particular problems which Austria is trying to overcome at home, Austria will understand the basic principles for which her western friends must contend everywhere, now as before.

U.S. GOVT. CONFIRMS RELEASE OF NAZI GENERAL FOR "GOOD BEHAVIOR"

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6. (JTA) -- Government sources today confirmed the release for "good behavior" of Nazi General Hans Georg Reinhardt who was serving a 15-year sentence for war crimes. His release was recommended by John J. McCloy, former American High Commissioner for Germany and he was freed from the Landsberg war criminals prison in Bavaria on July 27.

20,000 ATTEND RISHON LEZION'S CELEBRATION OF ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

RISHON LEZION, Israel, Aug. 6. (JTA) -- The 70th anniversary of Rishon Lezion, one of the oldest settlements in Israel, was observed here today in a festive mood at a huge celebration attended by more than 20,000 people and addressed by Israel's Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett.

The town, which is known for its famous wine cellars, was decorated with flags and the celebration was marked with a wine festival. In his address, Mr. Sharett reviewed the 70 years' progress made by Jews in Israel since the founding of Rishon Lezion. He emphasized that the first settlements were established by pioneers who came from the ranks of Russian Jewry which is now isolated from the rest of the Jewish world.

Situated 12 kilometers from Tel Aviv, Rishon Lezion was founded in 1882 by 17 families, all members of the Chovevei Zion Society of Russia. The town now enjoys a population of more than 15,000. Its wine cellars for the manufacture of wines and spirituous liquors rank among the greatest in the world.

The Rishon Lezion cellars were built on funds advanced by Baron Rothschild who greatly contributed to the development of the settlement in its early years, when the colony suffered from scarcity of water, from poor conditions of the soil, from the inexperience of the founders in farming and from frequent raids by marauding Arab neighbors. Today Rishon Lezion is a modern all-Jewish town with elementary schools, high schools, a public library, theatre, motion picture houses, and enjoys all the conveniences of modern city life.

ISRAEL SONG FESTIVAL STARTS IN JERUSALEM; 2,000 SINGERS PARTICIPATE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 6. (JTA) -- More than 2,000 Jewish singers from the United States and other countries, members of Jewish choirs, are participating in the Smyria--Israel's Song Festival--which starts here today on Mount Herzl. The main concert, in which all 2,000 singers will participate, will take place at the Ramat Gan stadium on Sunday.

FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER OPTIMISTIC ON ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

HELSINKI, Aug. 6. (JTA) -- "The people of Finland are following with great sympathy the efforts of the people of Israel to resolve their economic problems," Sakari Tuomioja, Finland's Foreign Minister declared at a luncheon given here today by Dr. A. Nissan, Israel Minister to the Scandinavian countries.

"We have faith in the future development of the economic relations between our two countries," Mr. Tuomioja said. The guests at the luncheon included the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, the Director General of the Finnish Foreign Ministry, the Mayor of Helsinki and members of the diplomatic corps.

PRINCESS WILHELMINA JOINS GROUP HONORING JEWS KILLED BY NAZIS

THE HAGUE, Aug. 6. (JTA) -- Princess Wilhelmina, formerly Queen of Holland, has accepted the honorary presidency of the World Committee for the erection of a monument in Paris to the Unknown Jewish Martyr, in memory of the 6,000,000 Jews annihilated by the Nazis. Princess Wilhelmina has been a life-long friend of the Jewish people.

MICHAEL BERCHIN, REVISIONIST LEADER, DIES IN ISRAEL; WAS 66 YEARS OLD

TEL AVIV, Aug. 6. (JTA) -- Michael Berchin, leader of the Zionist Revisionist Party, died here last night. He was 66 years old. A close friend of the late Vladimir Jabotinsky, he collaborated with him in the founding of the Revisionist Party. He lived for many years in Paris where he was an editor of Russian publications.